

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

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office
Pease International Tradeport, 222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH

August 15, 2014
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Members Present

Name	Representation
Watters, David	Senator, NH District 4
Arcieri, Bill	Town of Newmarket
Bird, Steve	City of Dover
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
Godlewski, Sherry	Alternate, NH Department of Environmental Services
Hawkins, Don	Town of Seabrook
Houle, Jamie	Town of Durham
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
Miller, Steve	City of Portsmouth
Muns, Rep. Chris	Former Representative, District 21
Nyhan, Kevin	NH Department of Transportation
Pimental, Kyle	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Rice, John	Seacoast Board of Realtors
Riley, Cory	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR
Ryan, Mary Kate	Alternate, NH Division of Historical Resources
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

Members Absent

Name	Representation
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Name	Representation
Stiles, Nancy	Senator, NH District 24
Borden, Rep. David	Town of New Castle
Rice, Rep. Fred	Representative, District 21
Becker, Dr. Mimi	Town of Exeter
Caron, David	NH Municipal Association
Carroll, Patrick	Town of Rollinsford
Fitzgerald, Brian	Alternate, Town of Rye
Kroner, Shep	Town of North Hampton
Kupper, Theodore	NH DAS – Bureau of Public Works, Design & Construction
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls
Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington
Muns, Chris	Former Representative, District 21
O’Sullivan, Michael	Town of Madbury
Pennock, Jonathan	UNH Marine Program & NH Sea Grant Program
Quiram, Vicki	NH Department of Environmental Services
Smith, Raymond	Town of Seabrook
Stanwood, Sabrina	NH DRED – Division of Forests and Lands
Wood, David	Town of Hampton

Others Present

Name	Representation
Carter, Jamie	NOAA
Couture, Steve	NH Coastal Program - Department of Environmental Services
Newhall, Rebecca	NOAA
Vallee, David	NOAA

1. Welcome/Introductions

Senator Stiles, who acted as chair of the meeting due to the absence of Chairman Sinnott, called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

Senator Stiles asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Introductions were made around the room.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of July 18, 2014

A motion by Representative Rice was made to accept the minutes of July 18, 2014. The motion was seconded by Representative Muns. All approved.

3. Final Science and Technical Advisory Panel Report and FAQ

Richard Huber asked when the final report was going to be posted on the Commission's web site. Sherry Godlewski responded that she sent the final report to Chairman Sinnott and assumed it would be posted sometime after this meeting.

4. Action to Release CRHC Science Advisory Panel

A motion by John Rice was made to release the CRHC Science Advisory Panel. The motion was seconded by Representative Rice. All approved.

5. CRHC Chairmanship for 2014-2015 (Year 2 of the Commission)

A motion by Phil Winslow was made to have Cliff Sinnott continue as Commission Chair. The motion was seconded by Mimi Becker. All approved.

6. Initial Working Group Meetings

A. Opening Discussion

Cory Riley discussed the August 11, 2014 memo that was distributed to Commission Members regarding the workgroups. She stated that each workgroup would need to decide on a chair, vice-chair (if desired), a clerk, and a meeting schedule.

Cory then passed out a handout, which included the two duties of the Commission, the draft goals for the Commission, and a template to record the Commission's goals and recommended strategies. She asked for feedback from the Commission regarding the information on this handout.

Phil Winslow recommended adding "enabling" before legislation in the Commission's first duty. Senator Stiles responded that the wording of the Commission's duties is actual language in the legislation. However, she stated that does not mean that the legislation cannot include "enabling." Representative Rice suggested that the Commission build in that flexibility for communities.

Cory stated that Steering Committee members will gather key research for the suggested Commission goals.

Cory then asked Commission members to break into two groups for 15 to 20 minutes for a facilitated discussion of the draft goals. She and Julie LaBranche will facilitate the groups' discussion. She stated that the first goal was essentially achieved by the Science Advisory Panel and the fourth goal is what is placed in the template.

After the groups came back together, Cory stated that the Steering Committee will discuss the results of the two discussions.

Julie LaBranche gave the following summary of her group's discussion about the goals:

- Change goal language from future tense to action wording.

- Since the legislation includes storms, include storms in the goals.
- For goal #4, in addition to vulnerabilities also include adaptation strategies.
- There should be periodic review of new information and climate change data and incorporating them into the process.
- For the bulleted list under goal #3, each workgroup will need to define each item (e.g. economic assess). Also, remove “and consider” from each item. For the first bulleted item, remove “current” so it implies current and future.

Steve Couture (representing Cory’s group) gave the following summary of their group’s discussion:

- Include other group’s efforts.
- Have a separate committee on outreach.
- Important to identify what we know and don’t know.
- Eliminate “vulnerability”
- Delete “flooding” and replace with “coastal hazards.”

Cory stated that the Steering Committee will discuss education and outreach.

Julie stated that there will be worksheets and work plans to help the workgroups complete the template.

B. Workgroup Breakout Meetings

The Commission members were asked to break into the three workgroups for 20 minutes to elect a chair, vice-chair (if desired), a clerk, and the group’s preference time for meeting. The Commission members agreed to continue meeting the third Friday of the month in September, October, and November.

The Commission members discussed whether there was a need to have sequential meeting times for the workgroups since there was such a small number of members interested in attending more than one workgroup.

Representative Rice suggested that the meeting location be like the DES Portsmouth Regional office with one large room and separate smaller rooms or a large venue. Steve Couture checked and reserved the DES meeting rooms through December 2014.

After the workgroup breakout meetings, the Commission convened and a summary of each workgroup’s discussion was given.

State Agency/Authorities Workgroup

Chair: Senator Watters

Vice-Chair: Ted Kupper

Clerk: Steve Couture

Preferred Time: 10 am to 12 pm

Great Bay Communities Workgroup

Chair: Mimi Becker

Vice-Chair: Peter Kinner

Clerk: Deferred

Preferred Time: 8 am to 10 am

Coastal Communities Workgroup

Chair: Representative Rice

Vice-Chair: Julie LaBranche

Clerk: Steve Miller

Preferred Time: Morning

The Steering Committee will resolve the meeting times for each workgroup.

C. Closing Discussion

Senator Stiles asked Representative Muns to include the workgroup meetings on the House calendar and Senator Watters will include on the Senate calendar.

Roger Stephenson asked for guidance for the workgroup chairs on how to take public comment from non-Commission members. Representative Rice stated that the workgroup meetings are open to the public and subject to the right-to-know laws. Workgroup members cannot discuss back and forth on emails. The workgroups have the same rules as the full Commission.

Roger also asked about the role of non-Commission members. The members of the Commission discussed the different ways to structure the public comment period on the workgroup's meeting agenda including whether it occurs in the beginning or at the end of the meeting. The group agreed that the workgroups need to be clear at the beginning of the meeting when public comment will take place.

Steve Miller asked if the workgroups are just for the New Hampshire public/residents since this is a New Hampshire legislative commission. The group agreed unless someone from outside New Hampshire was invited to attend the workgroup meeting.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Next Full Commission Meeting: October 17 to review annual report to Legislature and hear Workgroup progress reports discussion

None.

9. Other Business/Adjourn

Roger Stephenson presented Paul Kirshen with a “got science?” t-shirt as a thank you for his work on the Science Advisory Panel.

A motion by John Rice was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cory Riley. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Meeting Notes Prepared By:
Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk