Introduction

The Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission have requested assistance from the King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) in conducting a natural resource inventory and review of the town to be used in the preparation of an update to the town plan of conservation and development. The Planning and Zoning Commission recently prepared six natural resource maps with GIS technology to facilitate improved understanding of the resources in the community. (See following - Base Map, Development Constraints, Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, Open Space Recreation, Historical Sites and added later Protected Parcels.)

Objectives

The ERT is needed to further commission member understanding of the information presented on the maps through written descriptions of the community's natural resource base with an emphasis on identifying key resources that should be considered for conservation or protection. This information is critical to environmentally sound decision making in the town planning process. The ERT was asked to provide a report which identifies the natural resource base and highlights opportunities and limitations for future land use. It is anticipated that the ERT will provide a foundation for a more detailed inventory and evaluation work by the P&Z Commission. The general scope of the work requested includes: geology, soils, hydrology, agriculture, vegetation, wildlife, aquatics, recreation, land use and archaeological and historical significance.

The ERT Process

Through the efforts of the Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission, this environmental review and report was prepared for the Town of Cornwall.

This report provides a broad array of natural resource and planning information, recommendations and guidelines which cover the topics requested by the Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission. Team members were able to review maps, plans and supporting documentation provided by the town.

The review process consisted of four phases:

- 1. Inventory of the site's natural resources;
- 2. Assessment of these resources;
- 3. Identification of resource areas and review of plans; and
- 4. Presentation of education, management and land use guidelines.

The data collection phase involved both literature and field research. The field review was conducted on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. The field review consisted of a driving tour of the town with stops made at significant points as determined by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The emphasis of the field review was on the exchange of ideas, concerns and

recommendations. Some Team members made separate and/or additional site visits, and other Team members conducted only map reviews. The field review allowed Team members to verify information and to identify other resources.

Once Team members had assimilated an adequate data base, they were able to analyze and interpret their findings. Individual Team members then prepared and submitted their reports to the ERT coordinator for compilation into this final ERT report.











