

MEETING MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Thursday, October 10

3:00PM– 4:30PM

Rockingham Planning Commission – Conference Room

156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833

Attending in person: Senator Nancy Stiles, Rep. Fred Rice, Cory Riley, Ann Scholz, Roger Stephenson, Jennifer Gilbert, Cliff Sinnott

Attending by phone: Senator Watters, Paul Kirchen, Sherry Godlewski

1. **Steering Committee – purpose, scope, membership:** Sinnott reviewed that the need for a steering committee was brought up at the period full Commission meeting to help determine the scope and work plan of the commission and at times prepare or refine positions, recommendations, that are discussion by the full Commission. It was clarified that the committee has no decision-making authority. It is intended to provide support to the Commission’s work and to spread the work.
2. **Agendas for the October 18th * & November 21st 15th CRHC meetings:** The agenda for the October 18th meeting was discussed in detail. The Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) has been asked to coordinate a presentation of the current efforts and activities now underway in the coastal watershed with respect to adaptation planning and coastal flood hazards. This will take up majority of the Oct. 18 meeting. November 15th agenda not discussed in detail. Suggestion made that we look at other responses underway in New England and other coastal states.
3. **November 1st Report to legislature & Governor:** Sinnott explained that this will be an interim report which reports on progress to date and will not include any policy recommendations. Sinnott will share a draft with the Steering Committee at the next meeting
4. **Strategy Discussion:** The Committee engaged in a discussion about the Commission, legislative expectations and how to approach the task. What should be included in our scope; what are the major areas of potential impact we should be addressing. Rep. Rice suggested the Commission’s work could be approached and organized like a major project or planning report: inventory, assessment, analysis, and recommendations. Riley said that what is needed from the Commission may be different depending on the audience: Communities don’t need or want a specific detailed plan. Rather they want to know what assumptions about future risk they should make and what process they should follow internally to plan and prepare for it. State agencies may be looking for more specific outcomes: recommended standards, legislation, agency actions, etc. Sinnott said that what the Commission has engaged in so far (and for the next few meetings) is largely “fact-finding.” Logically that would be followed by an assessment phase where we would examine the implications of what we have learned, and finally develop recommendations.

After further discussion it was agreed that the year 2100 should be the target planning horizon for the commission's assumptions, that we should organize our work to respond to both municipal and state assets and facilities, and that, as part of our reporting we should identify barriers that exist that may prevent effective action, and best practices in use by other states and localities.

Regarding the development of consensus on SLR and future coastal flood risk, agreed as a key task, Paul Kirchen suggested we use the approach of establishing a scientific or technical advisory panel to develop recommendations that the Commission could react to and adopt as appropriate. All agree that was a useful approach. Paul agreed to take the lead on this effort.

5. **Working Groups:** No discussion
6. **Next meeting:** November 1st at 9:30AM RPC Office. The next meeting will focus on drafting a mission statement, scope and work plan for the Commission to be brought to the Commission for discussion.
7. **Adjourn:** meeting adjourned at approximately 4:50pm

Minutes Prepared by
Cliff Sinnott, Chair, CRHC
10-29-13