

Pelee Coastal Resilience Committee Meeting 2 Notes

Friday October 27, 2023: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Point Pelee National Park Visitors Centre

Attendees:

Consulting Team:

- Pete Zuzek, Zuzek Inc.
- Linda Mortsch, University of Waterloo
- James Knott, LURA

Leamington:

- Rob Sharon
- Bill Fuerth

Lower Thames Valley CA

- Mark Peacock

Essex Region CA

- James Bryant

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Emily Champagne
- Yamin Janjua
- Cindy Mitton-Wilkie

Caldwell First Nation

- Susan Sullivan

Leamington Landowners Association:

- Wayne King

Friends of Point Pelee Provincial Park:

- Charbel Saad

Leamington and District Chamber of Commerce:

- Diane Malenfant

Presteve Foods Ltd.:

- Vald DeMelo

Parks Canada:

- Scott Parker
- Tammy Dobbie
- Maria Papoulias

Environment and Climate Change Canada

- Jody McKenna
- Gregy Mayne
- Laud Matos
- Katie Windross

Absent:

County of Essex

- Rebecca Belanger

Essex Region CA

- Jenny Gharib

Parks Canada

- Martha Allen

Wheatley Harbour Authority

- Bobby Cabral

Actions:

- Develop a draft Terms of Reference to share with the Committee and discuss at the next meeting
- Develop Definitions for uncommon terms (include in Terms of Reference)

Meeting Purpose:

- Provide context and an overview of the Coastal Resilience Framework work that has occurred to date. See website: <https://zuzekinc.com/resilienceframework/>

- Consider NRCan Climate Resilient Coastal Communities funding opportunity

Discussion:

What is being done on the Lake Resilience Committee?

- ECCC is developing a synoptic version of the consulting report, and the hope is that under the Canada Ontario Agreement (COA), priorities, guidance and endorsement for regional coastal management efforts can be provided by the Federal and Provincial governments and partners.

How do we work across Annexes of the Canada Ontario Agreement, and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, including Nutrients, Climate and Habitat and Species?

- Attempted to gather the relevant agencies under COA. This is the first of its kind in Canada/Ontario. We're charting our own course. As we further the effort, there is hope that agencies, specifically the province will be able to gather their agency endorsement to support and participate in the effort. If others are missing, please suggest.

Committee Name Ideas (original recommendation: Pelee Coastal Resilience Committee):

- Pelee Peninsula, Coastal Resilience Committee
- Pelee Littoral Cell Committee
- Lake Erie, Coastal Resilience Committee- Chatham Kent Chapter
- Essex Wheatley Cell
- Greater Pelee Region Coastal Resilience Committee
- Coastal Pelee
- Suggestion to rely on informing the public on terminology, such as littoral cell, and nesting and connected between the two cells.
- Need to understand the cause and affect
- Mouth of the Detroit River to Port Alma is the extent of the two Littoral Cells. Need people to understand how they influence the system even if they are outside of Pelee
- Essex to Chatham Kent are the upper tier Municipalities/Counties:
 - 95% of the region is Essex
- Satisfied with original committee naming recommendation after group discussion

Resilience Definition

- Pete presented the official definition developed by the Think Tank
- Attendees provided some feedback:
 - Indigenous worldview, equitable is important- consider all living things
 - Need to pull out equitable- pull it apart, and what does it mean
 - A plain language version may be good for the general public in the future
 - Visual aspects and examples of what this definition means and what it looks like on the ground would be helpful

Context from the Coastal Resilience Framework Document

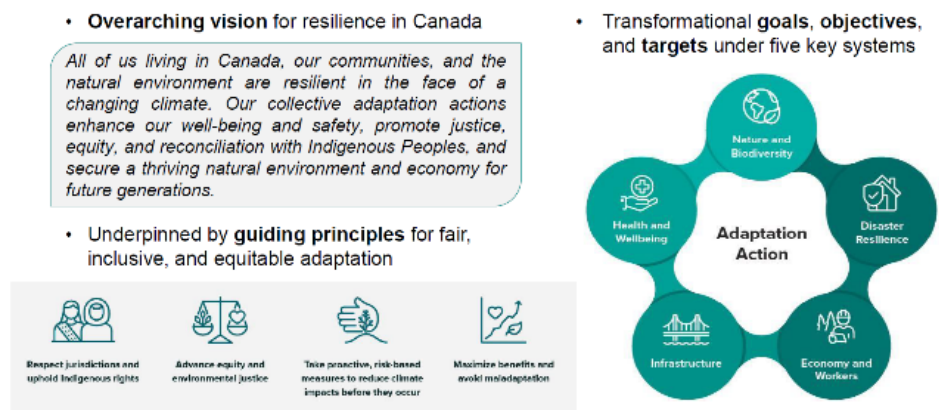
- an improved coastal ethos is needed
- There is land, there is water, and as an integrated place is important.
- Scale matters – must work at the scale of littoral cells
- Who are the stakeholders?
 - Includes living things, landowners, users of the coast, people that make a living from the coast, all levels of government, etc.

- Co-create the plan for all stakeholders, and including others who are not at the table (voices not typically heard). Everyone should have access to the knowledge and outputs (transparent)
- Planning and management- need stewardship, need integration of investment opportunities. E.g. If there are fisheries or harbour issues, how are they brought to bear

Vision: Vision is where you want to go, mission is how you're going to get there

- Where we want to take it, and where the communities are going to be when we're done.
- Don't see here is role of educating, and bringing in the community, or strategies
- Move beyond just promote- action, support,
 - Vision should be more aspirational
 - See National adaptation strategy- Vision and Principles

NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY: STRUCTURE



- Develop a Terms of Reference/Consider using a charter
- Develop a resource bank, for previous technical work, included on the website
- Definition of resilience is good, but need examples for people on the ground so it is clear for the average person

Goals:

- Promote integrated coastal governance
- Develop integrated resilience plans for littoral cells or another appropriate management unit, with an all of society approach
- Provide opportunities for knowledge transfer
- Promote and encourage implementation of adaptation projects at varying scales, lot, community, regional scale transformational projects
- "lot scale" trying to move beyond the lot-by-lot approach. Community scale could cover it
 - Green shores- it's a lot-by-lot stewardship approach, so perhaps it is okay to discuss lot-by-lot
 - This isn't just about knowledge out, we'll have lots of learning and knowledge in- which can lead to an evidence-based approach for participatory planning
- Refine knowledge transfer: knowledge sharing, two eyed seeing approach, integrated knowledge sharing, knowledge mobilization
- Consider short, medium, long-term goals, or local or regional goals
- Consider developing objectives under each of the goals for specific guidance

- This is a draft resilience framework- presenting ideas from a group called the Think Tank- and bringing it to the local level, and does it make sense. It's the roadmap for how we are going to do it. Opportunity to be early innovators
- Replace the term hazard in the description, as the term is specifically used by Conservation Authorities in their description of flooding and erosion as hazards to ecological health. Other suggestions include: challenges, threats or stress
- "Plan" sounds too rigid, something like "strategy" sounds more adaptable to the changing needs of the region

Approach for Next 5 Months (Pete Explained the workplan)

- By end of March- Partially complete Step 1- Engagement and Assessment
 - Undertake the planning to develop the roadmap/high level plan. That could be followed by development of a strategy, and specific action plans (longer term). Once general direction is determined, develop an engagement strategy that meets the needs of the plan
 - Document state of coastal system, threats and stresses
 - Assess vulnerability and risk
 - Prepare report on findings
- Step 1 (Engagement) and Step 2 (Plan Development) are partially attainable, with existing data and the resources available. Step 3 (Take Action and Implement Projects will follow) is not attainable now with the resources and schedule, but could be in the future.
 - A fully developed Plan would include developing strategies, plans and actions

Governance Structure

- Need a terms of reference- e.g. To identify chairs, future chairs, members/partners and expectations
- James (LURA) can provide examples

Discussion

- Nature Conservancy of Canada funding to build a wildlife corridor- \$30M across Canada
 - The articles created controversy. One group thinks that they may be looking for their land to be bought out.
 - 1/2 money from Parks, 1/2 from Nature Conservancy and money could be used for land purchasing, OR stewardship
<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ec/en/2023/10/25/252599519>
 - Parks Canada to follow up with the Nature Conservancy on this announcement

Caldwell First Nation

- Can help support engagement, as they are leading significant local engagement efforts currently
 - Youth network- [The Indigenous Youth, Art, and Water Initiative - yourcier](#)
 - Cumulative effects of marine shipping, and how it effects coastal areas of the Great Lakes through Transport Canada
 - Council of Three Fires, including five First Nations communities

NRCan- Climate Resilient Coastal Communities program (Pete introduced the program)

- Looking for regional scale work (approximately 20 projects), with communities affected by climate change, in coastal areas
- Want funding to develop a plan, adaptation actions, and implement smaller scale projects, over next 3.5 years. Approximately \$1M in NRCan funding is available with a \$300k cash match.
- The County of Essex and ERCA are currently updating the coastal flood and erosion hazard maps with funding from NRCan. Lots of data here for a vulnerability study- great starting point
- Economic impacts are really important to emphasize in the work plan - e.g. Wheatly Harbour commercial fishery and threats associated with channel sedimentation, potential flood damages for a dike breach, visitors to Pelee and region tourism spinoffs
- What is the strategy to engage the province? Through LEAP?
 - ECCC is working to engage the Province
- The scope needs to be relevant for the County of Essex, with clear benefits for the County, to secure council support. Further, relevance for all partners is key – they need to see benefits in their participation to secure their involvement
- Consider working back on the funds that are required to complete the work, based on what resources can be put together through in-kind and financial support
- Caldwell First Nation: will investigate their current initiatives for matching potential funds, e.g. Centre for Indigenous and Environmental Research
- Investigate private donations, or sponsorships:
 - OGVG- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
 - Ontario Commercial Fishing Association
 - Economic development agencies from Windsor, Essex, Chatham-Kent, and other municipalities outside of Leamington
- Leamington
 - Sturgeon Creek- In the next FY, Leamington will be leading a watershed study for Sturgeon Creek focused on stormwater mgmt. and water quality. The \$200K budget from Leamington for the study could be used as a match.
- The ECCC Coastal wetland vulnerability assessment provides evidence for the urgency of work in this area, and may be referenced to substantiate the need for the work in the application
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/great-lakes-protection/taking-action-protect/coastal-wetlands/assessment-coastal-wetlands.html>

To consider for future outreach, engagement, and information sharing, the Binational Coastal Assembly symposium for fall 2024 is themed “Coastal Resilience”, and may be a good opportunity to showcase this work:

- <https://www.greatlakescoastalassembly.org/>

Future Meeting Dates

- November 24th, 2023, 10am-12pm via teams
- January 26th 2024, 10am-12pm via teams
- February 23rd, 2024, 10am-12pm via

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30pm

Afternoon Field Trip- Coastal Sites between Point Pelee and Wheatley- 1:00pm-4:30pm