

Minutes

Meeting #1: North Shore Resilience Working Group

Date: November 22, 2024

Location: Birds Canada, Port Rowan

Attendees:

Present	Organization	Member
	Bayham	Ed Ketchabaw
	Bayham	Ed Roloson
	Bayham	Rainey Weisler
X	Bayham	Steve Adams
X	Bayham	Thomas Thayer
X	Birds Canada	Natasha Barlow
X	Birds Canada	Stu Mackenzie
X	Catfish Creek CA	Gerrit Kremers
	DFO, Integrated Planning Unit	Hamdan, Lujanne
	DFO, Integrated Planning Unit	Cindy Mitton-Wilkie
	Dutton Dunwich	M Hentz
X	Dutton Dunwich	Tracy Johnson
	Dutton Dunwich	Tara Kretschmer
	Kettle Creek CA	Elizabeth VanHooren
	Kettle Creek CA	Maisa Fumagalli
	Long Point Biosphere	Brian Craig
	Long Point Biosphere	Janet Dassinger
X	Long Point Biosphere	Sarah Emons
	Long Point Region CA	Leigh-Anne Mauthe
X	Long Point Region CA	Paul Gagnon
X	Lower Thames Valley CA	Valerie Towsley
	Lower Thames Valley CA	Mark Peacock
	Malahide	Jason Godby
	Mississaugas of the Credit FN	Councillor Fawn Sault
	Nature Conservancy	Brett Norman
	Nature Conservancy	Holly Westbrook
	Nature Conservancy	Kristyn Richardon
	Nature Conservancy	Mckayla Meyer
	Norfolk County	Sydney Clarysse
	Norfolk County	Tom Masschaele
X	Southwold	Brent Clutterbuck
	Southwold	Justin Pennings
	West Elgin	Richard Leatham
	West Elgin	Magda Badura
	West Elgin	Tom Mohand

	Organization	Observers
X	Canada Water Agency	Jody McKenna
	Canada Water Agency	Hailey Adzija
	DFO, Small Craft Harbours	David Tinley
	DFO, Small Craft Harbours	Adele Butcher
	DFO, Small Craft Harbours	Mike MacDiarmid
	DFO, Small Craft Harbours	Annette Winter
	Turkey Point Cluster, Ontario Parks, MECP	Jeff Pickersgill
	Organization	Contractors
X	Zuzek Inc.	Pete Zuzek
X	Contractor	Janette Anderson
	SJL Engineering	Seth Logan
	Zuzek Inc.	Jen Gibson
	DHI	Jenn Ogrodnick

1.	Welcome and Review/Approve Agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome; Land Acknowledgement. Motion to approve agenda: First Thomas Thayer, Second Val Towsley. None opposed, carried. 	
<p>Action Item(s):</p> <p>1. None.</p>	
2.	Introductions from Working Group Members in Attendance
<p>Working Group members introduced themselves and their interest in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stu McKenzie, Birds Garret Kremers, CCCA Steve Adams, Bayham Thomas Thayer, Bayham Paul Gagnon, LPRCA Pete Zuzek, Zuzek Inc. Sarah Emons, Biosphere Janette Anderson, Consultant Jody McKenna, Canada Water Agency Valerie Towsley, LTVCA Tom Mohand, Municipality of West Elgin Natasha Barlow, Birds Brent Clutterbuck, Dutton-Dunwich and Southwold Tracy Johnson, Dutton-Dunwich <p>Discussion about other potential members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chippewas of the Thames (Sarah to contact) Deputy Mayor Justin Pennings, Southwold (Sarah to forward request) 	

- Mayor Richard Letham, West Elgin (Sarah)
- Mark Peacock, LTVCA (add)
- Hailey Adjiza, Canada Water Agency (add)
- Maisa Fumagalli, KCCA (add)
- Canadian Wildlife Service (Pete to ask again)
- Darren Ungar, MNRF (Sarah to ask)

The Working Group also discussed the possibility of having Working Group Observers, who would be non-voting members, wouldn't be expected to attend all meetings, but would like to stay up to date on the project by receiving the minutes. There was support for this approach. The following individuals were recommended to be added to the Working Group as Observers:

- Jeff Pickersgill, Long Point PP (Sarah to ask)
- Pete mentioned discussion with Small Craft Harbours on the project. He will ask them about joining the Working Group as Observers.

Action Item(s):

1. Confirm members and speak with new potential members (actions in brackets above).

3.

Governance

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

- Pete reviewed.
- Motion to accept by Brent, second Val. None opposed, carried.

FUNDING

- Sarah reviewed the funding from the Canada Water Agency (formerly from ECCC). The requested amount of \$2.9M was reduced to \$0.9M over 3 years (until March 2027).
- Scope of the project was also reviewed, including technical work completed this summer and activities for the sediment budget next year (modelling and GIS sediment budget).
- A neutral third-party will be hired to Chair the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings.
- Jody mentioned that there will be an opportunity to apply for further funding in the future.

WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Pete shared the draft Terms of Reference with the attendees and highlighted key points.
- Consensus will be sought but votes may be required if consensus cannot be reached. Tracy suggested one vote per organization.

