



Minutes

Quarterly Meeting #1: Pelee Coastal Resilience Committee

Date: June 13, 2024

Location: Municipality of Leamington Council Chambers

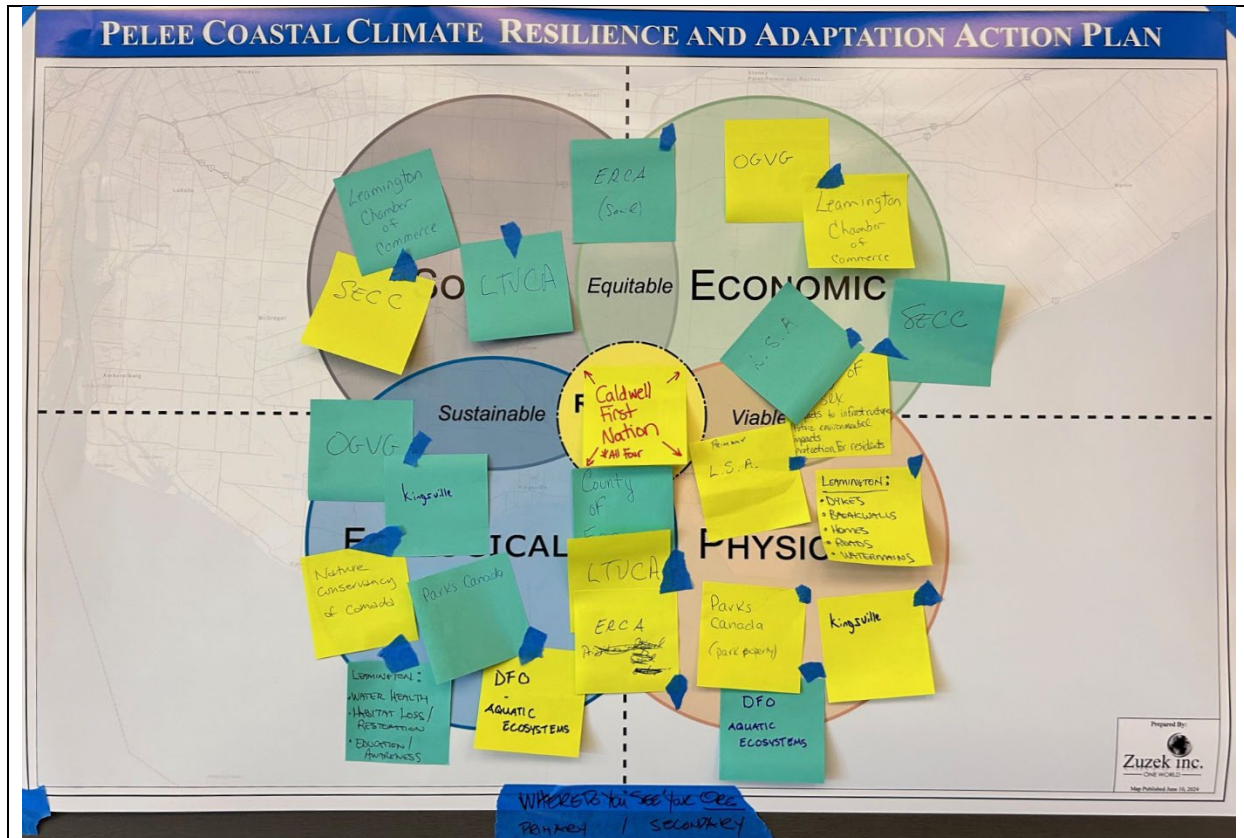
Attendees:

Present	Organization	Member	Initials
✓	Caldwell First Nation	Susan Sullivan	SS
x	Walpole First Nation	TBD	
✓	County of Essex	Rebecca Belanger	RB
✓	Municipality of Leamington	Bill Fuerth	BF
✓	Municipality of Leamington	Rob Sharon	RS
x	Town of Kingsville	Richard Wyma	RW
✓	Town of Kingsville	Tim Del Greco	TDG
x	Town of Essex	Kevin Girard	KG
x	Town of Essex	David McBeth	
x	Town of Essex	Erica Tilley	
x	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Edward Soldo	ES
x	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Brigan Barlow	BB
x	LTVCA	Jason Wintermute	JW
✓	LTVCA	Mark Peacock	MP
✓	ERCA	James Bryant	JB
x	ERCA	Tian Martin	TM
✓	Leamington District Chamber of Commerce	Diane Malenfant	DM
x	Leamington District Chamber of Commerce	Wendy Parsons	WP
✓	South Essex Community Council		CW
x	Leamington Shoreline Association	Wayne King	WK
x	PPNP Citizens Advisory Committee	Charbel Saad	CS
✓	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Kristyn Richardson	KR
x	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Luke King	LK
x	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Jill Crosthwaite	JC
x	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Brett Norman	BN
x	Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers	Aaron Coristine	AC
x	Presteve77 Foods Ltd.	Vald DeMelo	VD
x	Wheatley Harbour Authority	Bobby Cabral	BC
x	DFO, Integrated Planning	Cindy Mitton-Wilkie	CMW
✓	DFO, Integrated Planning	Emily Champagne	EC
✓	DFO, Integrated Planning	X	
x	DFO, SCH	Adele Butcher	AB
x	DFO, SCH	Jennifer Thomas	JT
x	DFO, SCH	Annette Winter	AW



x	DFO, SCH	Mike MacDiarmid	MM
✓	Parks Canada	Julie Charlton	JC
X	Parks Canada	Scott Parker	SP
✓	Parks Canada	Tammy Dobbie	TD
✓	University of Waterloo	Linda Mortsch	LM
✓	Foresight Management Consulting	Janice Forsyth	JF
✓	Zuzek Inc.	Pete Zuzek	PZ
✓	County of Essex	Student, Ethan	
Present	Observer	Member	Initials
✓	Canada Water Agency	Jody McKenna	JM
X	Canada Water Agency	Greg Mayne	GM

1.	Review/Approve Agenda and Introductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PZ welcomed everyone to the meeting. • Attendees introduced themselves. • Minutes from May 10th Kickoff Teams meeting approved. <p>AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice reviewed the agenda. • Pete advanced a motion to accept the agenda, Aaron seconded. Passed. <p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice introduced the post-it exercise to identify which dimension(s) of a resilient coast - social, economic, ecological, and physical - closely aligned with the organizations present. The primary dimension being (yellow) and the secondary (green). General discussion followed and it was determined that the four dimensions of a resilience coast were well represented by the existing Committee members. • Picture of results below. • A PDF version of the poster, with the post-its converted to digital text, is also attached to these minutes. 	



- Discussion of Committee membership follows:
- RS – what about involvement of Amherstburg. PZ, contacted Antonetta by phone and email. No response yet but will keep them informed and the technical work will include the Lake Erie shoreline under the jurisdiction of Amherstburg.
- RB – Town of Essex also a member and just was not able to join today.
- SS – Caldwell FN is hiring Water Coordinator and will link them into the project. SS will remain on the Committee as a technical resource.
- SS – what about Walpole FN. PZ, has reached out to Chief Dan’s assistant and had a conversation about the project. Forwarded background information. Do not have capacity to join but we will keep them informed.
- MP – Municipality of Chatham-Kent are members, Ed just not able to join today.
- TDG – Should we invite Kingsville Port Authority? PZ, maybe they would be best suited to a sub-committee.
- JB – will the minutes be on a website. JF, yes, once we have permission from NRCan to announce the project.
- RB – Operator of Kingsville Harbour (Southwest Sales) would be well suited to sub-committees. JF, will be lots of outreach beyond the quarterly Committee meetings and we can engage with them at that time.
- AC – what about Pelee Island. PZ, project is focused on Pelee East and Pelee West littoral cells, therefore did not include Pelee Island. Working at the scale of littoral cells is a critical component of the project. So, Pelee Island not included at this time.



- TD – academic researchers, UofWindsor and UofWaterloo, would be well-suited to sub-committees. Sub-committees are a chance to bring people into targeted actions.

Action Item(s):

1. Pete will continue to keep invited organizations that have not officially joined the Committee informed.

2.

Update on NRCan Contribution Agreement and Other Funding Opportunities

- PZ - Zuzek Inc. has signed the contribution agreement. Just waiting for the signed back version from NRCan. Very close to being finalized.
 - **Please, no public announcements or media publications until advised by NRCan.**
- PZ – has started conversations with partners for matching cash. Once the contribution agreement has been signed, will need to coordinate transfer of the Year 1 funds.
- PZ - reviewed other funding and leverage opportunities.
 - PZ indicated this will be a regular agenda item for all meetings.
 - PZ mentioned working with Caldwell First Nation on an application to CIRNAC's First Nation Adapt program to get dedicated funds for Caldwell to participate.
 - PZ, have submitted a new funding application for a stacking grant to the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks. The submitted project, if funded, would work with First Nations partners to establish pilot nurseries to grow genetically appropriate beachgrass plants and other foredune species for restoration projects. The project could focus on three geographic areas: Pelee region of this project, the Long Point littoral cell, and Sauble Beach area on Lake Huron. SS has link to greenhouse operation that they use for their restoration work. TD mentioned Savannah restoration in Point Pelee National Park that used greenhouses in local high schools and engaged students in growing plants and then planting.
 - PZ said the Town of Essex may be contributing funding to this project.

Action Item(s):

1. PZ – general, asked all Committee members to continue looking for opportunities for new funding moving forward.
2. **No public announcements or media publications until advised by NRCan.**

3.

Committee Governance

SUCCESSFUL COMMITTEES

Dr. Lawrence Hildebrand, from the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University joined the meeting via Teams.

- Presentation on Successful Committees
 - Most effective committees are like-minded. Coastal Zone Canada Association is 100% voluntary and self-funded, and has been around for 30-years.
 - Common characteristics:
 - Trusted Leadership facilitates the Committee.
 - Inclusive membership is critical (do not leave anyone out).
 - Clear goals and objectives, and revisit often (e.g., yearly).



- Communication, inward and outward, must be continuous. If you do not communicate regularly, people can lose interest.
- Eager to learn. Appreciate other people's mandate. Need to understand. Be open minded.
- Everyone should have an active role. Must have something to do.
- o Risks:
- Entropy, boredom with meetings.
- Do not see any progress. Must take small steps forward. Look for short-term successes.
- Avoid 'end runs'. People can disagree and try to stop progress.
- o Why did you join the Committee?
- Assigned by your boss.
- Protect status quo (not innovative).
- Joined because you believe in the vision (ideal).
- Want to make a difference and increase resilience (ideal).
- RS: good points, need to make progress, small steps. Needs to be valuable use of time. Need action.
- AC: what type of sub-committees could be formed in the future?:
 - o PZ, flexible. First year is targeted to technical work. Targeted 'task teams' will be formed for specific activities to generate ideas and targets for projects and build actions. There will be Year 2 sub-committees to advance specific adaptation actions (e.g., sediment bypassing at harbours, planning for resilience in a changing climate, innovative dredging projects, etc.).
- SS: how do you manage growth with committees, in general. LH, think concentric rings. Some people will be focused on individual aspects, they are interested in. Everyone does not need to be on the main Committee. Do not let the main Committee get too big and unwieldy. Assign interested people to sub-committees in the future.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- o JF: introduced draft Terms of Reference, previously shared by email.
- o JF: consensus model for complex decisions, go around the table.
- o MP: sub-committees do not have decision making power, correct? JF, yes.
- o EC: can you vote if you are not in attendance? Discussion of a proxy voted ensued and difficulties were envisioned if the decision or action changed during the meeting and someone submitted a proxy vote in advance.
- o PZ – mentioned the goal with the Terms of Reference is to be flexible and not constrain us by a protocol that might not work in the future. It was determined that for major voting decisions, such as how to spend the \$300k on future adaptation projects, the goal would be to have the Committee members in attendance for a Quarterly meeting. If that was not possible, a statement will be added to the Terms of Reference to provide the flexibility to have a Teams/virtual meeting for major voting issues. JF, virtual meeting could occur after the in-person Quarterly meeting.
- o RB advanced a motion to accept the Terms of Reference with these edits, AC seconded. Motion passed.



LOGO UPDATE BY PETE

- PZ – provided an update on the logo development.
 - Working with Naomi Peters, a Caldwell FN artist (priscillaprints.com). Refer to slides 16 and 17 for the draft logos.
 - SS - likes the bottom ones, they show the geographic extent of the two littoral cells.
 - DM – In the bottom far right draft, words are easier to read when on red background (e.g., Pelee)
 - RB - bottom right, likes white lettering on dark colours. Likes to see the geography of the county.
 - TD: instead of two people, have a family (the depiction of a man and a woman in a skirt is not inclusive or forward thinking).
 - EC: prefers the bottom row, but likes the bottom of bottom left logo (showing point), top of bottom right logo (proper geographic extent of land).
 - TD, if a skirt on the woman perhaps a long skirt.
 - SS, maybe have a group of people, a family
 - EC, wild rice instead of cattails?
 - JB, people holding hands is awkward, revise.
 - CW: more colours to a logo make it hard to replicate and print. Be careful. Might want a colour version and grey scale.
 - LM: does the boat resonate with people? RB: is the type of boat relevant?
 - TD: Yes, looks like a fishing tug. Bottom right boat is good. Looks like the boats seen around project.
 - Ethan: the image is complex in the middle, maybe too busy. Perhaps have lines for water
 - SS: add a feather instead of a bird. Holding an eagle feather speaks to creation and all living things. Could drop people, because feather represents people and their role on the landscape. CW endorses this idea. People and bird get too busy.
 - LM: logo tells a story, when we go to the public. Feather could be a symbol.
 - MP: likes feather instead of people. But if we do this, need Caldwell FN support/approval.
 - TD: try placing ‘Pelee Coastal’ as a wrap around the outside of the circle or together and all on land.
 - DM: colour printing adds costs for logos (be aware).
 - SS: when we have a workable logo, Susan can take it to their cultural advisor. Also have a good printer in Windsor.
 - General Discussion: we are getting close to finalizing. PZ, asked for a mandate from the Committee to advance these last few changes and finalize as would like to start using. Support for this approach.

WEBSITE

- PZ - The Committee now owns the domain “peleecoastal.ca”. It will be our dedicated project website used to provide background information on the project, knowledge sharing, and be a digital collection for all outputs (e.g., agenda, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, reports, etc.).
- PZ - website is live but has no content yet. Will add content once contribution agreement is signed. Will take down until agreement is signed.

Action Item(s):

1. Terms of Reference (JF to complete):
 - Make sure it is clear that sub-committees do not have decision making power.
 - Clarifying statement to be added about voting after Quarterly meeting for important decisions where all members were not present.
2. Pete to work with Naomi to finalize logo and share with the Committee by email.
3. Website pulled down until contribution agreement signed.

4.	Vision and Goals
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- LM: draft vision and four goals presented. Feedback:
 - Currently include people’s comments.
 - EC: please resend her vision and goals.
 - LM: SS reviewed the content to ensure it reflected and integrated FN values. Resilient to existing and future stresses. Highlight collaboration, partners and the goal of empowering residents. Adaptation is equitable.
 - DM: add ‘the’ economies to Vision.
 - CW: suggested re-arranging ‘Our communities, economies, and the natural environment are resilience to current and emerging stresses’.
 - LM: Goal 1:
 - JC: instead of First Nation, would prefer Indigenous.
 - SS: some sensitivity to bringing in Indigenous, since Metis and Inuit do not have Treaties in the study area.
 - JC uses the term Indigenous because it is all encompassing. Would prefer ‘Indigenous Leaders’.
 - SS: if we use ‘rights holders’ have to make sure it is okay to use the term ‘Indigenous’ when the rights holders by Treaty are Caldwell FN.
 - LM: those that are interested in this topic will discuss further after the meeting.
 - MP: endorses further discussion on this.
 - KR: #2 change ‘plans’ to ‘plan’.
 - LM: reviewed #3. RB: Maybe #1 and #3 should be tabled together, since #3 introduces the term Indigenous.
 - LM: reviewed #4. Adaptations take place at different scales, short- and long-term.
 - EC: maybe not enough emphasis on ecological systems. TD: things ecological systems are included in the existing wording. EC: okay as is.
 - JF: approve the vision.
 - DM: approve the four goals in principle.
 - Susan, Julie, and Emily to discuss the use of First Nations versus Indigenous, with the goal of reaching consensus. Linda to monitor. Send results to the full group.
 - DM: motion to approve the vision and goals 2 and 4, with 1 and 3 adopted once consensus is reached through further discussion.
 - Vote, all but two agreed. RB and MP, asked for the revision to be sent to the full Committee, before finalizing the motion.

Action Item(s):

1. Linda to revise vision and goals based on feedback.
2. SS, JC, and EC to meet post meeting (and include Zack Hamm Caldwell FN) to discuss the use of Indigenous versus First Nations for Goal #1.
3. Send final version of Vision and Goals to Committee for information.

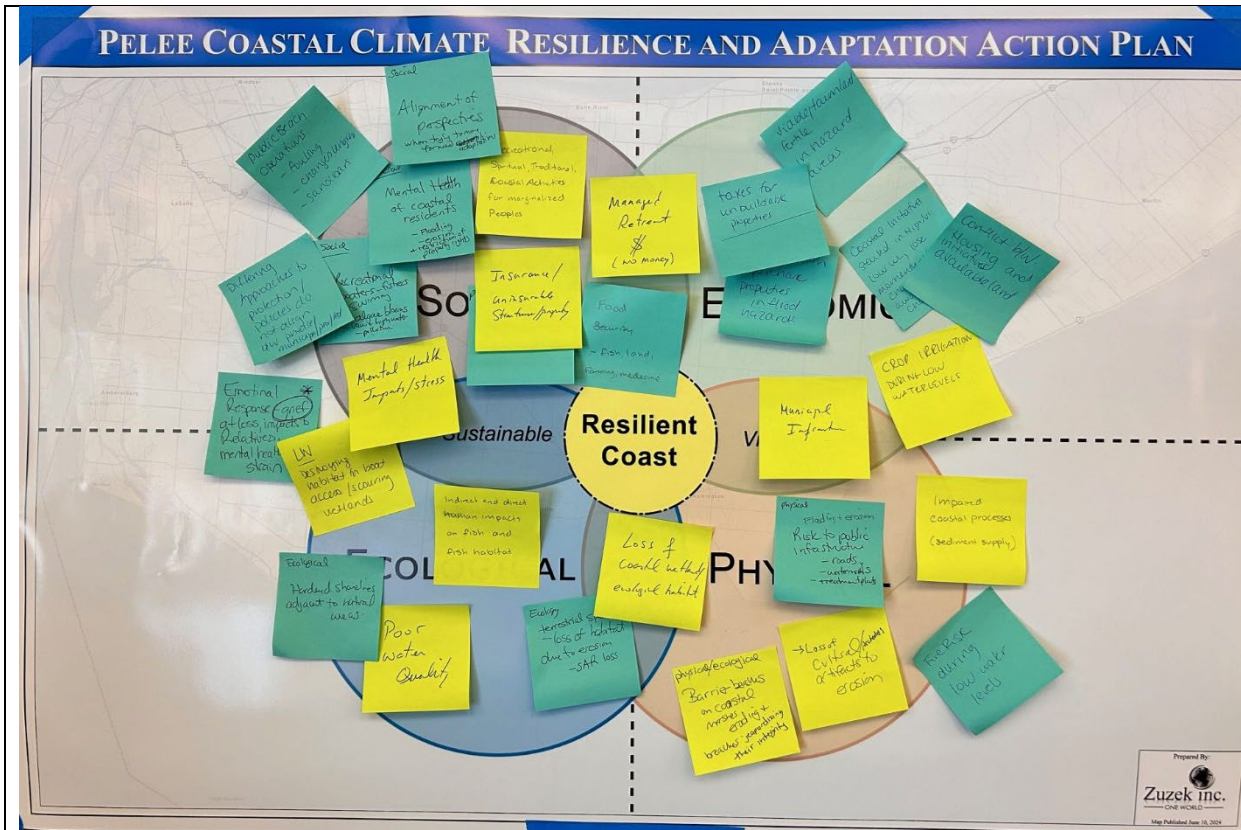
5.	Work Plan
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WORK PLAN REVIEW

- PZ: provided a very general overview of the work plan for the current fiscal year.
- PZ: discussed the need for property parcels, building layer, and assessed values. There is existing information for Chatham-Kent (based on 2015 aerial photography) and Southeast Leamington (2020) areas of the project, that can be updated (e.g., add new buildings). Update assessed values. West of Southeast Leamington, the Consulting Team does not have any existing data. RB and JB will be able to assist with building layers and assessed values.
- TD: asked about the spatial extent of the hazard mapping, since it does not cover the National Park. The Park would benefit from having the same hazard mapping. PZ indicated that Conservation Authorities do not have a mandate to map hazards on federal lands, such as the National Park. However, he committed to extending the mapping to include the National Park with the same hazard mapping standards as other areas.
- RS: how far inland does the project go? PZ indicated there were three zones: nearshore, waters edge, and extent of inland flooding from storm surge.
- JB: August 2023 flooding, Harrow to Colchester were flooded.
- MP: hazard mapping delineates lake flooding and river flooding. Separate lake and river hazards. PZ: have it.
- LM: sub-committee is needed to define hazards. Task Team (MP, JB, RS, BF, RB with PZ chairing) was formed.
- SS: 25% increase in rainfall projected from ECCC. Has this been considered. PZ: yes. RB: the flooding from rainfall was central to the County of Essex funding this project. So, rainfall is important and she would like it integrated for the coastal communities (not the interior). This will be resolved by the Task Team, which will report back to the Committee.

NON-GEOGRAPHIC IMPACTS AND CHALLENGES

- JF assigned Committee members into four groups. Asked them to discuss the question “Describe existing impacts/challenges your organization is seeing/experiencing in the study area (non-geographic)” and put answers on post-its. The post-its were then added to the Venn diagram poster on the wall. Results below and also attached as a PDF.



NON-GEOGRAPHIC

Social

- Public Beach Operations; fouling, changes lengths, sand bars.
- Alignment of perspectives when trying to move forward adaptation.
- Recreational, spiritual, traditional, coastal activities for marginalized peoples.
- Insurance / Uninsurable property.
- Impacts to private property owners; no insurance.
- Recreational Boaters / fishers.
- Swimming; algae blooms; water pollution.
- Mental health of coastal residents; flooding and erosion threats.
- Differing Approaches to protection / policies do not align b/w private / municipal Prov / Fed.
- Emotional response - grief at loss, like losing a relative (FN), mental health strain.

Economic

- Taxes for un-buildable properties.
- Viable farmland; Fertile in hazard areas.
- Coastal initiative in high / low water levels, can lose momentum, change education awareness / change policy.
- Conflict b/w housing initiatives; available land, threats due to flooding.
- No mechanism to purchase properties in flood hazard.
- Crop irrigation during low water levels.

