

STEERING COMMITTEE

COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, September 5, 2014
10:00AM---12:00PM
Rockingham Planning Commission –Conference Room
156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833

Attending: Senator Nancy Stiles, Senator David Watters, Representative Fred Rice, Steve Couture, Paul Kirshen (via phone), Cliff Sinnott, and Roger Stephenson.

Others Attending: Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commission.

Commission Chair Cliff Sinnott began the meeting at 10:05 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2014 Meetings

A motion by Sen. Watters was made to accept the Committee's minutes of July 11, 2014. The motion was seconded by Rep. Rice. Approved by voice vote; S. Couture abstained.

2. Science and Technical Advisory Panel Report Release

Sinnott reported that there are a few minor edits to references that Paul is making but hopes the final report will be ready for release on Monday. If final edits are not ready a note will be placed on the cover page indicating the copy is subject to further copy editing. Roger Stephenson offered to prepare a press release based on the FAQ prepared earlier and all agreed.

3. Workgroups

LaBranche reviewed the Workgroup materials that Cory Riley and she had prepared and were distributed with the meeting agenda. This includes the goals, guiding principals of the Commission, task worksheet templates, and timeline She said they incorporate the feedback on goals and on the workgroup templates provided at the August 15 Commission meeting.

Rep. Rice said he thought the coastal and inland workgroups should survey communities (town managers, DPW directors, EMDs) to determine what action they have taken with regard for coastal flooding; the CHRC Commission reps from those towns could shepherd the questionnaires in towns.

LaBranche voiced concern that the workgroups will bog down if they attempt to get into the detailed planning efforts of each community. Much of that information will be gathered in the PREPA inventory and other sources.

It was agreed that one important framing question that each workgroup answers would be "given the guidance provided in the Science Advisory Report, what should communities, the legislature and state agencies do to help prepare?"

Following a meeting times were set for the workgroups: Inland: 8---9:30; Coastal: 9:30---11; State/Legislative: 11---12:30. All meeting will be at the Pease NHDES office; Steve Couture will setup meeting room reservations. Meetings will start off on the third Friday of the month (to keep with the Commission's standing schedule) with the understanding that the Workgroups will have discretion to set other meeting dates/times.

Agenda for the first meetings of the working groups would be suggested to include: (1) setting a broad schedule of meetings and topics/milestones, (2) Review of information resources available to help develop their findings and

recommended actions, and (3) the Science Advisory panel Report – ask what issues does it raise about the responses that will be needed.

It was agreed that a primary vehicle for communication and sharing among the workgroups would be through the Stormsmart/CRHC website.

4. Discussion on Communication Strategy for the Commission

Deferred to future meeting

5 Report to Legislature

Sinnott reminded members that the Commission’s annual report to the Legislature is due on November 1. He offered to prepare the report as last year and asked for idea about content. It was agreed that the report should highlight the Science Advisory Panel’s report and guidance and summarize other work of the Commission over the year, and current status.

6. Potential Funding to Support CRHC Outreach through NHDES Coastal Program

Sinnott referred to the Notice for Coastal Resilience Technical Assistance Funding issued by the NH Coastal Program and explained that this might be an opportunity to access funding for the CRHC to help with producing, distributing, publicizing and doing outreach for the Commission report. The timing is awkward in that all work must be completed by June 2016, but Sinnott thought this was a good opportunity that our this fit well with two of the eligible project types (education and implementation) Discussion occurred about whether the CRHC could be the recipient of funds. Sinnott thought we would have to find a fiscal agent. RPC could be that but through that because he is chair that could have the appearance of a conflict of interest. Great Bay Stewards or one of the communities might be willing to act in that behalf. Watters suggested that the Senate Council be contacted to determine the ability of the CHRC to receive grant funds.

Sen. Stiles moved, and Sen. Watters seconded to authorize Sinnott to prepare the required Letter of Intent for submission. Approved by voice vote; S. Couture abstained.

7. CRHC October Meeting

Discussion occurred about whether or not the Steering Committee should meet in October and November. It was agreed that the Committee would not meet in October to allow more focus on Working Group activities. Need for a November meeting will be determined later.

8. Shoreline Management Conference

Sinnott noted that the Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve is beginning the planning for an intensive one---day training workshop on managing shorelines in an environment of rising sea levels. The workshop content is largely targeted CRHC members who will need to be well informed about shoreline management options in formulating recommendations.

9. Other Business

none recorded

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Meeting notes prepared by:
Cliff Sinnott --- on behalf of Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk