

**STEERING COMMITTEE
COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION**

Friday, June 3, 2016

9:00AM – 11:00AM

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office – Room D

Pease International Tradeport
222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH

Draft Minutes

Committee Member Attendees: Cliff Sinnott, Cory Riley, Sherry Godlewski, Roger Stephenson, Cameron Wake, Renny Cushing, Jennifer Gilbert, Ted Kupper
Others: Kirsten Howard, Nathalie Morison, Tom Wysmueller, Julie LaBranche at 9:16am

1. Call to Order

Cliff Sinnott calls meeting to order at 9:06am. Senator Stiles may arrive later. Quorum is present.

2. Meeting Summary for May 6, 2016 Meeting (*Attached*)

Handed out meeting notes (no quorum for May 6)

3. Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2016 MOTION TO APPROVE (*Attached*)

Cory Riley made a motion to approve March 4 minutes.

Rep. Renny Cushing seconded.

None opposed. Cam abstained.

**4. Discuss Results from Public Information/Comment meetings (May 26, June 1)
Comments & Suggestions**

Nathalie gave a short summary of the public information meetings.

May 26: 35 people, 17 were Commission-related

June 1: 34 people attended, 7 were Commission-related

Private Property Comments

- People concerned with impacts to private property, what happens with request for tax abatement at municipal level, impact to property values
- What's the direct impact of recommendations on personal costs as homeowner?
- Will my taxes go up?
- How will private properties be affected? How should property owners deal?

Education and Outreach Comments

- Support for ongoing outreach to communities, education about risk and climate change, and specific recommendations
- Consolidate report in more succinct fashion for the public
- Technical assistance and state guidance for municipalities

Road Impacts Comments

- Take another look at section about vulnerabilities to transportation, mention ongoing work to understand groundwater rise, list it in the projects in appendices

- Shale pile on Route 1A, irrational investment, safety concern, emergency management issue

Funding Comments

- Concerns that municipalities will not pay for it
- Support that state legislature won't support need for funding of this work
 - Conversation ensued about need for Comprehensive Shoreline Management Plan
 - More education about dynamic state of the coastline, that's a reality of being a property owner
- How will we cope with changing water levels over time? Rolling easements?

Roger Stephenson noted that most of the comments and questions are extensions of recommendations. They aren't really specific recommendations about the text recommendations. General agreement from the group.

Continuity Comments

- Establishing a statewide climate adaptation coordinator position should be a priority next step. Get on table ASAP. Job would be to promote and monitor implementation of recommendations.
- Bring that up front—list of recs and next steps.
- No need for separate authority.
- Lack of Commission to secure funding seems fragmented. Worth having a body to keep it on task. Highlighted that HSEM was absent. She was with Region 1 FEMA.
- Skepticism that after the report is done, anything will happen.

Committee Discussion

Sherry Godlewski mentioned that Commission has connection to legislature, we will lose that. Renny noted that Nancy's retirement will vastly affect leadership at legislature. Same with Fred. Concerned about what happens after election.

Roger said he has a meeting with announced candidates soon, and suggested the September Commission meeting should include recognition of legislators retiring

Cory suggested that Commission should have a facilitated discussion at Commission meeting. Start with functions needed. Are there existing groups that can take some on? Do we need connection to legislators? Etc.

Cam Wake mentioned Vermont Climate Change Cabinet at Governor's level.

Sherry described the State agency climate change working group meeting which occurred in February. Governor staff sent email to Commissioner Burack. State agency reps on CRHC are also on state agency working group.

Ted Kupper mentioned that the Governor is proposing new way to create the state budget. Governor is going to tell each state agency how much they have. DAS is scrambling to develop list of big ticket items that would affect the state agency budgets. Competition is already starting between agencies.

Renny mentioned that there has also been some interesting discussion about proceeds of lawsuit.

Salt marsh issue: Cory mentioned that report should include salt marsh contact, maybe more outreach

Cliff mentioned that the research needs could be identified further. Science recommendation 2: Circulate the draft to scientists; missing social science research

Need to weave in connection to FEMA and Homeland Security. Double check that funding came from HSEM, state Hazard Mitigation funding connection.

Ask for feedback from HSEM and FEMA: give feedback this month. Jen Harper, Perry Plummer, Lee Sheeny, etc. Cliff will send report and ask for comments as email. Sherry, Julie, and Kirsten will share reports.

Who was invited to comment? From municipal level, not a lot of local decision makers attended the public meetings.

5. Discuss Process for Responding to Comments and Revising Draft Report

- a. Cliff: I think we can compile comments received for meeting in 2 weeks.
- b. Cory: Comment period doesn't end June 30. Always imagined you create a table and include response for comments. Wouldn't be that hard to go through what we have now and do the response now. Go through and take first stab and highlight the ones that include questions.
- c. Cam: Like the suggestion of the table. June is good time to do that.
- d. Cliff: August meeting is to be sure we're comfortable with changes.
- e. Nathalie: Compile comments and address what we can and present to Commission at June meeting. If we get anything else, we'll deal with it via email.
- f. Julie, Nathalie and Kirsten will compile and address and then send to Steering Committee a few days before Commission meeting

6. Commission meeting agenda for June 17

- Nathalie will give PPT presentation.
- Will show table and ask about highlighted areas
- Continuity conversation
- State agency work group
- CAW
- PSM grant
- Legislation passed.
- Other project updates
- Roger/Cam's conversation with the shipyard

7. Outreach/Communications

Cliff wondered Why wasn't there more media about the meetings?

Cam mentioned that we have a set of comments that are useful. There is a wide variety of people we haven't engaged. This report is laying the groundwork for decades. Are there professional organizations we can reach out to? Different audiences? Not as concerned with public officials. Maybe a few more that we want to come up with?

Roger suggested presentation with Pease Tenant's Association. Board of Realtors. Exeter Taxpayers Association.

Jennifer Gilbert noted that every day people don't believe they'll be flooded. They want to get out of requirements.

Cliff suggested that the lack of press coverage may be due to the fact that the report didn't say too many hard things. That's probably why we aren't getting that much pushback.

Ted mentioned that that's why the report is so perfect. Establishes framework for ongoing discussion.

General agreement among Committee members to remind Commission members to give outreach push. Cliff will make sure state agencies reach Commissioner level.

a. Outreach to gubernatorial candidates

Roger asked the group about thoughts on getting this issue in front of candidates. How do we rebuild the right way? Get this in front of two candidates from seacoast and other candidates.

Ted mentioned that DAS is before the G&C twice per month. Mike Konner and Vicki Quiram constantly talking to Governor and EC. Would it be appropriate to suggest to boss and Commissioner that we do some kind of "hey, are you aware of this report?" Group agreed he should approach them.

Roger suggested a letter to candidates.

Cliff asked if it's more appropriate after it's adopted?

Roger agreed that it would coincide with election, if adopted in September, after primary. No one's interested in policy in November. Putting a letter out to say they should read it and put in quiver. Send a package to campaign office. Roger volunteered to write a letter with two Senators.

b. Op-Ed opportunities

Cliff mentioned that Maureen of the Union of Concerned Scientists suggested letters to the editor. Commission members could write op-eds. Roger will see if Senator Watters will write an op-ed.

8. **Public Comment** – Tom Wismuller comments on SLR scenarios

- a. Tom handed out a written comment suggesting adjustment to the Commission's draft report. Written comment was added to the public comments. Some key points:
 - i. Don't treat probabilities and likelihoods well.
 - ii. Storm surge and tides are more certain than sea-level rise.
 - iii. Suggested that the next to last paragraph of his written comment should be in report somewhere.

- iv. Probability of getting to 6.6 feet of sea-level rise is low.
- v. Tom clarified that he is not asking for the STAP to be changed.

Cory suggested that on pages 35 and 36; could add something about short term and long term risks and the relative risk of storm surge vs. sea-level rise tomorrow

Tom: NOAA US tide gauge data says no acceleration.

Cliff and Tom has some disagreement about whether sea-level rise had accelerated in past years.

- vi. Tom mentioned there are outliers and that Portland has had 2 inches per century rate for the last 25 years.

Cam mentioned that since we aren't modeling Greenland and Antarctica well yet, we have to be careful.

9. Other business

- a. Hampton appointed new commission member, Jason Bachand
- b. Cliff asked how will report affect DAS?
Ted responded they will incorporate into design of new structures; state's largest liquor store will be impacted; well aware of how much money Hampton and Portsmouth stores generate; asked staff to at least consider recommendations in the report when constructing new buildings, not so much for remodeling; very much in preliminary stages; Hampton will probably get two new liquor stores.
- c. Hold off recognizing Senator Stiles' and Representative Rice's service at meeting where we adopt the report
- d. Nathalie to send out doodle poll to reconvene communications team to discuss fact sheets we would like Tricia Miller to produce and decide on domain name for website
- e. Cam suggested the group think about different avenues to present information beyond fact sheet: infographic; webinar recording of Nathalie's presentation; short videos; animated graphic
- f. Next CHRC meeting June 17
- g. Next steering committee meeting in August
- h. No steering committee and commission meeting in July

10. Adjourn