

**State of New Hampshire  
Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission (CRHC)**

**Meeting Minutes  
Exeter Public Library  
4 Chestnut St.  
Exeter, NH  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Members in Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Watters, David	Senator, NH District 4
Stiles, Nancy	Senator, NH District 24
Rice, Fred	Representative, District 21
Muns, Chris	Representative, District 21
Borden, Rep. David	New Castle
Becker, Dr. Mimi	Town of Exeter
Bird, Steve	Town of Dover
Caron, David	NHMA
Cormier, Robert	Homebuilders and Remodelers
Feighner, Edna	NH Div. of Historical Resources
Fitzgerald, Brian	Alternate Town Rye
Gilbert, Jennifer	Office of Energy and Planning, Johnson Hall
Godlewski, Sherry	DES
Huber, Richard	Alternate, Town of Exeter
Juliana, Michelle	Public Works DOT
Kipp, Jonathan	Primex
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls
Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington, NH
Nyhan, Kevin	NHDOT Bur. Of Env't/Dept. of Trans
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
Scholtz, Ann	NHDOT
Sinnott, Cliff (Chairman CCRH)	Rockingham Planning Commission
Stanwood, Sabrina	Div. of Forests and Lands, DRED
Stephenson, Roger	Town of Stratham
Witham, David	Primex3
Wolek, Gail	NH Dept. of Res. & Econ. Dev- Parks
Wood, David (Clerk CCRH)	Town of Hampton
Sylvia Von Aulock (Guest)	Exeter Town Planner

## 1. Call to Order/Welcome

- Cliff Sinnott presided as chairperson and seeing a quorum called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There were no members communicating by telephone or other electronic means.
- Sylvia Von Aulock, Exeter Town Planner, welcomed the Commission members to the Town and gave an overview of the **Climate Adaption Plan for Exeter or “CAPE” Project**. The Exeter community has seen a marked increase in flooding over the past decade. Regardless if it’s cause is natural or man made, Exeter has begun this project to identify vulnerabilities and to come up with plans and strategies to help them adapt to climate change that are expected. A team from the University of New Hampshire and the Great Bay Research Reserve is working together to come up with this plan. Three models are being developed for the Watershed. Over the course of the project, there will be neighborhood discussions in the effected areas as well as broader public meetings to help with this plan.

## 2. Minutes

- Mr. Sinnott asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of 10/18/13. Senator Waters moved and Senator Stiles seconded. By a unanimous vote in favor by the members in attendance the minutes were approved.
- Chairman Sinnott welcomed new members Rep. David Borden, New Castle and Jamie Houle, Durham who’s appointment leeters have been received.

## 3. Clerk’s 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. He also asked that everyone sign in on roster for attendance.
- Mr. Wood reminded that our new web site is now on line and working well (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. It was asked that all presentations made should be provided to the Clerk and therefore will be posted on the website.
- 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 update the website.

## 4. Annual Report (see other business)

## 5. State Agency Reports on Responses to Climate Risk

- The next part of the meeting focused on some of the work and responses ongoing at three state agencies to respond to increase in flood risk in NH Coastal areas: the NHDES, NHDOT and Fish and Game:
  - **DES (Department of Environmental Services)** Ted Diers, Administrator for DES Watershed Management, gave a presentation on the internal planning effort which is underway at DES to address the impacts of climate change. Building on agency wide “cookies and climate” internal workshops, each Bureau is addressing this issue and developing plans. He discussed evaluation of potential threats and opportunities and prioritization of things such as

- culverts, wetland rules, drinking water, wastewater research with the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and funding programs.
  - He discussed the State and Federal regulations that are impacted from coastal flood risk. He mentioned State and Local interactions on changes to the highest observable tide line over time.
  - CAW identified some potential actions such as adopting a standard for sea level rise projections used for planning and permits and zoning on shorelines.
  - He mentioned that the DES works closely with Federal, State, Regional planning and local workgroups in both receiving and providing information to these various groups.
  - Questions and discussion followed the presentation. (Entire presentation is on our website)
- **DOT Department of Transportation.** Presenters: Kevin Nyhan Administrator, Bureau of Environment Ann Scholz, PE Assistant Research Engineer, Bureau of Materials and Research
  - One issue discussed was the population and development growth in the Lamprey River Watershed in the last 5 decades. Population growth grew from 30,000 to 85,000. Acres grew from 5,000 to 18,000.
  - DOT issues and concerns are: road maintenance, aging infrastructure, budget and cost, evacuation routes and storm water management.
  - There has been a huge increase in the number of presidentially declared disasters we have experienced. 2003-2012 (**10 Years**)– 15 Declared Disasters
  - 1953-2002 (**50 Years**)– 14 Declared Disasters
  - Climate change impacts: Flooding risks to roads, rails, maintenance facilities, and other assets, tunnels and other below grade infrastructure, destabilized vegetation along hillsides and increase the likelihood of rock fall, changes in freeze-thaw cycle, pavement integrity, stress on landscaping, length of construction Sea-level and coastal storm surge, Risk of permanent or periodic inundation of coastal infrastructure, Increased coastal erosion, rising groundwater levels, changes in salinity,
  - Mr. Nyhan emphasized that in order to allow for necessary flexibility on the ground, new State policies and legislation resulting from the Commission’s work should guide decisions, more than prescribe solutions.
  - Questions and discussion followed the presentation. (Entire presentation is on our website)
- **NH Fish and Game Department.** Cory Riley Manager of Great Bay Research and Discovery Center gave the Commission a presentation and overview of the Department. She informed us as to what their concerns are due to climate change and the planning that is currently underway to help with this issue.
  - She stated that as the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department works in partnership with the public to: Conserve, manage and protect these resources and their habitats; Inform and educate the public about these resources and provide the public with opportunities to use and appreciate these resources.
  - They are looking into: Shifts in populations of wildlife and fish; shifts in habitat; changes in conditions (temperature, precipitation, pH, pollutant levels, etc.); changes in how people act because of storms, precipitation, and Sea Level Rise(SLR) and changes in how natural systems and feedback loops shift because of storms, precipitation, and SLR.

- Changes in species and habitat lead to changes in the way they manage resources and apply their expertise and the way they talk to people. They have a process in place which they agree on a set of assumptions, assess vulnerability and recommend action to communities and other agencies.
- They are looking at current regulations that will be directly impacted and how they act as barriers or represent gaps. They are looking at what changes in current regulations and statutes are needed to alleviate the problem.
- They are currently interacting with Federal and State agencies as well as Scientists. They also meeting with stakeholders and officials of local towns.
- Questions and discussion followed the presentation. (Entire presentation is on our website.)

## 6. Other Business

- **Steering Committee** – The Committee has been meeting 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. A draft mission statement has been created and is as follows “The purpose of the Commission is to develop sound guidance and recommendations for the state and municipalities regarding changes in laws, regulations, plans standards, as well as other actions that should be taken, that are prudent and necessary to prepare for anticipated sea level rise and increased future sea level risks from coastal flooding, stormwater and related hazards.” The first of two planning sessions have taken place to draft a strategy and work plan to help guide the Commission’s approach and timetable in meeting our objectives.
- **Annual Report.** As discussed previously, we were required to provide an annual status report starting on 11/01/13 to the Governor, Legislature and State Library. Chairman Sinnott indicated that as our Commission was recently created, our report for 2013 consisted of our work to date and the work we anticipate in the coming year. The Chairman made a motion to accept which was seconded by Representative Rice.
- Dr. Paul Kirshen, UNH was not at this meeting but talks are underway to establish a subcommittee of scientist and subject matter experts to work on the more technical side of our focus.
- 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 January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The meeting will take place at the Urban Forestry Center, Elwyn Rd, Portsmouth, NH.

## Directions to Forestry Center

**From Interstate 95 Northbound/Southbound:** take Exit #5 to the Portsmouth Traffic Circle. From the Circle, take Route 1 Bypass South. This will merge into Route 1 South. Proceed about 2 miles thru a series of five lights. At the next set of lights you should be in the left turn only lane (Market Basket will be on your right). Turn left onto Elwyn Road. Take the first left turn (approximately 500 feet) into the *Urban Forestry Center* road to the parking lot.

**From Route 4:** take Route 4 to the Spaulding Turnpike, across the General Sullivan Bridge, and past Pease International Tradeport. Move into the far left lane to the Portsmouth Traffic Circle. From the Circle follow the above directions.