

## **NHCRHC Coastal Communities Workgroup Meeting Notes December 15, 2014 9:00am to 12:00pm**

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office Pease International Tradeport

In attendance: Rep. Fred Rice, Sen. Nancy Stiles, Julie LaBranche-RPC, David Wood-Hampton, Phil Winslow-Rye, Paul Kirshen-UNH.

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome/Introductions by Rep. Fred Rice Chair.
2. Acceptance of September 19, 2014 meeting minutes: deferred to January 2015 meeting as there was not a quorum of members present for the September meeting.
3. Assignments and Discussion:
  - a. Coastal representatives were not prepared to report out on their municipal survey results. David Wood continues to work on completing the survey for Hampton. Julie LaBranche will coordinate with Seabrook staff/boards to complete their survey.
  - b. Review of discussion points from October and November 2014 meetings and preparation of draft recommendations for template matrix. A summary of this discussion follows.
    - Flood insurance rates are often a hot topic of local interest. Few realize the benefits of being proactive/acting now, being climate ready and incorporate strategies into plans.
    - Concern about state mandates regulations and laws, preferring enabling legislation so towns can act on their own. Need to recognize importance of coastal property to the local tax base and how it affects increases in tax rate. Some towns (like Hampton) do not have a long term view of taxes for budgeting and planning purposes.
    - Rye assesses property improvement such as sea walls as part of a property assessment/local tax. Shouldn't there be a tax incentive or relief to encourage property owners to protect their shoreline and surrounding properties?
    - Parcel by parcel shoreline management is least cost-effective/efficient. Need regional approaches and regional shoreline management plan (not require but optional).
    - Regional approaches implemented within reasonable timeframes to meet specific standards.
    - Pushback to regulatory approaches. If municipalities choose not to act, a strategy might be to place preference on award of state and/or federal funds for shoreline management.
    - Beach Master Plans need to incorporate information about shoreline process and future flood hazards and risks. Need funding to prepare such updates to plans. Perhaps encourage towns to contribute to a "regional shoreline plan".
    - Need standards/incentives for all coastal constituents to act/prepare to be more resilient.
    - Need to educate all stakeholders about the real risks both current and future.
    - Advance planning and action can minimize risk and \$ spent over time. Need incentives to take action.
    - Need changes to federal laws i.e. the Stafford Act to allow FEMA to consider future climate change impacts in planning, funding and rebuilding projects.
    - Protect to the current 100-year flood condition which will protect against future sea level rise, and "engineer" so the landscape can be expanded upon to increase flood protection as needed.
    - Refer attached draft template with Coastal Workgroup recommendations. No new legislation recommended at this time.

Next meeting date is January 23, 2015 10:00am to 12:00pm at NHDES Pease Field Office.