



Staff Report

Report Title: Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program Collaboration

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerk

Date: Jul. 4, 2022

Report Number: CLK-2022-07-61 File Number: D03- SVCA22
Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program

Attachments: Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program Information

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves report CLK-2022-07-61 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk AND authorizes staff to submit interest in a collaborative application to the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program with the SVCA.

Background:

Natural Resources Canada, working with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and Public Safety Canada (PSC) has announced their intention to make up \$7.6 M in funding available to the Province of Ontario over 3 years (2021-22 through 2023-2024) to complete flood maps for higher-risk areas as part of the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP).

Available funding is to be 50-50 cost shared in-kind and / or cash. Eligible activities include projects that directly lead to the creation of flood hazard maps, increase access to flood hazard maps, or improve the quality of existing flood hazard maps, including:

1. Hazard Assessment, Priority Setting and Scoping
2. Data Acquisition
3. Flood Hazard Modelling and Mapping
4. Indigenous Engagement
5. Research
6. Flood Map Dissemination

While the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program has not yet been rolled out in Ontario, a survey has been circulated by AMO to municipalities and to conservation authorities through Conservation Ontario to express interest in pursuing funding under the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program should Ontario secure funding for projects.

Interested conservation authorities and municipalities are encouraged to partner with each other and other partners interested in undertaking similar work to take advantage of economies of scale and coordination.

The information acquired through the surveys will be shared with Natural Resources Canada and Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry staff.

Discussion:

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) has identified as a priority the need to update their flood hazard mapping and have inquired if the Township of Huron-Kinloss has an interest to update our flood hazard mapping in the next couple of years and possibly secure funding through this initiative.

Not only would there be potential for the Township of Huron-Kinloss to get updated floodplain mapping, but the completion of a shoreline management plan for the SVCA jurisdiction along Lake Huron would also be a possibility.

At this point, the SVCA is collecting expressions of interest from watershed municipalities since the formal program has not yet been launched by the Province of Ontario.

Conversations with Natural Resources Canada seem to suggest that there is a likelihood that the program would be launched in September or October.

Financial Impacts:

Since the conservation authority does not have the funds to complete floodplain mapping across their entire jurisdiction, this program is of tremendous value as it cuts the municipal costs in half with the province/federal government covering 50% of the costs of accepted projects.

There are no financial impacts related to expressing interest in collaboration. Once more details are available a subsequent staff report will be brought forward with estimated costs.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment by protecting our natural assets, by using our resources wisely and by being aware and taking responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Emily Dance, Clerk

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer