



*Resilient Beaver Island - A Community Planning Project
Peaine Township and St. James Township*

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The following pages is a list of ideas gathered online, at the Master Plan Workshop, and from various stakeholder groups on and off the Island. This list is in no way a formal recommendation of which actions the Commission should include in the Resilient Beaver Island Master Plan. The final Action Plan will be a key component of the Master Plan and helps guide the work of the Commission and other stakeholders into the future. This list is meant to provoke discussion of the action items in order to guide the Master Plan project.

The priority box (High, Medium, or Low) is filled in for some of the action steps based on the feedback gathered at the Master Plan Workshop. If an idea received at least three stars, the priority was listed as Medium. If an idea received a combination of gold stars and at least one “large” star, the priority was listed as High. This is just meant to provide the Commission with the feedback gathered at the Master Plan workshop.

1		Priority (H/M/L)	Lead Party	Supporting Party	Timeframe (S/L)	Potential Funding Sources
2	ECONOMY AND RECREATION					
3	PARADISE BAY					
4	Improve the boat docks to be more flexible to changes in water levels.					
5	Build a new public boat ramp/launch.	Medium				
6	Build a new fishing pier.					
7	Designate areas for public parking for boaters.					
8	Clearly mark, with signs, the waterfront areas for public use and boat launching.					
9	Create conceptual designs for downtown and the harbor that show what future improvements might look like.					
10	Welcome visitors with a gateway or attractive art installation.	Medium				
11	Provide directional signs or a kiosk to welcome tourists that arrive downtown and at various beaches and throughout the Island.					
12	Make the Harbor area even more "charming" with holiday street lights, landscaping, and beautification projects.					
12	Replace downtown public restrooms with a new welcome center with restrooms. Could be a replica of an Irish thatch-roof cottage.					
13	MARKETING					
14	Undergo a branding process to develop a slogan and logo for the Island.	Medium				
15	Comprehensively market the Island's year-round opportunities.	Medium				
16	Market the Island specifically toward hunters and fishers.	Generally opposed.				
17	Market the Island specifically toward those looking to live "off the grid"					
18	Middle-aged couples / empty nesters					

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19	Outdoor sports enthusiasts					
20	Corporate retreats and professional conferences					
21	Create an Island office in a prominent area of Charlevoix's main street to better promote Beaver Island.					
22	Promote Beaver Island as a great place for families to live.					
23	TOURISM					
24	Improve showers and restrooms at the Township campgrounds.					
25	Develop a Water Trail around the Island with access points and safe refuges for kayakers and paddlers.					
26	Improve docks on the inland lakes.	Medium				
27	Increase access to and quality of fishing.					
28	Increase the capacity for tourism by encouraging new hotels/accommodations.					
29	Focus on improving tourism experiences in the "shoulder" seasons of fall and spring.	Medium				
30	Assess the quality of visitor experiences through surveys conducted on the boats, planes, and at the Community Center.					
31	Increase nightlife on the Island with events and later hours for businesses and food.					
32	Provide rental options for winter sporting equipment.					
33	Create winter festivals and events.	Medium				
34	Create more universally accessible areas for recreation at beaches, the marina, campgrounds, and in park areas.					
35	NATURE-BASED ECONOMY					
36	Support sustainable commercial logging on Beaver Island.					

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37	Grow and export products such as juniper berries and hops.					
38	Market and sell agricultural products with a special "Beaver Island" brand.					
39	Regenerate cranberry bogs on the Island for foraging or agricultural growth.					
40	Explore opportunities to manage habitat to improve the quality of the hunting experience.					
41	Program a family camp or summer camp with amenities for family camping.					
42	Allow downed or dead wood to be removed for use at homes or campsites.					
43	TRAILS					
44	Fund a seasonal position to maintain trails.					
45	Support land acquisition by the DNR and others to connect existing trails.					
46	Mark, map, and groom trails for their appropriate use (ORV, snowmobile, biking, walking, etc.)					
47	Connect Downtown to the existing paved bike path.					
48	Clearly mark the seasonal conditions of trails on maps and tourist information.					
49	Create bike paths through the interior of the Island, including along King's Highway.	Medium				
50	BUSINESS GROWTH					
51	Equip entrepreneurs with resources on creating and funding startups, writing business plans, and applying for grants.	High				
52	Attract Internet-based businesses to the Island.	Medium				
53	Explore economic ventures that utilize the skilled labor on the Island, such as the exporting of woodworking products, furniture, or other artisan products.					
54	Invest in a technical career center or cooperatively-owned "maker space" on the Island with equipment, skill-sharing, and educational classes.	High				

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55	Advertise apprenticeship opportunities on the Island with plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and other trade jobs.					
56	NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES					
57	WATER QUALITY					
58	Require additional inspections of septic systems, including the community septic system in St. James Township.					
59	Situate new septic systems far from water bodies and wellheads.					
60	Require a vegetative buffer on properties adjacent to lakes and streams.					
61	Widely share knowledge and data about the water quality of the Island's inland lakes.	Medium				
62	Regulate the amount of impervious surface permitted on waterfront lots (i.e., roads, buildings, driveways).					
63	Forbid property owners from filling with sand or gravel along the water's edge in order to protect fish habitat and water quality.					
64	HABITAT PROTECTION					
65	Survey the archipelago's plant and animal species.					
66	Protect dunes and beaches with educational signs at public access points.	Medium				
67	Enforce dark sky protections to protect nocturnal habitat.	Medium				
68	Identify and fix culverts that are damaging fish migration and health.					
69	Protect tree canopy, especially near streams and rivers.					
70	Manage the marina and near-shore areas for additional fish habitat.					
71	Require new waterfront homes undergo a review process to ensure the site plan is sensitive to environmental features.					
72	Provide washing stations for boaters to clean crafts.					
73	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT					

1		Priority (H/M/L)	Lead Party	Supporting Party	Timeframe (S/L)	Potential Funding Sources
74	Provide affordable options for removing junk cars and large debris.					
75	Enforce code violations for blight removal and strengthen code requirements.					
76	Protect tree canopy near the Island's Forest Roads.					
77	Protect air quality through increased dust control.					
78	Enforce noise ordinances for fireworks, ORV use, and other loud disturbances.					
79	Remove beech trees killed by Beech Bark Disease before damage to homes and other trees can occur.					
80	Evaluate coastal setbacks and erosion rates to determine where new buildings should be set farther back from the water.					
81	CLIMATE ADAPTATION					
82	Stock native fish in inland lakes that are more tolerant to warm water as lakes continue to warm.					
83	Work with DNR to fund forest adaptation projects, focused on trees most at risk of disease or decline due to climate change.					
84	Continue to map the locations of invasive species with an understanding of areas more at risk to future infestation.	Medium				
85	Coordinate with the Beaver Island Community School to incorporate environmental education about tick protection and raise awareness about Lyme disease.					
86	Work with DNR to assess wildfire risk and identify actions to reduce the risk.					
87	CULTURAL RESOURCES					
88	Secure cultural easements for ceremonies in sacred spaces.					
89	Review the state-documented cultural resources on the Island and add to them as needed.					
90	Protect cultural assets through conservation easements (not for public access).					
91	Inventory historic structures in disrepair and identify priorities for reuse and preservation.					

1		Priority (H/M/L)	Lead Party	Supporting Party	Timeframe (S/L)	Potential Funding Sources
92	Protect and preserve the lighthouse at the south end of the Island.	High				
93	Honor the Island's use by Native Americans through interpretative, bilingual signage along paths and trails.	Medium				
94	Develop signs to place along walking trails on the Island.					
95	Develop a management plan for Native American and Early European cultural resource preservation.					
96	HOUSING					
97	AFFORDABILITY					
98	Incentivize affordable monthly rentals for those looking to try out life on Beaver Island with little risk.	Medium				
99	Alleviate cost burdens on low-income households by subsidizing housing costs through energy efficiency and home repair programs.					
100	Lower the minimum building size through proactive zoning to enable tiny-home development.					
101	Designate an area of land for micro-housing. Location should be near existing infrastructure and perhaps on lots unsuitable for traditional development.	High				
102	Consider development of a community land trust to ensure the long-term affordability of properties even as they sell.					
103	Maintain the quality and appearance of existing subsidized housing.					
104	Start an affordable housing committee endorsed and supported by the townships.					
105	SEASONAL HOUSING					
106	Explore cooperative models to maintain and care for rental properties designed for summer laborers.					
107	Research opportunities to house more summer labor on the Island.					
108	Encourage additional lodging and accommodations on the Island.	Medium				
109	ENERGY EFFICIENCY					
110	Encourage private property owners to retrofit homes with local programs.					

