

**State of New Hampshire
Commission on Coastal Risks and Hazards (CCRH)**

**Meeting Minutes
Seacoast Science Center Sungen House
Friday September 20, 2013**

Members in Attendance

Name	Representation
Watters, David	Senator, NH District 4
Stiles, Nancy	Senator, NH District 24
Rice, Fred	Representative, District 21
Muns, Chris	Representative, District 21
Barnum, Jeff	Great Bay- Piscataqua Waterkeeper
Becker, Dr. Mimi	Town of Exeter
Bird, Steve	Town of Dover
Caron, David	NHMA
Cormier, Robert	NH Homebuilders and Remodelers
Feighner, Edna	NH Div. of Historical Resources
Gilbert, Jennifer	Office of Energy and Planning, Johnson Hall
Godlewski, Sherry	DES
Kinner, Peter	Town of Greenland, NH
Kirshen, Paul	University of NH
Kromer, Shep	North Hampton
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls
Miller, Steven	Town of Portsmouth
Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington, NH
Nogueira, Mark	Admin. Svcs.-Bureau of PW Design & Const.
Nyhan, Kevin	NHDOT Bur. Of Env't/Dept. of Trans
O'Sullivan, Michael	Town of Madbury
Pimental, Kyle	Strafford Reg. Planning Commission
Quiram, Vicki	Dept. of Envir. Services Asst. Comm.
Rice, John	Seacoast Board Realtors
Riley, Cory	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR
Sinnott, Cliff (Chairman CCRH)	Rockingham Planning Commission
Smith, Raymond	Town of Seabrook
Stanwood, Sabrina	Div. of Forests and Lands, DRED
Stephenson, Roger	Town of Stratham
Winslow, Phil	Town of Rye
Witham, David	Primex3
Wolek, Gail	NH Dept. of Res. & Econ. Dev- Parks
Wood, David (Clerk CCRH)	Town of Hampton
Woodworth, Michael	Town of Newfields, NH

Guests	
Wendy Hull	President Seacoast Science Center
Coletti, Cathy	DES (Storm Smart Member)
Howard, Kristen	DES
Jacobson, Rebecca	UNH MS Student
Clarke, Toby	Guest
Felt, Jennifer	Conservation Law Foundation

Minutes

- Cliff Sinnott presided as chairperson and seeing a quorum called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.
- Introductions of those in attendance were conducted. There were no members communicating by telephone or other electronic means.
- Mr. Sinnott recommended approval of the minutes from the meeting 08/16/13 submitted by Representative Muns and Senator Stiles seconded the approval. By a unanimous vote in favor by the members in attendance the minutes were approved.
- Clerk report: David Wood of Hampton and clerk of the Commission requested that everyone review the member list for errors and that all corrections and updates to the list be referred to him @ dkwood20@gmail.com or call 603-926-8822.
- Mr. Wood reported that he met with NHIT to discuss the creation of a Website for the use of this Commission. There would be startup and maintenance costs for this option. He also stated that he was contacted by Vicki Quiram and other DES officials and others to discuss the possibility of utilizing the NH StormSmart site. He stated that since NH StormSmart was already up and running with established information and links he recommended utilizing that site. Cathy Coletti who is already a member of StormSmart agreed to help with the establishment of this site. Recommendation was seconded by Chairman Sinnott and this was approved by unanimous vote of the Commission. Mr. Wood and Ms. Coletti will proceed to make this happen and information will be forthcoming on how members will access this site once established.
- Review of Right to Know (RSA-91-A) To insure that we are following the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and record keeping, Paul Towmey, House Council gave a presentation to update the Committee on our responsibility.
- A quorum of this Committee will consist of 18 members. If the purpose of the meeting was to discuss or act upon matters of our control we must follow RSA-91.
- We should avoid discussions or email activity outside of meetings if a quorum of the Commission is involved, such as 'reply-all' email chains. Don't discuss issues on chat rooms etc.
- There is additional information on this matter on NHGOV websites and this information will be posted on our website as well. If you have specific questions

or are in doubt of the proper procedure, Paul Twomey has suggested you contact him through our Commission Chair Sinnott.

- Review of Science and Sea level Rise/ Associated Coastal Hazards Dr. Paul Kirshen UNH Research Professor
- **Sea Level Rise Causes:** (1) Oceans warm and water expands. (2) Melt water from glaciers and ice sheets; (3) Subsidence in river delta regions land movements and tectonic displacements; (4). Storm surges; (5) Seepage into aquifers (minor). From 1927 to 2001 SLR at Portsmouth Harbor has risen 0.7 inches per decade. Current SLR scenarios range from 1.4 to 6.6 feet by 2100.
- There are many uncertainties relating to how much Sea Level Rise (SLR) will occur and when it will happen. That is why we are looking at various scenarios.
- The extent of Greenhouse Effect which is the likely cause of warming temperatures (and warming oceans) is based on differing emissions scenarios. The impact is to warm the Earth's surface and atmosphere.
- Changes in average summer heat index- a measure of how hot it actually feels, could have dramatic impact to the Granite State. Two scenarios were presented, one based on a higher emissions scenario and one based on a lower level emission scenario. It is possible that by year 2070, New Hampshire would have a medium temperature similar to the way it is now in North Carolina.
- Some of the consequences may be more coastal erosion, wetland inundation and loss, salt water intrusion, higher groundwater elevations, more frequent flooding and increased storm intensity.
- Coastal NH Sea level Rise Available online <http://www.grant.unh.edu/MapLibrary/ProjectMaps>
- Links for extensive reference material related to climate change and SLR were included in the agenda packet for the meeting.
- Discussion followed on SLR scenarios. Concern was raised by Representative Rice about the consequences of recommending actions on too extreme a SLR prediction. Senator Watters recommended that at this stage we review the potential impacts of all of the scenarios and evaluate what advice we should eventually give only after we have a fuller understanding.
- **Other Business:** A discussion of workgroups that the commission may want to establish. Potential workgroups are as follows:
 1. **INFRASTRUCTURE**
 - Transportation and utility infrastructure
 - State Parks and other assets
 - Municipal assets
 2. **ECONOMY**
 - Business Continuity
 - Real Estate and Insurance
 - Property and revenue
 3. **ENVIRONMENT**
 - Resource and Ecosystem protection
 - Ecosystem services

- Public health
4. PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY RESPONSE
 - Preparedness
 - State/regional/local coordination
 5. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION
 - Approach and direction
 - Records and reporting
 - Sherry Godlewski suggested that we meet together as the full Commission a few more times before establishing committees and their charge. There was consensus to hold off further action on the committees until one or two meetings had taken place.
 - The meeting on October 18, 10:00AM – 12:00PM will include (at a minimum) presentations by represented communities of the risks they have identified and what mitigation actions they have already put in place.
 - Senator Watters moved, Senator Stiles seconded and by a unanimous vote in favor of the members in attendance Chairperson Sinnott adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.
 - The next meeting for the Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission will be 10 AM-12 on 10/18/13. The meeting will take place at the Great Bay Discovery Center, 89 Depot Rd, Greenland NH. at the Hugh Gregg Center.