



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT October 2, 2024
MEETING TYPE & DATE Committee of the Whole of October 30, 2024
FROM: Emergency Management Cowichan
Strategic Services Department
SUBJECT: Cowichan Regional Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment
FILE: 7165-40 Region HRVA

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide the final Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment report and findings to the Board.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

For information.

BACKGROUND

The CVRD's Regional Emergency Management Service (Emergency Management Cowichan) has a mandate to lead the development and implementation of a preparedness strategy for the region which will include public awareness, public education, emergency training and planning.

In June 2022, the Board approved a project to complete a region wide Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability (and Resiliency) Assessment (HRVA) to enhance Cowichan's resilience, and inform emergency management plans. Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC) retained Ebbwater Consulting Inc. and SHIFT Collaborative to develop the assessment for the entire region.

To better communicate the HRVA findings to Cowichan residents in an effective way, EMC further commissioned Ebbwater and HeronBridge to develop an HRVA communication tool to help the public view and navigate their community's risk profile.

ANALYSIS

The HRVA report and the visualization tool are now both complete. The HRVA itself involved a vigorous process of analysis and engagement – including three workshops involving partners across the region as well as community members. Throughout the project an Advisory group, representing local authorities, First Nations, Health, and non-government organizations provided guidance and insight on the project.

The visualization uses ArcGIS StoryMap and complements the EMC website. It can easily be shared or function as a stand-alone product. The visualization highlights priority hazards at both local and regional levels on a user-friendly platform, with Cowichan residents as the primary audience. It enables the public to clearly understand the most critical hazards in their local community and identify where they should focus emergency preparedness and resiliency actions.

Additionally, the tool identifies priority hazards in the entire Cowichan region and provides information on key concerns and vulnerabilities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The HRVA workshops, analysis and report were funded through operating reserve under Function 205. The visualization (public portal) for the HRVA was funded through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation grant.

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The HRVA was a foundational requirement for the Strategic Plan for the Emergency Management program. The HRVA will now help clarify priorities, identify key gaps and support long term planning and collaboration across the jurisdictions of the region.

Referred to (upon completion):

- ☐ Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Facilities & Transit*)
- ☐ Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legislative Services*)
- ☐ Operations (*Utilities, Parks & Trails, Recycling & Waste Management*)
- ☐ Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Strategic Initiatives, Development Services, Building Inspection & Bylaw Enforcement*)
- ☒ Strategic Services (*Communications & Engagement, Economic Development, Emergency Management, Environmental Services*)

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Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

☒ Corporate Officer

Financial Considerations:

☒ Chief Financial Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Cowichan HRVA Full Report Final 2024-10-02

Attachment B – Presentation: HRVA Report and Public Portal 2024-10-02