

Pelee Peninsula Littoral Cell Resilience Committee Meeting 1 Notes

Wednesday, October 11, 2023: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Virtual

Attendees:

- Rob Sharon, Leamington
- Yamin Janjua, DFO
- Scott Parker, Parks Canada
- Martha Allen, Parks Canada
- Maria Papoulias, Parks Canada
- Susan Sullivan, Caldwell First Nation
- Tammy Dobbie, Parks Canada
- Jenny Gharib, ERCA
- James Bryant, ERCA
- Jason Wintermute, LTVCA
- Jody McKenna, ECCC
- Katie Windross, ECCC
- Pete Zuzek, Zuzek Inc.
- James Knott, LURA Consulting

Meeting Purpose:

- Provide context and an overview of the Coastal Resilience Framework work that has occurred to date. See website: <https://zuzekinc.com/resilienceframework/>
- Discuss advancing the work of the Pelee Peninsula Littoral Cell Resilience Committee
- Consider NRCan Climate Resilient Coastal Communities funding opportunity

A summary of the key points emerging from the discussion at the first meeting of the Pelee Peninsula Littoral Cell Resilience Committee is presented below:

Who else should be involved?

- Representatives from the Provincial Ministries and Federal Departments that have a say in what can happen on the shoreline
 - Wheatley Provincial Park, MNRF (policy staff), Ontario Parks, MECP
- MNRF – those who administer Public Lands Act
- Inland communities, beach communities
 - Caution of definition of resilience, and what it means to this group and groups elsewhere (i.e. to some it might mean protecting their piece of paradise at all costs)
- Conservation Ontario
- Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe (chiara.zuccarino-crowe@noaa.gov) is now the Great Lakes lead for NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. She is aware of this initiative and may have some thoughts on how this could complement US work.
- Academia –
 - University of Windsor, previous Dean-Chris Houser or one of his students.
 - Consider other academics from social sciences, for example.
 - GLIER - Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research.
- Social / economic considerations (academic groups who can bring insights to this?)
- Commercial fisheries- Kingsville and Wheatley – economic interest to be represented (infrastructure and ecological interest)
- Harbour Authorities, ports, Coast Guard
 - Dredging harbours, sediments
- Review governance review from the first year of Framework development

- Essex County – doing Official Plan Update – this work will have planning implications
- Other municipalities in the area (Chatham-Kent and Kingsville)
- NGOs
 - NCC
 - Carolinian Canada
- Pelee Island? Generally thought to be out of scope (don't want the Committee to be too big)?
- Landowner groups? Farming/agricultural representation?
 - Are there existing community groups?
 - Water intakes for greenhouses
- I would recommend outreach to all Indigenous communities in the Treaty 2 area to see if they have interest in being involved and providing input. They may or may not, but should be given the opportunity to consider it.

How do you see this helping you/your organization? How do you see yourself contributing?

- This helps further Conservation Authority mandates, looking for a sustainable long-term vision for shorelines
 - As agencies that approve development, would like to have something to lean on
- Politicians struggle when they get asked by developers/landowners, “can I do this along the shoreline?”
 - This spells out why we are making the decisions we need to make
- Parks Canada is supportive of the Initiative- Protecting the sandspit and marsh of Point Pelee National Park is a key goal
- Leamington can help facilitate landowner engagement, as the shoreline is largely privately owned and that engagement will be important.
 - Sharing our past experiences and learnings
 - Solving physical infrastructure challenges – example dykes
 - Have done a good job collecting technical data and making a technical case, but have not been able to win hearts/minds of landowners (this will be a challenge and focus on the Framework)

What existing activities should we be aware of?

- Hillman Marsh restoration plan led by ERCA
- Chatham-Kent is wrapping up a Secondary Plan for Wheatley
 - Community has been involved, lots of consultation
 - A lot of positive feedback, people felt heard
- Academic – coastal research group at University of Windsor
- Point Pelee National Park is drafting multi-species action plan for species at risk recovery. Able to broaden scope to regional actions outside of park boundaries and partnerships
- Official Plan Review for Leamington
 - Use floodplain mapping report Pete did to designate hazard lands
- Caldwell FN and Leamington put in an application to DMAF for funding to reconstruct the East Marsh dyke
- DFO is identifying restoration priorities for Lake Erie

- Organizing workshop with indigenous groups around Lake Erie
 - Conducted a survey in the summer
- County of Essex OP
- Updated hazard mapping for the entire coastline of Essex County
- Caldwell First Nation is looking into wild rice cultivation opportunities
 - Need to understand benefits, impacts first (do not want negative environmental impacts)
 - Might be interest in traditional activity restoration in what are identified as hazard lands
- Caldwell First Nation is creating a new wetland across from Hillman Marsh

NRCan Climate Resilience Coastal Communities Fund

- Pete explained the project and opportunity for this Littoral Cell Resilience Committee to apply
- General discussion followed

Next Steps

- Next meeting: in-person on October 27, 2023. Location TBC (potentially Parks Canada Administrative Building or Visitor Centre, Municipality of Leamington offered as an alternative).
- Meeting Schedule (tentative), 10 am to noon for meeting, lunch provided, then field tour until 3 pm