



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Rebecca Belanger, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Planning Services

Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Subject: Finalization of the Essex Region Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative

Report #: 2024-0619-IPS-R11-RB

Purpose

To provide County Council with an update regarding the County-wide shoreline natural hazard mapping and data sharing initiative.

Background

Further to reports provided to County Council on April 5 and November 15, 2023 (attached as Appendix 1 and 2 for information) which requested approval for the award of contract to retain a coastal engineering consultant to complete the project and the later report that provided a status update, this initiative has now been finalized. As previously noted, the County was successful in obtaining a grant in the amount of \$240,000 through the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) with funding by Natural Resources Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). The County carried \$200,000, over several years, earmarked in reserve funds to be utilized for the flood hazard mapping updates. As the City agreed to participate in the project following submission of the grant application, it reduced the County's contributing share to \$160,000 with the City providing \$40,000 in funding to the project.

As noted in the initial report to County Council, the Essex Region's shoreline mapping, which is used for regulating development through the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act*, was last completed in 1976. This information has now been updated for 200-plus kilometres of shoreline in our region.

Discussion

The final flood hazard maps and report were received by the County in February of 2024.

The final report and associated mapping have now been reviewed by County Planning Administration along with Engineering/Regulations Administration at the Essex Region Conservation Authority. It is important to note that this mapping including the updated flood hazard delineations as the key component utilized by ERCA in delivering their regulations and permitting requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The natural hazard mapping will also be utilized by the County of Essex and local municipalities in delivering *Planning Act* responsibilities and authorities for both long range planning as well as processing planning applications.

This mapping also serves to provide base information in assessing vulnerabilities to the County's infrastructure resulting from changing lake levels and the application of a climate change scenario. Further, this mapping forms additional background information in meeting the County's Emergency Management coordination responsibilities reflected in annual updates to the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA).

An important element of the FHIMP was to provide an opportunity for broad public consultation. The project included the hosting of five public open houses at locations in Lakeshore, Leamington, Essex, Harrow and LaSalle. The sessions were well attended by the public and members of County and local Councils. These sessions included display panels regarding the project as well as a computer set-up with the draft shoreline mapping in GIS and the ability to zoom in on specific reaches of shoreline or individual properties.

The final flood hazard maps and report were provided to the County and ERCA in February of 2024. The final reporting was completed for the FHIMP grant program as required to the MNR on March 1, 2024. A report will also be advancing to the ERCA Board of Directors on June 20, 2024 providing a project status update. The shoreline flood hazard mapping will be finalized in accordance with the requirements of ERCA's Regulations and Provincial technical manuals to be utilized in assessing development proposals under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Financial Implications

As per the chart below the total budgeted cost of the project was \$480,000. The project budget was partially funded by the \$40,000 of in-kind support from ERCA, the County's Rate Stabilization Reserve, contributing \$160,000, and the City of Windsor contributing \$40,000. Additionally, there was a

Finalization of the Essex Region Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative matching grant funding contribution of \$240,000 from NRCan and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The actual costs of the project was \$436,226 of which \$138,113 was funded by the County Rate Stabilization Reserve.

Consultations

The Director of Watershed Management Services, ERCA has been involved through-out all aspects of this project and has jointly project managed the initiative.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation<input type="checkbox"/> Focusing "Team Essex County" for Results<input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County's Fair Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People<input type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County<input type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth<input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0619-IPS-R11-RB Finalization of the Essex Region Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Belanger

Rebecca Belanger, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Planning Services

Concurred With,

Allan Botham

Allan Botham, P.Eng., Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
1	Report to County Council dated April 5, 2023 Award of Contract for Coastal Engineering Consultant- Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping County of Essex
2	Report to County Council dated November 15, 2023 Shoreline Natural Hazard Mapping Initiative