

**New Hampshire Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission (RSA 483-E)  
Meeting Minutes**

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office  
Pease International Tradeport, 222 International Drive, Suite 175  
Portsmouth, NH

December 19, 2014  
10:00 AM – 12:15 PM

**Members Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Stiles, Nancy	Senator, NH District 24
Watters, David	Senator, NH District 4
Muns, Rep. Chris	Representative, District 21
Rice, Rep. Fred	Representative, District 21
Bird, Steve	City of Dover
Borden, Rep. David	Town of New Castle
Caron, David	NH Municipal Association
Cormier, Robert	Homebuilders and Remodelers Assoc. of NH
Fitzgerald, Brian	Alternate, Town of Rye
Feighner, Edna	NH Division of Historical Resources
Houle, Jamie	Town of Durham
Huber, Richard	Alternate, Town of Exeter
Godlewski, Sherry	Alternate, NH Department of Environmental Services
Kinner, Peter	Town Greenland/UNH Coastal Response Research
Kipp, Jonathan	NH Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex)
Kirshen, Dr. Paul	University of NH
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls
Morgan, Tom	Town of Newington
Nyhan, Kevin	NH Department of Transportation
Pimental, Kyle	Stafford Regional Planning Commission
Rice, John	Seacoast Board of Realtors
Riley, Cory	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR
Ryan, Mary Kate	Alternate: NH Division of Historical Resources
Scholz, Ann	Alternate, NH Department of Transportation
Sinnott, Cliff (Chair)	Rockingham Planning Commission
Stanwood, Sabrina	NH DRED – Division of Forests and Lands
Stephenson, Roger	Town of Stratham
Winslow, Phil	Town of Rye
Wolek, Gail	NH DRED – Division of Parks and Recreation
Wood, David (Rep. elect)	Town of Hampton

**Members Absent**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Becker, Dr. Mimi	Town of Exeter
Carroll, Patrick	Town of Rollinsford
Gilbert, Jennifer	NH Office of Energy and Planning
Kroner, Shep	Town of North Hampton
Kupper, Theodore	NH Admin Services - Bureau of Public Works & Construct.
Miller, Steve	City of Portsmouth
O'Sullivan, Michael	Town of Madbury
Pennock, Jonathan	UNH Marine Program & NH Sea Grant Program
Quiram, Vicki	NH Department of Environmental Services
Scholz, Ann	Alternate: NH Dept. of Transportation
Smith, Raymond	Town of Seabrook
Woodworth, Michael	Town of Newfields

**Others Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Cheney, Leigh	NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Couture, Steve	NH Coastal Program - Department of Environmental Services
Howard, Kirsten	NH Coastal Program - Department of Environmental Services
LaBranche, Julie	Rockingham Planning Commission Sen. Planner
Newhall, Rebecca	NOAA

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

Cliff Sinnott opening the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves. He welcomed special guest Leigh Cheney, Chief of Planning for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and said he hoped HSEM would be regularly represented at Commission meetings going forward. Cheney thanked Sinnott for the invitation and said she hoped she could provide connections and insights regarding emergency management, hazard mitigation planning and FEMA programs.

**2. Approval of Draft Minutes of August 19, 2014**

A motion by Representative Rice was made to accept the minutes of August 25, 2014. The motion was seconded by Representative Muns. All approved.

**3. Commission Timeline**

Sinnott referred to the timeline included in the CRHC Annual report including in the meeting

materials and reviewed several key milestones. Senator Stiles suggested that an early outreach effort should include reporting to key legislative committees about results of the Commission's work. Sinnott said the timeline will continue to be refined as we go forward. Sinnott suggested that the goal be to complete our draft report this Fall and spend the final year of the Commission's work on outreach, public input and making revisions in the draft as needed. Gail Wolek and Senator Watters commented that the timeline aligned well with the state budget cycle and legislative submission deadlines. There was general consensus on the timeline.

#### **4. Reports for Workgroups**

Coastal: Rep. Rice, Chair summarized key discussion points raised in the workgroups and emphasized the importance of a 'no-regrets' approach to recommendations and focus more on storm surge rather than the most extreme of sea level scenarios. He updated the group on the mixed results on the municipal surveys. Julie LaBranche, Vice Chair, described the recommendations identified to date and work left to be done.

Inland: Peter Kinner, Vice Chair, summarized the work of the Inland/GreatBay workgroup saying it has been a very engaged group. He presented the template and indicated they had made very good progress in completing the template and incorporate key recommendation from some of the source documents. He discussed the need for modeling to better understand upland-coastal flooding dynamics.

State/Legislative: Senator Watters, Chair, reported on the progress made. There was agreement on the need for common methods for assessing risk across state agencies and sectors and to share in research efforts. The DOT's climate response and asset management efforts were discussed. Recommendations being considered include establishing in legislation a permanent state level coordinator for climate change related issues, including the science advisory function.

#### **5. Annual Report to Legislature**

Sinnott referred to the Second Annual Report of the CRHC to the Legislature that was included in the meeting materials, briefly reviewed its contents, and asked for comments by the end of the month.

#### **6. Report on Shoreline Conference**

Sherry Godlewski briefly summarized the content and results of the Shoreline Conference held in Portsmouth on December 11 organized by CAW. She thanked the many members of the Commission who attended. One outcome was the suggestion that a shoreline management plan be considered for New Hampshire that focuses on management approaches that should be taken for specific sections of New Hampshire's coastline.

#### **7. Approaches by Other States**

Steve Couture presented key element of the approach taken by the New York State Task Force and subsequent legislation that has been adopted. Cliff Sinnott reviewed the State of Maryland's Climate Change and Infrastructure Siting and Design Guidelines. Both provide useful models for approaches that are being taken by other states to establish state level

guidelines and standards to account for projected future coastal flood conditions. Both documents will be available to download on the Commission's Stormsmart webpage.

8. Next Full Commission Meeting: February 19. The Commission will not meet in January to allow time for the Workgroups to complete their work and the Steering Committee to consolidate the results. Time and schedule permitting, we will have presentations from NOAA staff on tools available to help assess coastal and inland flood vulnerability and/or RPC on the Tides to Storms project.

**9. Public Comment**

None received

**10. Other Business/Adjourn**

There was no other business; the meeting adjourned at 12:20PM

Meeting Notes Prepared By:  
Cliff Sinnott for Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk

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