

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

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Great Bay Discovery Center-Hugh Gregg Barn  
Greenland, NH  
October 18, 2013**

**Members in Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representation</b>
<b>Watters, David</b>	Senator, NH District 4
<b>Stiles, Nancy</b>	Senator, NH District 24
<b>Rice, Fred</b>	Representative, District 21
<b>Muns, Chris</b>	Representative, District 21
<b>Barnum, Jeff</b>	Great Bay- Piscataqua Waterkeeper
<b>Huber, Richard (for Becker, Dr. Mimi)</b>	Town of Exeter
<b>Bird, Steve</b>	Town of Dover
<b>Carroll, Patrick</b>	Town of Rollisford
<b>Cormier, Robert</b>	NH Homebuilders and Remodelers
<b>Feighner, Edna</b>	NH Div. of Historical Resources
<b>Gilbert, Jennifer</b>	Office of Energy and Planning, Johnson Hall
<b>Godlewski, Sherry (Alt.)</b>	DES
<b>Kinner, Peter</b>	Town of Greenland, NH
<b>Kirshen, Paul</b>	University of NH
<b>Kromer, Shep</b>	North Hampton
<b>Melanson, Paul</b>	Town of Hampton Falls
<b>Miller, Steven</b>	Town of Portsmouth
<b>Morgan, Thomas</b>	Town of Newington, NH
<b>Nyhan, Kevin</b>	NHDOT Bur. of Env't/Dept. of Transportation
<b>O'Sullivan, Michael</b>	Town of Madbury
<b>Pimental, Kyle</b>	Strafford Reg. Planning Commission
<b>Quiram, Vicki</b>	Dept. of Envir. Services Asst. Comm.
<b>Riley, Cory</b>	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR
<b>Scholz, Ann (Alt.)</b>	NHDOT Bur. of Env't/Dept. of Transportation
<b>Sinnott, Cliff (Chairman)</b>	Rockingham Planning Commission
<b>Smith, Raymond</b>	Town of Seabrook
<b>Stanwood, Sabrina</b>	Div. of Forests and Lands, DRED
<b>Stephenson, Roger</b>	Town of Stratham
<b>Fitzgerald, Brian (Alt.)</b>	Town of Rye
<b>Witham, David</b>	Primex3
<b>Wolek, Gail</b>	NH Dept. of Res. & Econ. Dev- Parks
<b>Wood, David (Clerk)</b>	Town of Hampton

<b>Woodworth, Michael</b>	Town of Newfields, NH
<b>Guests</b>	
<b>The Honorable Maggie Hassan</b>	Governor of New Hampshire
<b>Borden, Rep. David</b>	Town of New Castle (appointed to CRHC 10-21-2013)
<b>Britz, Peter</b>	City of Portsmouth, Environmental Planner
<b>Lull, Wendy</b>	President Seacoast Science Center
<b>Coletti, Cathy</b>	DES (NH Coastal Program)
<b>Howard, Kristen</b>	DES (NH Coastal Program)
<b>LaBranche, Julie</b>	Rockingham Planning Commission
<b>Kravitz, Sonny</b>	Hampton Energy Committee
<b>Clarke, Toby</b>	Guest
<b>Felt, Jennifer</b>	Conservation Law Foundation

### Minutes

- Cliff Sinnott presided as chairperson and seeing a quorum called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He stated that introductions of those present would be postponed until the arrival of NH Governor Maggie Hassan. He explained that the Governor is visiting the Great Bay Discovery Center and has been invited to attend a portion of the meeting as her time permits. There were no members communicating by telephone or other electronic means.
- Steve Miller, Coastal Training Program Coordinator at the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR), welcomed the Commission to the Great Bay Discovery Center.
- Mr. Sinnott recommended approval of the minutes from the meeting 09/19/13. 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 as to alternates be referred to him @ [dkwood20@gmail.com](mailto:dkwood20@gmail.com) or call 603-926-8822 or 978-775-5026.
- Mr. Wood reported that he was pleased to announce that through the hard work of Cathy Coletti, DES that our new Web site has been established and with approval it should become live before our next meeting. (It became live on 10/25/13). The url to access the site is <http://nhcrhc.stormsmart.org/> or through the NH StormSmart Coasts site at <http://nh.stormsmart.org/> right side tab.
- **Overview of website.** Cathy Coletti gave an overview of the new website and the value of it to the Committee. NH StormSmart was already up and running with established information and links that will now be available for our use. The site will contain the following:
  - notices of next meeting dates
  - prior minutes and copies of speaker presentations
  - links to Legislation creating the Commission
  - lists of Committee members and contact information
  - reading list of reports and documents associated with coastal risk and hazards
- Commission Clerk Wood will gather information to be added to the website and he in turn will provide that information to Ms. Coletti who will actually update the website.
- **Maggie Hassan, Governor of New Hampshire** The Commission was honored that Governor Hassan was able to attend a portion of the meeting and make brief remarks to the

Commission. Each member in attendance introduced themselves to Governor Hassan. The Governor thanked each person for their time and commitment to this very important issue. She stated that she loves the NH Seacoast and as a former “salt water senator” understands the importance of the coast to the State’s economy and the quality of life for our residents. She stated that the work of the Commission to help advise the state and coastal communities on how to better prepare for greater flood risks in the future is very important. She noted the State’s recent experience with the changing character of storms in the northeast. Sinnott thanked the Governor for taking the time to speak to the Commission and said we would be sure to keep her staff informed on their progress. The point of contact with the Governors Office will be Molly Connors, Policy Advisor.

- **New Hampshire Responses to Coastal Risks and Hazards**

- **Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW).** Sherry Godlewski, Environmental Program Manager for NHDES, gave an overview of CAW and current initiatives. (Sherry is Co-Chair for the NHCAW)
- Some of the topics discussed:
  - Why form a CAW, History, Milestones
  - Cost of extreme weather in NH
  - Partners
  - Description of workshops
  - Projects in Coastal NH communities
  - Investment in Adaptation – Not if but when we pay
- A much more detailed account of this presentation can be found on our new website <http://nhcrhc.stormsmart.org> under “Meeting Agenda- October 18, 2013, Coastal Adaptation Initiatives”
- **Portsmouth Coastal Resilience.** Peter Britz , Environmental Planner for the City of Portsmouth Planning Department, gave an overview on Portsmouth Coastal Resilience Initiatives. Highlights are as follows:
  - Description of Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
  - Gave example of tidal surge in Wells ME as a result of Hurricane Sandy
  - Discussed sea level rise scenarios
  - Listed categories of recommendations
- A much more detailed account of this presentation can be found on our new website <http://nhcrhc.stormsmart.org> under “Meeting Agenda- October 18, 2013” Portsmouth Resilience Initiative
- After the presentation, Representative Rice thanked Peter for the great presentation but cautioned that as presented, it appeared too extreme and cautioned that we do not over emphasize worst case scenarios but rather focus on what are our gaps and what are the consequences. He reminded the Committee of the mission of our Commission. Mr. Britz responded that it can be confusing to explain the various flooding scenarios that are portrayed when combining the three flooding factors of sea-level, 100 year flood and storm surge. The highest flooding scenario mapped for the Portsmouth Resiliency is intended to show that worst case scenario so the City can understand the extent of potential flooding.
- **Coastal Vulnerability Assessment & Response Planning.** Julie LaBranche, Senior Planner for the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC), gave an overview

of “Tides to Storms” which is a project that will address the risk and vulnerability of coastal communities to sea level rise and storm surge. Highlights are:

- Project Overview 2013-2015
  - Data and Mapping
  - Outreach and Engagement
  - Vulnerability Assessment Results
  - Planning- Regional Recommendations and Municipal Hazard Mitigation
  - She stated that the RPC will work closely with coastal communities over the next two years to evaluate their risk and identify practical approaches to protecting municipal and private assets, public safety and natural resources.
- A much more detailed account of this presentation can be found on our new website <http://nhcrhc.stormsmart.org> under “Meeting Agenda- October 18, 2013 Tides to Storms”

- **Other Business**

- Steering Committee – The Committee has met once on October 1 and discussed a number of topics including agendas and a process for establishing clear goals and defining the limited scope of subjects on which to advise.
- To date the Steering Committee members are: Senators Watters and Stiles, Representatives Rice and Muns, Vicki Quiram / SherryGodlewski (NHDES), Paul Kirshen (UNH), Cory Riley (GBNERR), Jennifer Gilbert (OEP) Roger Stephenson (Stratham) and Kevin Nyhan / Ann Scholz (NH DOT).
- It was recognized that the scope of our recommendations should be more focused on assumptions, processes, best practices and Legislation rather than prescribing specific actions and plans be adopted by communities. The Steering Committee will meet on the first Friday of the month at the RPC Office in Exeter.
- Sinnott said one of the central expectations of the Commission is that we recommend planning assumptions regarding sea level rise and storm surge. Dr. Paul Kirshen, UNH recommended, as a way of moving forward on this task, that a scientific or technical subcommittee be established by the Commission of scientist and subject matter experts be formed to prepare specific recommendations that the full Commission can review and act on. The Steering Committee felt that this was a good approach and recommended that it be done. Dr. Kirshen offered to lead this effort. Consensus of the Commission was to proceed with this approach
- Reminder that the first report to the Legislature is November 1, 2013. Sinnott said this will be a short report about our progress to date and will circulate a draft to all commission members for comment.
- Senator Watters moved, Senator Stiles seconded and by a unanimous vote in favor of the members in attendance Chairperson Sinnott adjourned the meeting at 12:15 PM.
- The next meeting for the Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission will be 10 AM- 12 on 11/15/13. The meeting will take place at the Exeter Library meeting room, 4 Chestnut Street, Exeter, NH (603) 03833.