



Minutes – Quarterly Meeting #3

Pelee Coastal Resilience Action Plan

Date: December 12, 2024; 10 am to 3 pm
Location: County of Essex; 360 Fairview Ave W, Essex
Meeting Goals: Share key ideas from focus groups and workshops.
 Provide an updated overview of baseline assessments (to frame adaptations).
 Present draft decision-making tool and scorecard.
 Brainstorm draft adaptation concepts.

Present	Organization	Member	Initials
	Caldwell First Nation	Steve Simpson	
	Walpole First Nation	TBD	
x	County of Essex	Rebecca Belanger	
	County of Essex	Corinne Chiasson	
	Municipality of Leamington	Bill Fuerth	
	Municipality of Leamington	Rob Sharon	
	Town of Kingsville	Richard Wyma	
	Town of Kingsville	Tim Del Greco	
	Town of Essex	Kevin Girard	
	Town of Essex	David McBeth	
	Town of Essex	Erica Tilley	
x	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Edward Soldo	
	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Brigan Barlow	
	LTVCA	Jason Wintermute	
x	LTVCA	Mark Peacock	
x	ERCA	James Bryant	
	ERCA	Tian Martin	
	Leamington District Chamber of Commerce	Diane Malenfant	
x	Leamington District Chamber of Commerce	Wendy Parsons	
x	Leamington Shoreline Association	Wayne King	
	PPNP Citizens Advisory Committee	Charbel Saad	
	South Essex Community Council	Carolyn Warkentin	
	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Kristyn Richardson	
	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Brett Norman	
x	Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers	Rob Petro	
	DFO, Integrated Planning	Cindy Mitton-Wilkie	
	DFO, Integrated Planning	Emily Champagne	
	DFO, SCH	Adele Butcher	
	DFO, SCH	David Tinley	
	DFO, SCH	Annette Winter	
	DFO, SCH	Mike MacDiarmid	
x	Parks Canada	Julie Charlton	



	Parks Canada	Scott Parker	
	Parks Canada	Tammy Dobbie	
x	NRCan	Mujtaba Ali	
	University of Waterloo	Linda Mortsch	
x	Foresight Management Consulting	Janice Forsyth	
x	Zuzek Inc.	Pete Zuzek	
x	Resident (guest)	Ken Schmidt	
Present	Observer	Member	Initials
x	Canada Water Agency	Jody McKenna	
	Canada Water Agency	Greg Mayne	

1.	Welcome, Review/Approve Agenda and Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome; Land Acknowledgement by Janice. • Janice reviewed the meeting goals and agenda. Rebecca advanced a motion to accept, second James, all in favour. • Pete introduced the slides with the minutes from September 12, 2024. Explained a clarification requested by Small Craft Harbours regarding the placement of dredged sediment from the Wheatley Harbour. Minutes previously stated offshore placement, but the majority is placed on the beaches at the Hillman Marsh. Correction was made. • James, Climate Change Scenarios: Change ‘probability of coastal flooding and rainfall’ to ‘impacts’ or ‘effects’. • Motion to accept Sept. 12 minutes by Edward, James second, all in favour. 	
Action Item(s):	
1. Pete to update September 12 minutes and post on website.	
2.	Business arising from the minutes and future funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee membership discussed by Pete. • Pete introduced Ken Schmidt, a resident of Kingsville, who is interested in the project. • Ken provided some background on himself. Interested in study approach and previously ERCA GM. Involved in establishing the first shoreline regulations for CAs. History of CA work in the region. Impressed how inclusive the project is and pro-active nature of the work. Pete indicated a vote would be held via email the following week to consider adding Ken to the Committee. • Pete indicated NRCan has scheduled the public announcement of the federal funding by NRCan for the week of January 13th, 2025. • Mujtaba: happy to hear the announcement is coming. BC announced already. 18 projects funded across Canada. Other Ontario project funded by the Climate Resilience Coastal Communities program is led by Conservation Ontario. The Indigenous connection is a very positive aspect of the Pelee Coastal project. Nice to see they are on the Committee and actively involved. 	

- Edward: has anyone announced the project to their Councils? Rebecca announced the Workshops to her Regional Council. James will update Board in February. Edward will update Chatham-Kent Council. Discussed the importance of consistency in messaging. Rebecca will share her material with everyone to use if desired.
- Pete introduced the Harbours Task Team. Small Craft Harbours has agreed to participate. Getting others involved and anticipating a meeting in the new year.
- Pete mentioned the importance of always looking for opportunities for future funding.
- Rebecca, Federation of Canadian Municipalities: funding for feasibility and implementation for Climate Change projects. Looking at possible connections and will report back.
- James mentioned the Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. Jody confirmed a call for proposals is anticipated in January 2025 and will close in February 2025. Focus on areas of high ecological value. \$2M in the maximum that can be requested. Minimum ask \$100k. Want to focus on ‘Action Projects’. James, apply in January, spend the majority in 2026. Spend some money in 2025. Long Point project, asked for 3M but did not have the details necessary for the pilot project. Needed to do more background.
- Pete: should this project apply? Jody, yes, if a feasible project can be proposed. Cannot spend the money on Federal or Provincial lands. Crown land in the lake is eligible.
- Jody: can have discussions after today about the merit of a Pelee Coastal project.
- Ken: who can apply. Individuals, municipalities, or Pelee Coastal. Zuzek Inc. is the secretariate for the Pelee Coastal Committee.
- Jody: Conservation Authority, Municipalities, Non-profits can apply. Likely best if a submission is not led by a consulting company.
- Julie: Parks Canada has an internal funding program, and she has applied to get funding to support the project next FY.
- Ken: can Jody forward the application? Link to initiative below – funding not announced yet.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canada-water-agency/freshwater-ecosystem-initiatives/overview.html>
- Jody: likes collective impact framework. However, as we go through the process of developing adaptations collectively, we might need to split off some adaptations and have them led by an individual group for efficiency/management/funding.
- Mark: this Committee will do specific things but can also frame ‘how’ things are done in the future. Follow a similar approach or framework. This is a learning opportunity for others.
- Mujtaba: look at Infrastructure Canada funding – keep an eye on future calls.

Action Item(s):

1. Pete and Jen will coordinate a vote by the Committee to consider expanding membership to include Ken Schmidt.
2. Rebecca to share her slide deck for the County Council update on the project.
3. Pete will continue developing the Harbours Task Team.
4. Rebecca is exploring a potential funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
5. All: will monitor the launch of the next Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative and consider the feasibility of a Pelee Coastal application and/or other projects in the littoral cells.



3. Community Engagement Overview

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

- Overview of focus group engagement from Janice.
- LDSS Students: meet with 26 students. Their curriculum includes climate change. Key concerns include Wheatley PP, Point Pelee NP, County Road 50. Impacts include erosion, land loss, damage to buildings.
- Chamber of Commerce meeting: Wendy and Diane helped coordinate. CEOs of four area Chambers and board members attended with a total of eight people. Concerns: Wheatley PP, Point Pelee NP, Port Alma erosion. Raised concerns about habitat loss, insurance claims. Priorities: sustainability, partnerships, local community buy-in.
- Wendy: good meetings and the topics were very relevant for the local businesses.

NOVEMBER WORKSHOPS

- ~100 attendees, 47 completed the survey, good response rate.
- Representation: none from Amherstburg, most from CK.
- 79% lived along the coast.
- Pete: explained slide 16. Of the four dimensions, 24 of 47 people ranked ecological as the most important based on their values and use of the coast. Second most important dimension was physical. Least important dimension was social.
- Edward, were the terms defined (social, economic, ecological, physical). Pete no. Wayne, terms might have been misunderstood. Need to further describe in the future. James: maybe people said ecological is important because they use the coastal areas and a high-quality environment is linked to a positive use experience. Rebecca: invited some individuals with an environmental focus, which might explain ecological being ranked above the social dimension as most important.
- Wayne: a bit disappointed in attendance from the Leamington Shoreline Association. Indicated this was a very important opportunity to influence the project.
- Janice, 2019 flood study in SE Leamington had higher turn-out but we were in the middle of record setting lake levels. Need to keep focusing on the engagement.
- Edward: will more details from the surveys be shared? Pete, yes will share Q&A summary once available.
- James: 100 people is a good turn out. Share a copy of survey.
- Wayne: should have been a section at the end to enter general comments. Pete agreed, next time it will be included.
- How do you use the coast.
- Concerns: coastal habitat, Lake Erie water quality, and erosion were the top three.
- Rob: data analysis, correlation with low water levels and how long people have lived on the shoreline. Maybe the concern for low water levels is low with newer owners/residents, since they have not lived through a low water period. Pete, could do regression analysis of time lived in the area and concern with low water levels.
- Easy to understand, yes, logistics good.
- Meeting duration was just right. Most will participate in the future.
- Feedback on definition of a Resilience Coast: balance nature and community, working with nature, recovery with improvements.
- Ken: will slides be shared? Janice: yes, on the website.
- How to increase resilience? Explore innovative pilots, etc. (see slides).

- Edward: ‘Kent County’ no longer exists (Chatham and Kent amalgamated) but still referenced in one of the comments.
- Topics covered in the future: How will the plan be implemented. Identify funding sources. Support for public to take action.
- Janice, overall pleased with turn-out and venues.
- Ken: feedback from the Q&A, how do you weigh the information, so it is considered. Pete: we will summarize the Q&A and give weigh it similar to the survey results.
- Ken: will there be guidelines for Councils and Board presentations. Rebecca will share her notes. Ken, keep message consistent for the project. James always collaborates with Rebecca on messaging.
- Ken: how are we engaging Provincial and Federal elected officials? They should be engaged. Maybe individual meetings. Meet in their offices. Mark: Rondeau Bay is a political issue in CK. Meeting with Trevor and Dave Epp regularly.
- When and who? Wendy, maybe organize a round table (in-person)? Mark, before decisions are made is critical. Jody, as a representative of the Canada Water Agency, meeting with elected officials needs to be thoroughly discussed internally and is not simple.
- Pete: reaching out before the February virtual meeting would be ideal.

FEBRUARY VIRTUAL MEETING ON ADAPTATION OPTIONS

- James: make sure we come with options to advance. Ideas that come out of this Committee meeting, for example.
- Mark: good idea to have a detailed meeting on adaptations. Have to determine how we use their feedback. Make it meaningful (if you ask for feedback, use it).
- 10 am to 12 pm, Jan. 15, Committee Virtual Meeting (review Decision Support Tool and list of draft Adaptations (from Committee meeting and consulting team)).
- February 12, 6 to 8 pm for Virtual Public Meeting (feedback from workshops, Decision Support, initial work on Adaptations)
- March 27, 2025 for Fourth Committee Meeting (Kingsville).
- April 2025 In-person Workshops: 29 and 30 April, 2024 (locations tbd).
- June 5, Fifth Committee Meeting (location tbd).

NEXT STEPS

- January 15, Virtual Committee Meeting
- Virtual Public Meeting in February 12, 6 to 8 pm
- March 27, fourth Committee Meeting

Action Item(s):

1. Calendar invites for meetings ASAP.
2. Pete to continue processing the survey results. Will share raw survey and full results with the Committee when complete. Will also share Q&A from Workshops when available.
3. All: continue to discuss strategy for engaging with elected provincial and federal politicians.

4.	Year 1 Work Plan
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PETE

- Summary of baseline assessment and vulnerability provided.
- Mark: economic benefits, have we fully defined the economics? Will need to back up statements.
- James: findings will go into a report. Statements on narrative will have to be documented further (references). Ken, politicians are being pressured for resources, so need to make a strong argument with economic backup. Have to justify spending on adaptations. Economic argument is critical.
- James: be clear whether building numbers includes the climate change lake level scenario or historical extremes. Pete, yes it does include climate change lake level and will document in the report.
- Rebecca: substantial infrastructure along the coast that is vulnerable. And this infrastructure will require upgrades.
- Mark: vulnerability does not include degree of risk. First floor flooding not considered. Pete: yes, correct. Depth of flooding not considered. This will be clearly documented in the report.

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

- Janice: presents draft Decision Support Tool and suggested a Task Team may be required to finalize/advance.
- Three Step Process:
- Step 1: Embrace integrated coastal management, increase resilience, support four dimensions. If concept fails one test, concept is discarded.
- Step 2: Rank and Prioritize concepts. Impacts, Feasibility, Sustainability, Learning and Transformation, Public Support.
- Impacts has 7 dimensions that are scored 1 to 5.
- Feasibility: 6 elements scored 1 to 5
- Sustainability: 3 elements
- Draft Score Card shared.
- James: how do we score these, as individuals or collectively as a group? Janice, have not determined – open to feedback. Jody, supports doing as a group. James, maybe do it both ways. First on your own, then in group setting.
- Jody, on Feasibility, time to get a permit might be a deal breaker.
- Julie, funding might come in the future, so perhaps not having money now is okay for a high-quality adaptation?
- Rebecca, Feasibility, obtain regulatory in time (Y/N), then other items.
- Rob: could potentially group social/economic, and physical/ecological for Impact, re-allocate points to ‘Consequence of no action’, as this is important.
- Edward, maybe Feasibility is moved into Step 1? If something is not feasible (possibility to be implemented), maybe it should be discarded, so part of initial screening. Pete: maybe there is a better term ‘Viability (ability to work successfully)?’. Do not want to screen out too many concepts initially.
- James: legal, legislative feasibility could be moved into Step 1.

- Pete: one challenge, economic feasibility should not stop all concepts, as there might be some adaptation that creates multiple co-benefits but not affordable now. Could be affordable in the future. Then perhaps it should still be considered.
- Mujtaba: okay to have longer-term options, CRCC program does not expect everything to be shovel ready.
- Step 3: Final Lineup explained by Janice.
- Rob: value for dollars, impacts for dollars could be highlighted (value for money). For example, cheaper items are fast and could be implemented for quick wins.
- Pete: one overview poster per littoral cell in development (showing linkages of integrated coastal system – all four dimensions).

Action Item(s):

1. Economic results will be documented in the Year 1 report and additional references will be added in possible.
2. Consulting Team will consider feedback on the Decision Support Tool and present to the Committee at the virtual January 15 meeting.

Lunch (brought in)

5. Brainstorming Session on Adaptation Concepts

- Short presentation of types and some potential examples (e.g., planning instruments, restoration, retreat and re-alignment, etc.) by Pete.
- Pete: highlighted the Hillman restoration example as an innovative project creating multiple co-benefits, which was recently funded. Also, an innovative nearshore berm project from Zion, Illinois that protects from beach erosion and creates fish habitat.

BREAKOUTS ON POTENTIAL ADAPTATIONS

Group #1 Ideas (Julie, Wayne, Edward, James, Mark)

- Managed Retreat (be careful on wording). Maybe ‘Stakeholder Supported Naturalization Project’.
- Harbour Sediment Bypassing – updated studies on sediment bypassing.
- Ken, maybe just looking at harbours is limiting, what about the adjacent shorelines? Mark agrees but maybe this project can just investigate the harbours.
- Pete: what is the goal of broadening the scope. Ken, look at threats and opportunities in a broader context.
- Rubble nearshore shoals were discussed as something worth exploring.
- Realtor issue (non-developable lots being sold) – maybe some type of knowledge sharing event/tool for Realtors.
- Provide guidance for hardening shorelines on individual lots.

Group #2 (Jody, Rebecca, Mujtaba, Ken, Wendy, Rob)

- Kingsville, significant changes at Lakeside Park in the last 10 years. Dredged sediment is being dumped in deeper water. Study is needed for all four dimensions in and around Kingsville (recreational, ecological dimensions). Build transformative plan for the harbour and adjacent lands, then use as a model. Explore nature-based bypassing ideas



(sand to east side). No more open lake dumping of dredged sediment. Wheatley has similar needs.

- Look at harbours/barriers.
- Prepare technical documents to help residents. Challenge, lots of variability in physical conditions and hard to develop guidance. Some examples like this already, including products from the Lake Huron Coastal Centre. Train marine contractors. Done in the context of a littoral cell – systems scale and long-term perspective. Mark, maybe working in the climate change angle is an option.
- Look for opportunities to naturalize flood prone lands.
- Policy, zoning designations, bylaws (supported by updated hazard maps, learning from this study).

DEBRIEF

- Jody: Consider examples from other locations, such as the Gold Coast of Australia. They work at the systems scale/littoral cells.
- Offshore sources of sand for beach nourishment could be explored (e.g., Southeast Shoal):
- Janice: do we need more examples of PARRARH adaptations. Yes, provide examples from outside of the project geography.
- Mujtaba: ClimAtlantic coastal adaptation toolkit has a questionnaire that helps you consider adaptations. Could be reviewed: <https://climatlantic.ca/coastal-adaptation/>
- Rob: when looking for areas to naturalize, make sure potential locations want help. Planning horizon for restoration needs to work for people in the future.

Action Item(s):

1. The Consulting Team will combine these potential adaptation ideas with other suggestions to develop a list for the January 15 virtual meeting.

6. Other Business

- None.

Action Item(s):

1. None.

7. Next Committee Meeting and Adjourn

- March 27, 2025, 10:00 am to 3 pm – Kingsville, Lakeside Park Pavilion
- Rebecca First, Second Wendy. All support. Meeting adjourned.