

# STEERING COMMITTEE

## COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, May 2, 2014

10:00AM-12:00PM

Rockingham Planning Commission –Conference Room

156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833

### DRAFT MINUTES

**Attending:** Senator David Watters, Senator Nancy Stiles, Representative Fred Rice, Cory Riley, Sherry Godlewski, Dr. Paul Kirshen, Roger Stephenson, David Wood, and Jennifer Gilbert.

Senator David Watters, who lead the committee in the absence of Commission Chair Cliff Sinnott, began the meeting at 10:05 AM.

#### 1. Minutes from April 2014 Meeting

The corrections to the April 2014 meeting included the spelling of the names of Roger Stephenson and Senator Watters.

#### 2. Update from the Science and Technical Advisory Panel

The Committee discussed some concern about not having seen anything yet from the Panel. Paul stated that the Panel has an internal deadline at the end of May. The Panel will have something to report at the next Committee meeting on June 6.

#### 3. Comments, refinement of timeline the Commission's work plan

The Committee reviewed and agreed the Commission's work plan is good.

#### 4. Discussion of Working Groups

Senator Watters began the discussion about the establishment of the Working Groups by suggesting that the Committee look at the draft list of Working Groups and add to it. Cory suggested at the May 16 Commission meeting that we have a facilitated discussion about the Working Groups to be sure we have the right Working Groups. Senator Watters stated the discussion at the May 16 meeting should include a discussion about the Working Groups' charge. He suggested the Committee should then make the decision about the Working Groups and their charge and bring them to the June 20 Commission meeting. Cory suggested that the Committee look at recommendations from similar groups to help facilitate the conversation and to ensure that something hasn't already been covered by another group. She also suggested having the Commission members review what they have learned over the last several months.

David stated he would like to bring in other officials in Hampton to participate in the Working Groups. One official he suggested was the town's fire chief. Representative Rice suggested bringing in all the fire chiefs and having these meetings outside of the Commission meetings. Senator Watters suggested bringing in others to be a part of the Working Groups.

The Committee began a discussion about what and how many Working Groups should be established. Representative Rice suggested putting the municipal officials into two groups (Coastal and Inland) under each Working Group (infrastructure, economy, and environment). Sherry proposed having two Working Groups (Coastal Municipalities and

Inland Municipalities) and having each Group address infrastructure, economy, and environment. Senator Watters also suggested having a State and Regional Planning Working Group and a Public Outreach Panel.

Senator Watters suggested the proposed charge of the Working Groups is to analyze the Science and Technical Advisory Panel report and review issues related to infrastructure, economy, and environment. He suggested the Commission appoint members to the Working Groups, each Group would elect a chair, and then each Group would meet a certain number of times. He further suggested that the Commission meetings include reports from the Working Groups.

Roger asked how the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) can be integrated into the Commission. Sherry suggested having a CAW member be a part of each Working Group.

Sherry also suggested that members from the Steering Committee should begin reviewing recommendations that other groups have already done. The Steering Committee member would be responsible for compiling a list of recommendations that are applicable to the Commission and bringing that list to the June 6 Committee meeting. The following assignments were made:

- Sherry – NH Climate Action Plan and drought report
- Roger – Water Sustainability Commission report
- Jennifer – Flood Commission report
- Cory – Wildlife Action Plan

Cory will offer to help Cliff with the Working Groups discussion at the May 16 meeting.

#### **5. Brainstorming Discussion: Plan for public outreach**

Representative Rice suggested considering a road show to let everyone know what the Commission is doing. Senator Watters suggested starting public outreach after the November interim report. Senator Watters also suggested that the Commission should take action on the Science and Technical Advisory Panel report at the June 20 Commission meeting. He suggested sending the report to the Commission after the June 6 Committee meeting.

#### **6. CHRC Agendas for May 16<sup>th</sup> (Newington) and June 20<sup>th</sup> (Location TBD) Meetings**

The following items were suggested for the May 16 Agenda:

- Working Groups Discussion – Format and Charge
- Science and Technical Advisory Panel update
- Update on FEMA meetings
- Standing agenda item for report on outside related activities

The following items were suggested for the June 20 Agenda:

- Roger suggested Discover Portsmouth for a location
- Senator Stiles suggested Brown's Lobster Pound in Seabrook. The group agreed on this location and a possible tour. Senator Stiles will set the meeting up.

The Committee discussed having the Working Groups meet in the summer with no July and August Commission meetings. Then the Working Reports would report at the Commission's September, October, and November meetings. It was suggested that the chairs of the Working Groups be identified at the July Committee meeting.

## **7. Other Business**

### **Support Resources for Commission**

Cory stated that Steve Couture, NH Coastal Program Manager, has financial resources and if the Commission is interested we just need to let Steve know. Senator Watters stated the priority right now is the public outreach. Cory stated she will make some calls about finding an intern to assist with the November 1 interim report.

### **Recommendations for November 1, 2014 Report**

Senator Watters stated he suggests the report including a summary of the Commission's activities since the last report, the Science and Technical Advisory Panel report, which will be the platform for the Commission's recommendations, and preliminary reports from the Working Groups. He suggested there would be no recommendations from the Commission in this report.

Paul asked whether to address increased precipitation. Senator Watters asked if the Panel could bring forward a report on increased precipitation. Paul responded yes. Senator Watters suggested advising the Working Groups to use other peer reviewed reports on increased precipitation. Paul stated the Panel won't have any recommendations for the municipal public works departments for a specific flood. Senator Watters suggested that the Panel could offer opinions to the departments.

Roger stated he is organizing a business continuity planning workshop on June 17 from 8 to 11:30 AM at the Hampton Seashell Pavilion. Ian Dwyer (American Red Cross) will be leading the workshop.

David Wood stated he would be attending the Local Solutions: Northeast Climate Change Preparedness Conference using one of the Commission's travel grants.

Senator Watters asked if we want to hear from the utility companies about what they are doing to plan. Representative Rice suggested making the utility companies available to the Working Groups. Sherry suggested having the Working Groups report in September and then have the utility companies present to the Commission.

## **8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Meeting notes prepared by:  
Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk