



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Fire & Rescue Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Wade Bondy, Director Fire Services & Fire Chief

Date to Council: March 24, 2020

Report Number: FIRE-2020-04

Subject: Lake Flooding Preparedness Update

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the Lake Flooding Preparedness Update presented in the Fire & Emergency Services Department Report FIRE-2020-04 **be received**.

Background

At its meeting held May 28, 2019, Council received the report of the Public Works & Environmental Services Department (PWES-2019-34) titled "Lake Flooding Emergency Preparedness". Since then, Administration has provided several verbal updates at regular Council meetings and by e-mail to Council. The purpose of this report is to update Council on lake flooding preparedness undertaken by Administration.

Comments

Since May of 2019, Administration has completed a number of tasks in order to prepare a response to a flooding emergency. These actions have been taken to protect the residents and municipal infrastructure, keep residents informed of conditions, and provide recommendations regarding what they should do in the event of a flood.

A Flood Emergency Response Action Group that includes members of municipal staff, utility agencies, first responder agencies and senior levels of government was formed in 2019. This group meets regularly to coordinate efforts in preparation for a flooding emergency, maintain lines of communication between the various agencies and to establish a list of resources available during an emergency. This group would help implement the Flood Emergency

Response Plan adopted by Council in July of 2019 (Motion: RCM 204/19), as part of the Tecumseh Emergency Response Plan, if necessary.

Administration has completed topographical and shoreline surveying to determine areas of concern along the Lake St. Clair shoreline. The survey information assisted with the creation of flood mapping that identifies the anticipated extent of flooding and potential areas affected. This mapping has been shared on the Town's website.

Members of the Engineering Services Division have met with the owners of the identified low-lying properties to work on protective measures on private property to help prevent or mitigate inland flooding.

Public Works and Environmental Services has undertaken work to shore up pump station locations and prevent or mitigate inland flooding at these locations.

Public Works and Environmental Services has purchased equipment (the Sand Master 20) to assist in filling sand bags. As of March 2020 the Town has approximately 113,000 sand bags.

Administration has negotiated an agreement with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board to utilize a portion of the former St. Anne's high school as a temporary reception centre/shelter during an emergency.

As part of the 2019 communications activities, post cards were mailed out to residents that provided information on what to do to prepare for a flood emergency and what actions to take during a flood emergency. This information reinforced what is provided on the Town's website, provided the location of the temporary reception centre/shelter at the former St. Anne's high school, and encouraged residents to register for the Town's emergency notification system.

As part of the 2020 Budget, Council approved \$100,000 as a contingency for mitigation efforts against the risk of lake flooding. It was identified the funds would be used, when needed, for either additional equipment or to retain the services of contractors.

As part of the 2020-2024 Public Works and Environmental Services 5-Year Capital Works Plan, Council approved the Shoreline Management Plan which will identify the Town's vulnerability to lake flooding and develop appropriate mitigation strategies. It is anticipated the Shoreline Management Plan will be completed in early 2021.

Additional communications regarding flood preparations and actions to take during an emergency are being prepared and will likely be distributed during the first week of April 2020.

Public Works and Environmental Services has expanded the current sand bag program to provide additional bags (200 in total per shoreline property) and assistance for residents along the shoreline and identified low-lying properties.

Fire Services has completed acquisition of High Water Rescue Equipment, as referenced in Council Report FS-2019-12, Amendment of Fire 2019-2023 Five Year Capital Plan and passed by motion RCM-325/19, including a durable inflatable boat (not motorized), protective hip-waders, personal floatation devices and bump helmets in order to assist with evacuation and rescue efforts in the event of an emergency. In addition, Fire Services has completed their standard operating guideline for flood events that includes the use of Town equipment and

operators where necessary. The guideline is attached hereto as Attachment 1 and Administration will prepare a future report for Council’s consideration regarding an update of the Flood Emergency Response Plan to include this information.

COVID-19 has added complications to the Town’s flood emergency response planning which the Flood Emergency Preparedness Action Group continues to work on. At this time, all agencies involved have reported that they have pandemic and/or business continuity plans in place in order to respond to a flood emergency.

Consultations

Public Works & Environmental Services
Parks & Recreation Services

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

Link to Strategic Priorities

| Applicable | 2019-22 Strategic Priorities |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure that Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Demonstrate the Town’s leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals. |

Communications

Not applicable

Website Social Media News Release Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Wade Bondy
Director Fire Services & Fire Chief, C.E.M.C.

Reviewed by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.
Director Public Works & Environmental Services

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachment
Number**

**Attachment
Name**

1

Tecumseh Fire Services Standard Operating Guideline 409 – Flood Response