



Coastal Resilience Funding Initiative

At the January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council, a presentation was made to introduce the Littoral Cell Working Group (LCWG). This group was formed in 2023 from individuals concerned about coastal erosion, infrastructure threats, and disappearing coastal wetlands.

The LCWG has applied to the Environment and Climate Change Canada Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative for funding to enhance coastal resilience to natural hazards and climate change risks on the north shore of Lake Erie between Port Glasgow and Long Point. The deliverables of the project (if funded) would be:

1. Public consultation and engagement surrounding coastal erosion and resilience with stakeholders from across the Elgin/Norfolk Littoral Cell area.
2. Peer reviewed technical work to better understand how erosion and sand and gravel transport functions in the littoral cell.
3. The co-development of a Coastal Resilience Plan with members of a Working Group, Public Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group.
4. Beach Building projects to create healthier and more resilient beaches using nature based solutions/natural vegetation.
5. A pilot Beach Nourishing project to move sand from an area where it is not needed/wanted to an area where beaches are suffering from erosion. This is regular practice in other parts of the world.

More informed decisions when addressing the impacts of coastal erosion on our communities and infrastructure will be able to be made through completing technical work such as sediment budget and model for the coastline. In addition to the technical work, this project aims to establish the social, economic, environmental, and physical baseline for the coastal area within the littoral cell. These four dimensions of the coast must be considered when focusing on long-term sustainable approaches to increase coastal resilience. It is estimated a decision on the funding application will be received in June of this year.

This grant does not contemplate the removal of the Port Burwell west jetty without the appropriate technical evidence. The Port Burwell west jetty is not municipal infrastructure.

Please contact Sarah Emons at the Long Point Biosphere Region (conservation@longpointbiosphere.com) for further information on this initiative.

DATED at the Municipality of Bayham this 26th day of February, 2024.

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