1		Priority (H/M/L)	Lead Party	Supporting Party	Timeframe (S/L)	Potential Funding Sources
111	Allow and incentivize small-scale wind and solar on private property.					
112	Pilot clean-energy projects in public buildings.					
113	COMMUNITY SERVICES					
114	TRANSPORTATION					
115	St. James and Peaine Townships should plan together for shared improvements to infrastructure.					
116	Add bike racks to the County Transit vehicles.					
117	Explore alternative funding models for managing the Emerald Isle.	High				
118	Subsidize the cost of getting to and around Beaver Island through fare discounts, travel packages, or coupons.					
119	Improve knowledge of transportation modes for tourists by putting clear information in a kiosk downtown.	High				
120	Look for opportunities to make the Island more walkable and bikeable.					
121	Work with the Sheriff's office to protect lands that are inappropriate for ORV and snowmobile use.					
122	Obtain funding and modify the ferries to be able to run more frequently (daily or twice daily) through the spring and fall season.					
123	EMERGENCY PLANNING					
124	Reduce the number of flights impaired by bad weather through runway improvements at the public airport.					
125	Ensure new development in hard-to-reach areas takes steps to reduce fire risk.					
126	Ensure Advanced Life Support services are available on the Island.	High				
127	Rehearse the Emergency Plan for Island evacuation and sheltering.					
128	Develop a new Disaster/Emergency Plan for the Island.					

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129	Ensure EMS services remain on the island.					
130	Improve communications infrastructure for EMS. This includes providing regular community updates and infield access.					
131	COMMUNICATIONS					
132	Use the Beaver Island Association's Broadband survey results to identify the community's needs and prioritize funding.					
133	Offer educational forums on the importance of Broadband for local officials and institutions.					
134	Recruit a local grassroots group that is willing to work together to increase Broadband accessibility.					
135	Identify "case study" communities similar to the Island that have increased Broadband access.					
136	Explore fiber optic installation through rural economic development grants.	High				
137	Inform tourists of the areas on the Island that lack cellphone reception.					
138	Increase cell phone signal strength and extend coverage.	High				
139	PUBLIC SERVICES					
140	Obtain new and replacement signage for Township roads.					
141	Explore options to improve the Transfer Station so as to process large metal items, like cars.					
142	Update the sign ordinances in each Township to be legally enforceable.					
143	Provide public trash and recycling cans in the Downtown area, especially near the boat dock.					
144	Continue to support extracurricular programming at the Beaver Island Community School.					
145	SOCIAL SERVICES AND LEADERSHIP					
146	LEADERSHIP					
147	House surveys and current initiatives led by various groups in a common location, accessible to newcomers looking to volunteer their time or resources.					

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148	Prioritize, instead of replicate, projects led by non-governmental groups on the Island. Do this in an inclusive manner, perhaps facilitated by an outside party.	High				
149	Provide education on grant writing, conflict resolution, and networking support for government and non-government leaders alike.					
150	Hire a full-time Island Manager, responsible for management of joint Township projects and pursuit of grant opportunities.	High				
151	Support the continued work of the Island Institute through the Office of the Great Lakes.					
152	Include representatives from all Township boards and commissions in the Northwest Michigan Island Collaborative.					
153	Consolidate the two Townships into one Township government.	High				
154	Require Township Boards and Commissions to write yearly reports published for community use.					
155	Review progress on the Master Plan's goals yearly and revisit/revise as needed.					
156	VULNERABLE POPULATIONS					
157	Increase awareness and support of the Beaver Island Food Pantry.					
158	Increase availability and funding of in-home senior care.	Medium				
159	Increase education about foraging opportunities on the Island.					
160	Identify the needs of vulnerable populations like the disabled, low-income, and elderly.	Medium				
161	Form a neighborhood "buddy network" to help ensure that care is provided to residents who may be isolated, especially in the winter months.					
162	FAMILY SUPPORT					
163	Provide childcare options, such as in-home daycare and after-school care.					
164	Provide pediatric services and women's services on the Island, such as monthly visits from providers.					
165	Provide regular programming for children and youth such as weekly dance classes or skill-based activities.	Medium				

1		Priority (H/M/L)	Lead Party	Supporting Party	Timeframe (S/L)	Potential Funding Sources
166	Create programming to get residents active in sports and exercise, especially in the winter months.					
167	Invest in recreational equipment and/or a community gym.	Medium				
168	Affiliate the Rural Health Center with a mainland hospital.	High				