- Thomas noted that some communities, such as Bayham, have more issues than others and it might possibly warrant multiple votes.
- Jody suggested the Consensus Model in Appendix A be included but be clear on when it would be used (e.g., not for simple voting issues).
- Brent indicated that we need to know the number of organizations on the Working Group if each has just one vote, so a number for a Quorum can be established.
- Section 1.9: meetings will ‘not’ be quarterly but scheduled when required (keep flexible).
- More internal work is required on the document, then it will be shared with the Working Group for review and comment. It is still a ‘draft’ document.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Pete spoke to a draft Terms of Reference for the PAC. More revisions are required, then it will be shared with the Working Group.
- The committee will include landowner associations and, all types of stakeholders/users of the coastal area (fishing, hunting, swimming, wildlife viewing, etc.).
- Thomas mentioned the Waterfront Committee in Port Burwell is very interested in the PAC.
- Pete recommends that one member of the PAC also sits on the Technical Advisory Committee, so this peer review process is 100% transparent. It will also be an opportunity for the PAC to bring forward technical issues and suggestions.
- Sarah said that just living in the coastal area brings deep knowledge of the system, so PAC members don’t need to be trained in science/ecology/engineering. They have lived experiences and in some cases are citizen scientists.
- An online application form will be developed to recruit potential members. Agreed the goal would be one member per Municipality, with a maximum of two.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

- Pete announced that Dr. Ryan Mulligan from Queens U. (coastal engineer) and Dr. Chris Houser from U. of Waterloo (coastal scientist) have agreed to participate.
- Mary Gartshore was recommended as a plant ecologist/botanist with extensive local restoration experience.
- The First Nations should be asked if they have someone with Traditional Ecological Knowledge that might be interested in joining the TAC.
- The merits of a fisheries expert was discussed but at this time, there isn’t technical work ongoing that is related to fisheries, so it will not be pursued. Could be considered in the future.
- The TAC will also have a Terms of Reference. It was suggested that a note should be included about adding expertise for later stages of the project when relevant. Jody suggested adding examples of what the scope of task teams could be.

Action Item(s):

1. Sarah and the consulting team will revise the Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group, for the Public Advisory committee and the selection process and share for review, followed by a virtual call with the Work Group.

2. Sarah to discuss a FN TAC membership with Fawn. She will also reach out to Mary Gartshore for involvement in the TAC.

4. Progress on Work Plan

OVERVIEW OF YEAR 1 TO 3

- Pete reviewed the Work Plan.
- Discussed last week of February or first week of March for the first public open house series. Venues will be explored.
- Brent encouraged advertising by targeting landowners along the coast. Tracy suggested mail out in water bills which would announce the project with a short description and possibly include a QR code for the website.
- Next in-person Working Group meeting will be held on March 20, 2025. Location in the west to balance travel.
- Gerrit discussed the benefit of update presentations to CA boards and municipalities.
- Paul, LPRCA have social media channels (as many other members do) which is a good way to advertise the planned public workshops.
- Val thought the end of December would be a good time to present to the LTVCA board, given the busy agendas in early 2025.
- Thomas recommended the plan be renamed the North Shore Resilience Action Plan (NSRAP). The Working Group would be NSRWG.

WEBSITE AND LOGO

- Birds Canada have a graphic artist that could assist. Sarah will follow up.

SEDIMENT SAMPLING

- Pete presented examples of the sediment sampling in July 2024, including sand from the tip and peat in the nearshore on the south side of the sand spit.

SEDIMENT BUDGET

- Pete explained the sediment budget concept and GIS tools being used on other projects.
- Bluff erosion was discussed, along with sediment transport, and sinks (e.g., shoal).
- The profile comparisons from 1948 to 2023/2024 were shared.
- The technical work and findings will be shared with the Working Group as the project proceeds.

CHARACTERIZE BEACHES AND FOREDUNES

- Examples of the beaches and dunes throughout the littoral cell were provided.
- Observations of beachgrass at Port Stanley and the Long Point sand spit were shared.

FALL 2024 FOREDUNE RESTORATION

- The initial work to engage interested landowners in the Long Point area on foredune restoration was explained. Information was included in the Long Point Ratepayers newsletter and initially 14 landowners expressed interest.
- Some initial restoration work was completed along Woodstock Avenue and Beach Avenue on November 8 with taller grasses from the Prairie Song Nursery (Switchgrass and Little Blue Stem). Work will continue in 2025.

- A permit was secured from the CWS to collect 2,000 native beachgrass plants from the Long Point National Wildlife Area. Due to weather and lake conditions, only 120 plants were collected in the fall of 2024. 60 were placed in an in-situ nursery along Beach Avenue and 60 were planted in a field nursery at Prairie Song.

COASTAL TOUR

- The littoral cell was toured from the west to east on October 25, 2024.

Action Item(s):

1. Sarah and the Consulting team will prepare a short blurb to go out to CA's, water bills and partner websites as soon as possible (2 weeks or at least before the end of December) to notify the public about the project and generate interest in the upcoming public workshops to be held in February or March.
2. Sarah to reach out to Birds Canada about a graphic artist to help with a logo.
3. Zuzek Inc. will explore venues for the workshops, to be held in Port Rowan, Port Burwell, and Southwold/Dutton-Dunwich.

5.

Other Business

- Stu mentioned Birds Canada's interest in developing interpretive signs. Pete indicated the study would be assembling signs for the foredune restoration and collaboration was possible.

Action Item(s):

1. Pete and Stu to stay in touch about possible collaboration on signage.

6.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

- A virtual meeting will be held in late January or early February before the Public Open Houses and the next face to face meeting on March 20, 2025, 10 am to 2 pm (location tbd)

Action Item(s):

1. The consulting team will send out dates, venues, and a detailed agendas for meetings.