

# Draft Minutes

NHCRHC Coastal Communities Workgroup Meeting Notes Oct 17, 2014 8:00 to 11:00 AM  
NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office Pease International Tradeport

In attendance: Steve Miller Portsmouth, Julie LaBranche RPC, Rep Fred Rice, Sherry Godlewski NHDSE alt, Brian Fitzgerald Rye alt, Paul Melanson Hampton Falls, Phil Winslow Rye, Rep Nancy Stiles, Rep David Borden, Rep Chris Muns, David Wood Hampton. In attendance was Richard Huber of the Inland Workgroup.

Meeting opened at 8:15 AM

Welcome/Introductions Rep. Fred Rice Chair

Agenda: to begin review of municipal level report outs on the Coastal Workgroup: Survey Questions for Municipal Officials and Staff, Boards and Commissions.

First to report out was by Phil W. of Rye. Input was received on-line from Fire, Police, DPW, and Historic Committee. Phil also accessed the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan on the town's web page. Issues of concern are;

Culverts along Route 1 A, issues with restrictions of flow through these culverts causing problems of getting salt water into marshes and also issues with dewatering the marshes during times of flood.

Culvert Size is an issue of concern, and how this relates to replacement proactively pre-disaster and/or post-disaster regarding FEMA, state and federal policy.

Road elevation is an issue of concern.

Rye is working on a storm water ordinance to meet state definitions.

Building structure height restrictions are an issue in regard to free boarding options.

The "Shale Piles" are an on-going maintenance and safety issue.

Steve reported for Portsmouth

Minor flooding issues due to heavy rainfall and some storm surge, partly related to storm water and CSOs, the city has done a great job of improving this situation the past 5-10 years with improvements to infrastructure.

The City has concerns regarding the low lying areas along the river, this will be an important issue to resolve in Portsmouth. Portsmouth has not seen quantity of development increase in coastal areas but has seen coastal development increase in value, with bigger homes and additions.

The City has completed a vulnerability study, the Coastal Resilience Initiative or CRI, which can be found on the City's web site <http://www.planportsmouth.com/cri/index.html> and part of this study was to look at impacts of storm surge and sea level rise.

The city has begun completed several climate adaptation project to fortify infrastructure, i.e. elevated a pump station, seawalls rebuilt to higher standard, and upgraded sewer and drainage according to an EPA Consent Decree sewer separation plan.

Portsmouth is beginning a process now to add Climate Change into the Master Plan.

The biggest severe weather impact of late was the Ice Storm of 2008, where power was lost, but most residents and businesses were back on power the next day. Portsmouth is a concentrated power market.

Portsmouth actively looks for grant opportunities to address adaptation to severe weather/climate change issues.

General discussion: need to enable communities to put climate change projections into Hazard Mitigation Plans, state what it is and not why.

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Enabling vs setting standards, Chris M. how do you encourage towns to deal now, not kick the can down the line, “enable vs minimum standards”

CIP – reference science panel report

Climate Change chapter is enabled in HZM but not the Master Plan, may need enabling legislation to put chapter in the Master Plan.

Issue of safety – emergency evacuation plans and routes, how to reach them without cell phones = communication issue – emergency evacuation

Emergency managers are not at this table! And Homeland Security is not at this table.

Need to know the process for getting municipal reports posted on-line

Report out needed from several towns that are not present. Seabrook, North Hampton, Hampton others?

We will need another meeting.

David B. reported for Newcastle, he meet with select board, EMT, HMP

Strengths: move generators, towns knows who is vulnerable and how to check on them, emergency shelters are set up (2) and they know how to feed for the short term.

Vulnerabilities: are the roads in and out of town, only two roads and both are vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise, there is only 1 person who is a member of the fire and police who lives in town, concern is most emergency management people live out of town, so the vulnerability is human resources, electricity and power are vulnerable, food resources could be a problem, evacuation routes are a problem

Suggestions: maintain emergency management, trees, assume fed and state resources are available, and need a Duce and ½ truck to evacuate people, pre-position resources, residents not prepared for big storms – need to prepare personnel preparation plans, need neighborhood level work, social safety net.

Nancy – reported that Hampton is working on their report.

Discussion about the high level of awareness of the issues, and about communication between towns.

Julie – reported on the regional stakeholders needs and issues

Coordinating multiple groups coordinating efforts

NHCAW – outreach – municipal outreach

Ran out of time and the meeting had to end.

Julie will finish her report out at the next meeting.

### **Discussion Points:**

Federal legislation needed to amend Stafford Act to allow FEMA to fund infrastructure upgrades.

State legislation to:

- explicitly enable all municipalities to have Climate Change Chapters in their Master Plans
- Enable municipalities to consider and/or apply data and recommendations of the Science and Technical Advisory Panel report

Enabling legislation “encourages” but should recommendations include standards or benchmarks?

Recommend municipalities utilize their local hazard mitigation plan to integrate and plan for long-term climate adaptation.

Utilize mutual aid to more effectively respond to natural hazard events and prepare for climate change.

Encourage better evaluation planning using new flood scenario mapping tools.

Bring to the attention of municipalities and practitioners the work and resources of NHCAW.

Recommend inviting Homeland Security and Emergency Management to attend Commission and Workgroup meetings.

Need to compile materials produced by workgroups and post to the SSC-CRHC website, including meeting agendas and minutes, work products etc.

Next meeting date is November 4, 2014 8:00 to 11am.

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