



Date: August 19, 2024

To: Mayor and Council

Author: Richard J.H. Wyma CSLA
Director of Planning and Development

RE: Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Program Funding

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That Council **DIRECT** Administration to apply \$10,000 from its 2024 operating budget to fund its 2024 commitment to the \$1.2 million, three-year Pelee Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Program; and to include \$10,000 in the 2025 and 2026 Budgets for consideration by Council.

BACKGROUND

In Fall/Winter 2023, the Government of Canada launched the Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities (CRCC) Program to provide funding to enable communities and sectors to work together at a regional scale to co-develop coordinated actions that increase climate resilience in coastal regions. The CRCC received \$41 million under the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan, which accompanied the release of the National Adaptation Strategy.

The Program is intended to advance adaptation action at a regional-scale, and projects that are integrated, inclusive, and innovative, and projects that involve governments, Indigenous rights-holders, communities and organizations, businesses, academia, and other stakeholders to address key climate change risks. If successful, the program will fund up to 75% of the total eligible project costs. Participation in the CRCC may lead to future investment on specific projects.

DISCUSSION

In December 2023, the Town of Kingsville joined an application lead by Zuzek Inc., with the County of Essex, the Essex Region Conservation Authority, Senior levels of government, First Nations, Amherstburg, Essex and Leamington to assess the vulnerability of coastal communities and infrastructure to natural hazards and climate change as part of a larger (regional) littoral cell coastal resilience plan that stretches from the mouth of the Detroit River in Amherstburg to Port Alma, encompassing the sediment 'cells' that deliver sand and gravel to Point Pelee. The application submitted was a three year project, beginning in 2024, and a total budget of \$1.2 million. This

included a total of \$300,000 for the required 25% local funding match from the County, ERCA and municipalities.

In discussion with the project team, administration identified Mettawas Park/Beach and Cedar Island as specific projects for consideration within the overall multi-year project.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The project team learned in June 2024 that the application was successful, though partners could not confirm until announcements were held. As part of the application, the Town of Kingsville committed to providing:

- Staff and technical support from the Director of Planning and Development and the Senior Manager, Capital Projects and Engineering to participate on a Coastal Resilience Committee, provide technical support, and GIS and other data to support the study
- Cash support of \$10,000 in each of the 2024, 2025 and 2026 calendar years for a total of \$30,000.

This funding is within the scope of approvals under the Delegation of Authority, however as the application was submitted following the approval of the 2024 Budget, there was no specific budget identified. The Town can absorb the 2024 expense in the current year operating budget. The expense for 2025 and 2026 will be reflected in future budgets.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

This is in keeping with the Town's Strategic Plan that supports action and investment in the Town's waterfront (Strategy 3E) including investment in improvements at Cedar Beach/Cedar Island; and a plan for Mettawas Park. Solutions to both require a larger shoreline/watershed approach to ensure they are more successful than previous efforts. This Coastal Resilience approach provides the larger context that is required to address local and regional issues.

CONSULTATIONS

- Senior Management Team

PREPARED BY:



Richard J.H. Wyma CSLA
Director of Planning and Development

REVIEWED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Norton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Norton
Chief Administrative Officer