

STEERING COMMITTEE

COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, July 18, 2014

9:00AM-9:45AM

Portsmouth Public Library, Levenson Room

175 Parrott Ave, Portsmouth

MINUTES

Attending: Senator David Watters, Representative Fred Rice, Cliff Sinnott, Cory Riley, Vicki Quiram, Dr. Paul Kirshen, Roger Stephenson, Ann Scholz, and Jennifer Gilbert.

Others Attending: Science and Technical Advisory Panel members - Dr. Cameron Wake, UNH (on phone); Kevin Knuti, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Tom Wismuller; Steve Couture, DES Coastal Program; Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commission; and Steve Miller, City of Portsmouth.

1. Convene Meeting/Quorum Call

Commission Chair Cliff Sinnott began the meeting at 9:20 AM.

2. Presentation/Discussion final comments received and responses on Final Draft Report from Science and Technical Advisory Panel

Cliff stated the purpose of the meeting is for the Steering Committee to discuss Tom Wismuller's comments on the Panel's Draft Final Report. A revised copy of the External Review and Responses spreadsheet, which includes Tom's comments and the Panel's responses, was provided as a handout. Cameron wrote most of the responses to Tom's comments. Paul and Kevin reviewed the responses.

Tom's main concerns were regarding the reference to the 3.2 mm/year rate of sea level in the Report being too high and the data not being relevant to New Hampshire.

Kevin explained that the 3.2 mm/year rate is controversial due to the short measurement timeframe. He stated that you really need to look at a longer measurement timeframe, such as over 40 years. He stated there is value in including the 3.2 mm/year rate in the Report. The 3.2 mm/year rate does not disagree with tide gauges but is actually link to them. He stated he Army Corps of Engineers references the 3.2 mm/year rate but uses the 1.7 mm/year rate. He explained that projections are not related to the 3.2 mm/year rate.

Cliff stated the Science and Technical Advisory Panel's charge was to review other's work on sea level rise. He asked if anyone disagreed with the approach that the Panel used. Tom stated no change is needed to the Report's recommendations. Representative Rice is not happy but doesn't disagree.

Senator Watters stated the legislation says to use projected sea level rise and he believes the Panel has done that. He stated that Tom's comments were helpful but he doesn't think the 3.2 mm/year rate changes things. He said we acknowledge the need to monitor and change the Report, as needed. He believes the Report should remain as it stands.

Cliff stated the Report from the Panel is recommended and it up to the Commission to interpret it.

Senator Watters suggested that the Chair of the Panel (Paul) address the changes to the Report based on the Steering Committee's discussion to the full Commission membership.

Paul state that he appreciates Tom's and Representative Rice's comments, which have made the Report better.

3. Other Business

None.

4. Adjourn

Representative Rice made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Meeting notes prepared by:

Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk