Continuing the Great Arc Initiative
DAY 2 WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

1. **What, in your understanding, is the current situation in the development of the Great Arc International Heritage Corridor?**

GROUP A
- Too disjointed
- Need more education of the Arc
- Did not know of Great Arc Initiative before this meeting

GROUP B
- 'Bumps in the road' – leadership needed, but not government group
- group process, but staff needed to move forward
- We can look to Ontario for guidance on issues
- Good basic work don, need 'glue' to tie it all together
- Good information and people involved – need more public involvement and support
- People don't have sense of Niagara Escarpment as large 'arc' but only as a specific place.

2. **What is your vision of its development in the future?**

GROUP A
- Hiking trail development/coordination
- Groundwater management issues
- Cultural exchanges
- Land use issues / information exchanges
- Student exchange program

GROUP B
- Public events
- Information exchange
- Status quo at a minimum (i.e., make conference an annual event)
- Should get into mind-set of biosphere reserve concept
- Building a network
- Idea of looking at watershed boundaries so as to incorporate Great Lakes issues
- Michigan should be a partner
- Ohio should be more of a partner
- Stay in touch more often to keep 'energy' going

3. **What challenges does the successful development of the Great Arc face?**

GROUP A
- Education
- Acquisition of funding
- Communication with people
- Building a network
- Media (good or bad vibes)
- Developers want to overdevelop
- Wind energy development

GROUP B

- Money and staff at some point may become our own NGO
- Agency partnerships
- Maybe university can help establish organization?
- Political whims are a challenge – need to be the responsible party
- Might be part of comprehensive planning initiative
- Develop goals, objectives – get local plans to fit in under them
- Use Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) initiative as a model – need to build landscape value and sense of place
- Don't want another layer of government
- Keep it simple, stupid (KISS theory)
- Need to provide good information to the public

4. How should these challenges be dealt with, by whom, according to what timetable, and using what resources?

GROUP A

- Niagara Escarpment Resource Network
- Local champions
- Make a new group?

GROUP B

- Annual (or more often) meeting
- Development of a contact list (use NERN website?)
- NGOs need to be involved
- Need and entity to lead – Nature Conservancy may be a logical group to foster large-scale idea of Great Arc
- Global Environmental Management (GEM) program might be a lead group or partner – write grant for project coordination.
- Work with agricultural sector to have a large agricultural program
- Great Arc needs to become a household word
- Need to establish benefits of concept for each community or group (social marketing)
- Timeline = yesterday!
- Find out what status of escarpment is in local & county planning
- People see escarpment as a resource but protection efforts run up against private property rights
- Need for education

Science & Land Use: Closing the Gaps
DAY 2 WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

1. **How can land use plans make better use of scientific and research information in their development?**

   GROUP A
   - Learn from others – what resource lists are available? (websites, printed materials)
   - Have presentations by planners – linking informed people & partnering with them

   GROUP B
   - Science is used to support goals and objectives (what you want)
   - Also to develop goals – optimizing resources
   - Bridge gap between research and policy makers – outreach need / education / issue communications / translation
   - Scientists may not be the best communicators of their own information
   - Despite conflicting information, policy makers must be exposed & weigh information against values / costs / benefits
   - Science can bring benefits to a community

2. **What are some of the best examples (local, state, or national) that utilize science or research as its basis for land use planning and/or conservation?**

   GROUP A
   - South East Wis. RPC deals with development issues (i.e. water/well systems)
   - Special Areas Management Plan (SAMP) at Superior

   GROUP B
   - Hazard identification tact:
     i. Floodplains
     ii. Steep slopes
     iii. Stormwater management planning
     iv. Cost of community service studies
     v. Groundwater quality studies
   - The actual use of the scientific process in connection to land use planning via identifying research questions = unknowns
   - Computer modeling has been used
   - Concepts that link economics and ecosystems processes/qualities
   - Groundwater
   - Sustainable forestry
   - Issue in getting people to buy into long-term value of ecosystem services as opposed to short-term economic gain.
   - Education on community stability and issues to overcome

3. **Where are the specific scientific needs / gaps in information that would assist in supporting increased conservation/protection measures along the Niagara Escarpment? These could fall within the realm of ecological, social, economic, or political fields.**

GROUP A

- Gaps at county and local level
- If a dollar value is put on the environment for local governments they may be more willing to protect it.

GROUP B

- Economic issues
- Groundwater / hydrology – narrowing scope of the issue (i.e., recharge areas)
- Air quality

4. **What opportunities exist to promote/encourage specific research within these identified gaps?**

GROUP A

- Get studies
- Work together with other groups
- Get communities together to address common issues / problem solving
- Get local media involved / more press

GROUP B

- Join policy-makers and researchers
- Blend policy and science e.g. groundwater
- Model conservation is based off of research
- Getting people out and aware will drive conservation that will then drive research, then policy

5. **How can current research be shared more effectively, both locally (within Wisconsin) and throughout the rest of the Great Arc?**

GROUP A

- Use Niagara Escarpment Resource Network
- Websites
- E-mails
- Letters
- Keep people posed and informed about the topic and why they should attend conferences like this
- Get the environment (as a topic) into other related conferences

GROUP B

- Community fairs and festivals
- "Hidden scientific message" – Conservation information hidden in pieces that are targeted to other interests.
- "Tourists" don't get all communication eggs in one basket
- Use diverse methods / diverse audiences
- Road side signs