

New Hampshire Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission (RSA 483-E) Meeting Minutes

Portsmouth Public Library – Levenson Room
175 Parrott Ave, Portsmouth, NH

July 18, 2014
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Members Present

Name	Representation
Watters, David	Senator, NH District 4
Borden, Rep. David	Town of New Castle
Muns, Rep. Chris	Representative, District 21
Rice, Rep. Fred	Representative, District 21
Becker, Dr. Mimi	Town of Exeter
Bird, Steve	City of Dover
Bowman, Peter	Alternate, NH DRED – Division of Forests and Lands
Caron, David	NH Municipal Association
Cormier, Robert	Homebuilders and Remodelers Association of NH
Feighner, Edna	NH Division of Historical Resources
Gilbert, Jennifer (Commission Clerk)	NH Office of Energy and Planning
Huber, Richard	Alternate, Town of Exeter
Kinner, Peter	Town Greenland/UNH Coastal Response Research
Kipp, Jonathan	NH Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex)
Kirshen, Dr. Paul	University of NH
Kupper, Theodore	NH DAS – Bureau of Public Works, Design & Construction
Miller, Steve	City of Portsmouth
Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington
Nyhan, Kevin	NH Department of Transportation
O'Sullivan, Michael	Town of Madbury
Pimental, Kyle	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Quiram, Vicki	NH Department of Environmental Services
Rice, John	Seacoast Board of Realtors
Riley, Cory	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR
Scholz, Ann	Alternate, NH Department of Transportation
Sinnott, Cliff (Chairman)	Rockingham Planning Commission
Stephenson, Roger	Town of Stratham
Winslow, Phil	Town of Rye
Wolek, Gail	NH DRED – Division of Parks and Recreation
Wood, David	Town of Hampton

Members Absent

Name	Representation
Stiles, Nancy	Senator, NH District 24
Carroll, Patrick	Town of Rollinsford
Fitzgerald, Brian	Alternate, Town of Rye
Godlewski, Sherry	Alternate, NH Department of Environmental Services
Houle, Jamie	Town of Durham
Kroner, Shep	Town of North Hampton
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls
Pennock, Jonathan	UNH Marine Program & NH Sea Grant Program
Stanwood, Sabrina	NH DRED – Division of Forests and Lands
Smith, Raymond	Town of Seabrook

Others Present

Name	Representation
Couture, Steve	NH Coastal Program - Department of Environmental Services
Howard, Kristen	NH Coastal Program - Department of Environmental Services
Knutti, Kevin	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
LaBranche, Julie	Rockingham Planning Commission Sen. Planner
Ryan, Mary Kate	NH Division of Historical Resources
Wysmuller, Tom	Member of CRHC Science Advisory Panel

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chairman Sinnott called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Chairman Sinnott asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Introductions were made around the room.

2. Science and Technical Advisory Panel Final Draft Report

Paul Kirshen discussed the changes to the Science and Technical Advisory Panel Final Report (Final Report) which were made since the Commission's last meeting on June 20, 2014. The changes to the Final Report were based comments received by Panel following a peer review. The Final Report was emailed to the Commission on July 16, 2014. However, a late change to the Final Report was included in a one page revision, which had been sent out to the Commission last night. Since the Commission's Steering Committee had not yet discussed Tom Wysmuller's (Panel) comments on the Report, the Steering Committee met just prior to this meeting.

A. External Review of Report: Comments and Responses

Paul Kirshen gave an overview of the comments and responses received as part of the peer review of the Final Report. He stated it was a rigorous process and more work than the Panel had anticipated. Kevin Knutti, who was also on the Panel and was a lead author for the 2007 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) report on Climate Change, was also present to explain the data in the Report and the data that is being used by the USACE.

B. Questions/Discussion on Final Draft Report

The Commission asked questions regarding the Final Report and the Panel members answered them.

C. Action on Report MOTION TO ADOPT

The Commission discussed whether to “adopt” or “accept” the Panel’s Final Report. A straw poll of the Commission members in attendance was done and the vote was to “adopt” the Final Report.

A motion by Representative Rice was made to accept to the Panel’s Final Report dated July 16, 2014 and the page revised on July 17, 2014 for the purpose of guidance. The motion was seconded by Steve Miller. All approved.

The Commission thanked the Panel for their work and thanked Chairman Sinnott, Sherry Godlewski and Julie LaBranche for their editing work.

3. Developing a Public Communications Strategy & Plan for the CRHC

Roger Stephenson began the discussion about the Commission’s public communications strategy and plan by passing out index cards and asking the Commission members to answer the following questions:

- Who are we as a Commission?
- Why are we doing it?
- What are we doing?

Below is a summary of the answers:

- What – policy building
- Why – provide flexible adaptation to sea level rise; better planning (save money, lives, and infrastructure); preserve our resources for future generations; prepare for the future.

Roger passed out a handout with questions and answers on the Final Report. Below is a summary of that discussion:

- The Full Report will be available on the Commission's web site following further editing.
- Any questions about the Full Report that can't be answered and all media requests should be referred to Chairman Sinnott.
- There is a need to include guidance to the Commission members with the Final Report.
- Delete the question/answer in handout regarding Report's relation to FEMA map; could cause further confusion.
- Commission needs to discuss an outreach strategy.
- Remove Shane Csiki (NH Geological Survey) from list of Panelists and include Sherry Godlewski (NH DES).
- There is a need for a press release but it should include more background information.

Roger will develop a press release, which will be reviewed by the Steering Committee before the September Commission meeting. Roger will also develop an outreach strategy.

4. Presentation: Other state's policy efforts relevant to sea level rise

Kirsten Howard, NH DES Coastal Program, conducted research on other statewide sea-level rise planning effort. She looked at 13 coastal states and summarized their efforts in a report. She presented the information to the Commission.

The report and presentation slides can be viewed at: <http://nhcrhc.stormsmart.org/reading-list-for-commission-members/>.

Edna Feighner will like to do a similar effort and summarize efforts in other states in regards to cultural resources. She will provide a handout at the next Commission meeting.

5. Working Group Formation – continued from June 20, 2014 Meeting

Chairman Sinnott explained the guidance received from the Attorney General's office regarding the establishment of the Working Groups. The Commission has no enabling authority to create subcommittees.

Prior to Agenda item #3, Chairman Sinnott asked Commission members to nominate themselves, if willing, to serve on one of the Commission's Working Groups and passed around the nominating form. Chairman Sinnott will name all nominations and the Commission will vote as a whole.

A motion by Cory Riley was made to establish the Commission's Working Groups (Coastal Communities, Great Bay Communities and State Agency/Authorities). The motion was seconded by Mimi Becker and Representative Rice. All approved.

Chairman Sinnott read the nominations by committee and opened it up for additional nominations.

Coastal Communities Working Group Nominations

Representative Rice asked if those Commission members who are not present at today's

meeting are placed in a Working Group by default. Chairman Sinnott responded that he heard from some members but not all.

Shep Kroner (North Hampton) and Raymond Smith (Seabrook), who were not present, were added to the Coastal Communities working group.

A motion by Representative Rice was made to approve the nominations for the Coastal Communities Working Group. The motion was seconded by Representative Muns. All approved.

Great Bay Communities Working Group Nominations

Patrick Carroll (Rollinsford), James Houle (Durham), and Tom Morgan (Newington), who were not present, were added to the Great Bay Communities working group.

Representative Muns asked to be added to the Great Bay Communities working group and removed from the State Agency/Authorities working group.

A motion by Senator Watters was made to approve the nominations for the Great Bay Communities Working Group. The motion was seconded by Cory Riley. All approved.

State Agency/Authorities Working Group Nominations

Mary Kate Ryan (NH Division of Historical Resources), Steve Couture (DES), and Sabrina Stanwood (NH DRED – Division of Forests and Lands) were added to the State Agency/Authorities Working Group.

A motion by Senator Watters was made to approve the nominations for the State Agency/Authorities Working Group. The motion was seconded by Representative Rice. All approved.

Selection of Chair of Working Group

The Commission discussed how the chair of the Working Groups is to be selected.

A motion by Steve Bird was made that each Working Group is to self-select their chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mimi Becker. All approved.

A motion by Vicki Quiram was made that voting within the Working Groups will be only for Commission members and designated alternate members. The motion was seconded by Mimi Becker. All approved.

Chairman Sinnott stated that the Working Groups will be provided guidance on procedures, public availability, posting of meetings, and meeting minutes.

Guidance & Initial Assignment to Working Groups

Cory Riley discussed the feedback she received from Commission members regarding the

proposed Working Groups and draft charge.

Cory distributed and discussed a handout that described the goals of each of the Working Groups and a climate adaption glossary. She suggested using a recommendations table similar to the one used in the Flood Commission report as an end product.

Cory suggested that a draft outline, revised goals, a template of the final product, efficiency tips, procedures, and available existing resources be provided for the first Working Group meetings.

Cory recommended that the Commission hold a regular August meeting and find a venue with available space to break into groups. The full Commission can address common issues and then the Working Groups can hold their first meeting and self-select their chairperson.

Chairman Sinnott stated he will not be able to attend the August (15th) meeting.

The venue for the August 15, 2014 meeting will be at the DES office at Pease Tradeport in Portsmouth.

Ann Scholz asked if the full Commission was going to stop meeting. Chairman Sinnott responded that the Commission's Steering Committee will need to address.

6. Member Communications/General Discussion

Chairman Sinnott asked if there was any member communications or general discussion. There was none.

7. Public Comment

Chairman Sinnott asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

8. Approval of Draft Minutes of June 20, 2014

Sinnott asked if the Commission had any comments or corrections on the June 20, 2014 minutes.

A motion by Senator Watters was made to accept the June 20, 2014 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Borden. All approved.

9. Other Business/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM.