

NHCRHC Coastal Communities Workgroup Meeting Notes Sept. 19, 2014 9:30 to 11:00 AM

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office Pease International Tradeport

In attendance: Steve Miller Portsmouth, Julie LaBranche RPC, Rep Fred Rice, Sherry Godlewski NHDSE alt, John Rice SBR, Brian Fitzgerald Rye alt, Paul Melanson Hampton Falls, Phil Winslow Rye, Rep Nancy Stiles, Rep David Borden, Rep Chris Muns, David Wood Hampton and Ted Kupper NHDAS.

Absent: Dr. Paul Kirshen UNH, Shep Kroner North Hampton, and Raymond Smith Seabrook.

Observers: Rebecca Newhall NOAA, Cliff Sinnott RPC.

Meeting opened at 9:37 AM

Welcome/Introductions Rep. Fred Rice Chair

Chairman Rice introduced the tasks of the workgroup and facilitated introductions and then recapped the August 15 Organizational Meeting.

Vice Chair Julie LaBranche reviewed materials that were sent out prior to the meeting and reviewed goals of the committee.

The workgroup then discussed feedback on materials and made suggestions.

Chairman Rice asked what does each town need in regards to the task of the workgroup. He stated each town has emergency plans – do not know if these will meet the climate change needs and suggested each NHCRHC town rep sit down with emergency people to find out what each feels it needs – bring back to this group and identify where there are gaps and use this as a way to focus our efforts.

Discussion

Rye does not have evacuation routes, not marked Rye would like enabling legislation to put up signage to evacuation routes, many communities do not post evacuation routes (JL)

Nuclear power plant emergency and weather emergency routes are not the same.

Coastal municipalities should coordinate and post evacuation routes.

Rye where can you move a vehicle to get it out of harm's way during a storm? There needs to be a place where cars can be left during a storm/emergency to reduce damage and loss, need safety parking locations, also are there shelters for people and pets and if so where are they?

RPC is summarizing the 7 coastal communities – FEMA plan review for flood plains, they are designed for today's conditions and not future conditions, so they give a snap shot of what is vulnerable today but not future threats.

Fred proposed a way to move forward is for each NHCRHC rep to sit down with their municipal leaders to review where they are vulnerable, what are their needs, suggest to talk with the police chief, fire, DPW, and town manager; to review flood - storm sea level – rise, the Tides To

Storms project will do this but the time frame is 6-9 months out, need to look at the tools that are already in place.

The CIP looks five years out, 20 years out, so include CIP Chair on the list of people to talk to.

Rep Muns asked how do you position this conversation? It is more than emergency planning, need to present this correctly.

What are the questions? To ask the towns?

Need to find out what they need as much as what they know.

Would be very helpful for the Chair and Vice-chair to come up with the questions to ask the towns.

Set up town meeting now, questions forthcoming.

Within a reasonable range, need some time dimension, what do you see doing in the next ten or fifty years, time frames key, also intro town to the science report at these meetings.

Julie L. will work on the questions and forward these questions to inland group.

Will need more time for next meeting,

We will also need summaries of state level evaluation.

Chris Muns will do review of the VT Law Study and provide it to this group.

Format for presentation – electronic format so it can be shared, Word doc so can be shared with work group, JL will send this to everyone for their use all agreed to use it.

Workgroup Communications – internal & external

What do we need? How do we communicate? Sharing info is OK but deliberating is not OK.

Next meeting on Oct 17, from 8 to 11 AM.

Other Business/Adjourn

There was a discussion about how some people's response to the climate issue is troubling "I won't be here".

Next meeting Agenda discussion, guidance – ten minutes per town public input study JL will report.

Access to full science report – available Monday Sept 22, 2014.