Social/Economic

- food security and medicinal plants.
- managed retreat; lack of funds.

Physical

- Impaired coastal processes (sediment supply).
- Flooding and erosion.
- Risk to public infrastructure: roads, watermains, treatment plants.
- Loss of cultural archaeological artifacts to erosion.
- Hardened shorelines next to natural areas cause impacts for species and downdrift impacts.

Economic/Physical

- Municipal infrastructure threatened by erosion and flooding.

Ecological

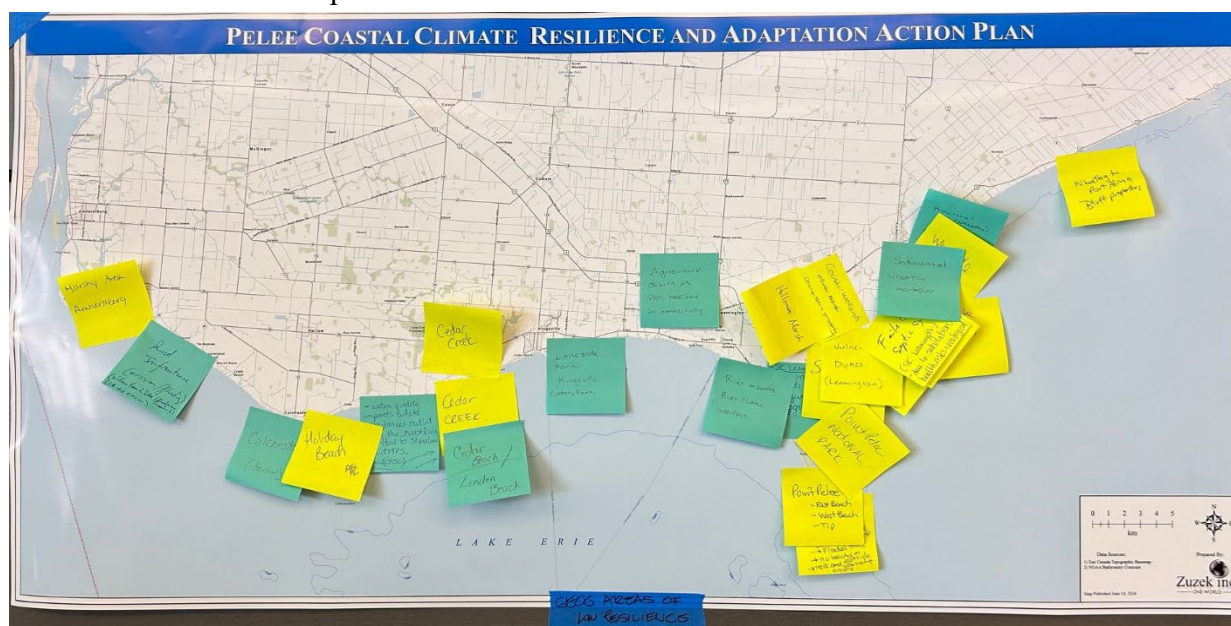
- Destroying habitat for boat access / scouring wetlands.
- Indirect and direct human impacts on fish and fish habitat.
- Terrestrial species.
- Barrier beaches on coastal marshes eroding; jeopardizing their integrity.
- Loss of habitat due to erosion; species at risk loss.
- Poor water quality.
- Hardened shorelines adjacent to natural areas; lost wetland habitat for fish, loss of smelt run.

Ecological/Physical

- Loss of coastal wetlands / ecological habitat.

GEOGRAPHIC

- Second question: “Identify a geographic area(s) with low resilience/challenges”. Post-its were added to the map below. A PDF of the results is also attached.



Port Alma to Wheatley:

- Bluff properties and erosion threats for homeowners.
- Concern over loss of Wheatley PP; erosion threat to ecology and access.
- Cost of Wheatley Harbour dredging and impacts on community.

Southeast Leamington:

- Whole shoreline, ecosystem, people and infrastructure from tip of PPNP to Wheatley.
- Vulnerable dikes; all below lake level and vulnerable to flooding.
- Failed septic systems during high water levels.
- Emergency response to SE Leamington and flood prone lands.
- East Beach erosion and all other beaches at PPNP.
- Rivermouth outlets to the lakes, such as Sturgeon Creek, water quality and fish habitat.
- Marentette Beach.
- Crop insurance.

Hillman Marsh:

- Habitat and associated flood vulnerability if the dike breaches.
- Breakwall integrity.
- Restoration on former agricultural land in the Hillman Creek watershed via a partnership between Caldwell FN and ERCA.

Kingsville:

- Pigeon Bay/Lakeside Park, lack of public beach and access.
- Cedar Creek area – flooding and erosion.

Town of Essex:

- Bluff erosion east of Colchester.

Amherstburg:

- Flood prone lands/marshy areas.
- Some Amherstburg properties have only one ingress/egress route, which can be impassable during flooding; use of dinghies would be required for rescue.
- Holiday Beach.

General:

- Tributary outlets with poor hydraulic connectivity to lake, which increases flood risk; water quality impacts (stagnation).
- Sedimentation in harbour navigation channels, economic costs of dredging.
- Failing septic systems located below the 100-year flood level.
- ECCC Nearshore Framework assessment identified impaired coastal processes.
- Agricultural drains and fish habitat.

Observations:

- MP: lots of problems across the area.
- JB: SE Leamington might have the most issues.
- EC: model impacts in some way? Rank? Likelihood and vulnerability. Some happen together and some happen simultaneously.
- MP: lack of coordination of these problems. Happening in isolation.



- PZ: this is the power of our group. Collaborating together to increase resilience.
- Geography of vulnerability is evenly distributed within the study area.
 - Some clustering around SE Leamington.
- Question of what is the “enterprise risk”. Need to ascertain likely risk and target outcomes of project to weight of risk.
- While there are common areas of vulnerability, the problems associated with them are typically addressed in isolation with little coordination in a “siloed” approach. How can we use the Committee? Our focus and commitment should be the power of working together!

Action Item(s):

1. PZ to contact RB and JB about parcels/buildings/assessment data west of Southeast Leamington.
2. Recently completed hazard mapping for the County of Essex will be extended to include Point Pelee National Park.
3. PZ will chair a short-term task team that will establish the hazard extremes for the vulnerability and risk assessment and discuss climate change scenarios. (Members: MP, JB, Bf, RS, RB)

7. Other Business / Feedback

- JF: media question from Wayne King. What is the protocol for media? PZ explained that RB has been nominated as the media coordinator. All requests for media need to go through RB. She may choose to bring in other Committee organizations as appropriate. As the project progresses, fact sheets and other information sources will be developed. These will be shared on the website and can be distributed to anyone.
- TD: do not announce the grant. PZ: no mention of NRCan funding yet.
- LM: there will be the website, free for anyone to view and obtain information.
- RB: high level of transparency on our website is desired. When there are questions for media requests, the County have staff that can support RB.
- JB: no minutes on website until NRCan announces funding.
- LM: for the CK Shoreline Study, many people commented on reviewing the website.
- JC: confirm RB is the spokesperson, can bring in others required for geographically specific interviews/topics.
- LM: IPCC had very good communication supports and talking points. We should strive for something similar.

Action Item(s):

1. No communications about the project until directed by NRCan.

7. Next Meeting and Adjourn (3 pm)

- General: attendees were happy with the meeting room. Spacious.
- DM: parking not great here at the Municipality of Leamington.
- RB: County has lots of parking.
- General: agreed to stay with the Municipality of Leamington for the September meeting and move to the County of Essex for the December meeting, when weather could be a challenge if not parked close.



- Confirmed next meeting:
 - **September 12, 2024 – 10 am - 3pm**, Municipality of Leamington building. Lunch will be provided.
- Adjourn, motion from AC, second RB. Passed.