

STEERING COMMITTEE

COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, January 9, 2015
10:00AM – 12:00PM

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office
Pease International Tradeport
222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Attending: Senator David Watters, Senator Nancy Stiles, Representative Fred Rice, Steve Couture, Jennifer Gilbert (by phone), Sherry Godlewski, Richard Huber, Peter Kinner, Paul Kirshen, Julie LaBranche, Chris Muns, Ann Scholz (by phone), Roger Stephenson, and Cliff Sinnott.

Commission Chair Cliff Sinnott began the meeting at 9:05 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2014 Meeting

A motion by Senator Watters was made to accept the Committee's minutes of December 5, 2014. The motion was seconded by Steve Couture. All approved. Chris Muns abstained.

2. Workgroup Status Updates and Discussion of Next Steps

A. Inland/Great Bay Workgroup

Peter Kinner gave the workgroup's update. The workgroup met this morning and are getting close to conclusion on recommendations. The workgroup will meet on January 23 to finalize recommendations and will be ready to report to the full Commission. The workgroup would like guidance from the Steering Committee on certain columns in the template to ensure consistency when the recommendations from all workgroups are combined into one document. The workgroup can then cleanup their template and distribute to the other workgroups. The workgroup considered other states and other entities reports but there other sources that they may want to revisit.

B. Coastal Workgroup

Representative Rice gave the workgroup's update. He stated he hasn't spoken to David Wood regarding his discussions with Hampton officials but will check with him today. He discussed the need to sell the recommendations to ensure they are not rejected by the public and to show "no regrets" in that we are doing what we were already going to be doing. He explained the need to start talking more about storm surge at first since the discussion of sea level rise will likely be rejected by some. He stated that we need to build broad categories and to prioritize what is being brought to the legislature.

The workgroup is working on finalizing major recommendations and will work with the Inland workgroup on the commonalities. He stated that the one of the recommendations that is rising to the top is new building standards. He stated that he spoke to Bruce Brown, owner of Brown Seafood, and asked about flooding. He stated that the parking lot normally floods but the restaurant very rarely floods. He asked Bruce if he has seen any changes over years in increasing water levels and Bruce said he has not seen any increase.

C. State & Legislative Workgroup

Senator Watters gave the workgroup's update. He stated he spoke to the Governor's staff and discussed a February or March timeframe as to when to speak to them about the recommendations from the workgroups and suggested the Steering Committee meet with the Governor's staff.

D. General Discussion

Chairman Sinnott suggested that a delegation be formed which would include people from each workgroup. The delegation would look at all the recommendations for all workgroups, remove redundancies, and create one master list of recommendations. It was suggested that the Steering Committee be the delegation.

The Committee then discussed the columns in the template that the Inland workgroup requested additional guidance on. The columns that were discussed included: "Who will be impacted by this recommendation?" and "When does this recommendation need to be done: now, soon, later?"

Steve stated that there is already guidance on the template from the CRHC Template Guide (dated Sept. 2, 2014), which helps answers these questions. Steve will send the Committee a copy of the Template Guide. The Inland workgroup stated that they did not use the Guide when they completed their template.

3. Brainstorm the process for reviewing and advancing recommendations/actions from workgroups

The Committee discussed the next steps for the workgroups and the Steering Committee. The following is what the Committee agreed upon.

- All workgroups will meet on January 23. Inland from 8 AM to 10 AM; Coastal from 10 AM to 12 PM; and State/Leg from 12 PM to 2 PM. Julie will send Cathy (web site coordinator) the workgroup schedule.
- Workgroups will submit their recommendations by January 28 to Julie, who volunteered to identify redundancies and consolidate for Steering Committee. Senator Watters suggested coding the recommendations (C, I, S) based on the workgroup that developed the recommendation.
- Julie will send the consolidated recommendations to Steering Committee by February 4.
- The Steering Committee will meet on February 6 and will review and edit the consolidated list and get it ready to send to the full Commission members before the February 20 meeting. There will no workgroup report at the February 20 meeting.

The Committee discussed that they need to allow municipal representatives time to bring draft recommendations to their constituents. The Committee also discussed the need for a unified message for Commission members and the need to bring forward the Science Advisory Panel report first and then the recommendations. It was suggested that the Steering Committee be the one to develop the unified message.

4. Establishing Communication/Outreach and Report Drafting Workgroups – Discussion

Sherry stated that the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup outreach committee will be meeting on January 14 to discuss upcoming workshops. She suggested one of the workshops in the spring could be one to discuss the findings of the Science Advisory Panel report. This could be a kick off of the public phase of the Commission. Representative Rice stated that this workshop needs to be different from the other workshops in order to get people to attend.

Cliff stated there is a need to remind Commission members of their responsibility to keep the organizations they represent informed of what the Commission is doing. Cliff stated at the February 20 Commission meeting there is a need to discuss the expectation of what needs to be done. He suggested a cover letter from the municipal representative be attached to a copy of the Commission's interim report.

Senator Watters suggested when the final report is released that the Commission hold three public forums. Sherry stated if the Commission will be asking for public input then the Commission must be prepared to respond to that input. Cliff stated by having the final report done before the Commission resolves will allow more time to respond to public input. Senator Watters stated that legislation could be proposed this fall.

Cliff suggested that the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup, which already includes several Commission members, create a rough draft (2 pages) of a communication strategy by the February 6 Steering Committee meeting. The communication strategy would include the Commission's web site address.

5. CRHC Timeline Review and Check-in

The Committee discussed creating a subcommittee, like the Science Advisory Panel, of experts on vulnerability assessments. Cliff stated at the February 20 Commission meeting there will be an initial presentation of the numbers from the vulnerability assessment that Rockingham Planning Commission is working on. Julie stated she can send around the nuts and bolts of the vulnerability assessment. Senator Watters expressed concern with the recommendations being done before the results of the vulnerability assessment being completed. Cliff responded that the same parameters from the Science Advisory Panel report are being used for the vulnerability assessment. Therefore, the vulnerability assessment does not change the recommendations.

6. Other Business

A. February Commission Agenda (NOAA assessment tools, RPC vulnerability assessment, other?)

Sherry suggested that the NOAA presentation be moved to the March meeting.

B. Submission of Annual Report to Legislature

Cliff asked if the annual report was good to go. All replied yes.

C. Other

Sherry gave an overview of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience grant that the State is considering applying for. HUD is holding a workshop in Boston on January 29 and 30 that Vickie Quiram and herself plan to attend.

Julie and Steve announced a second proposal to reproduce the Tides to Storms project in the upland and tidal communities.

Roger Stephenson announced a coastal flooding summit that will be held at the Ashworth Hotel in Hampton on October 24 and 25, 2015. The summit is intended for local elected officials from all coastal areas of the U.S. The summit will involve the insurance industry.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12 PM.

Meeting notes prepared by:

Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk