

STATE/LEGISLATIVE WORKGROUP

NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

OCTOBER 17, 2014 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office Pease International
Tradeport 222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603) 559-1500

MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Senator David Watters (Chair-excused 1215), Ted Kupper (Vice Chair), Senator Nancy Stiles, Representative Fred Rice, Edna Feighner, Jennifer Gilbert, Jonathan Pennock, Cory Riley, Kevin Nyhan, Sabrina Stanwood, Steve Couture (for Vicki Quiram), Jonathan Kipp, Robert Cormier

Others Attending: Sherry Godlewski, Cliff Sinnott, Julie Labranche, Ann Scholz, Mary Kate Ryan, Dick Huber

1. Welcome/Introductions -- Sen. David Watters, Chair

Workgroup Chair Senator David Watters began the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Workgroup members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Acceptance of September 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes.

Motion and second to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Unanimous approval.

3. Review of Work Plan Assignments

a. Task D: Assess and evaluate vulnerabilities for state assets.

Edna Feighner will be attending a regional SHPO meeting focused on climate adaptation and will provide an update at the next meeting. She also indicated DRED has no current plans to conduct vulnerability assessments for coastal state park resources, though it has been considered. UNESCO Vulnerability Assessments ([link to Flood Vulnerability index](#)) should be considered.

Cory Riley outlined the F&G habitat model which will include all coastal habitat types. She questioned how the habitat models will be coupled with the assets and infrastructure and mentioned the GRANIT Coastal Viewer (under development) as a potential solution. It was noted that funding would be needed for that option.

The group noted that an overall concern for state agencies in conducting assessments was resources (staff time, funding and expertise).

Kevin Nyhan provided a map depicting NHDOT coastal assets. He noted that NHDOT formed an Asset Management group and is beginning to inventory NHDOT Assets. The inventory will be housed in the State Asset Data System (SADEs) which will also include culverts assessed through the NHDES culvert protocols. This is a good first step for NHDOT that will enable vulnerability assessments in the future.

Sherry Godlewski noted that NHDES has initiated an internal review of all its programs to consider climate change impacts and its programs could address them.

Sabrina Stanwood provided maps with general locations within the Coastal Zone for Exemplary Natural Community & Natural Community Systems Occurrences, Rare Plant Occurrences, and Rare Animal Occurrences. She stressed that if the data was going to be used for vulnerability assessments the specific locations would need to be buffered due to the sensitivity of the information.

b. Task H: Review existing regional adaptation strategies, legislation and executive orders

Senator Watters mentioned that a state level coordinator position either within the Governor's office or at a state

agency may be needed in order for risk and hazard adaptation and mitigation measures to be implemented and tracked over time. In support of that concept, Sherry Godlewski mentioned that Multihazard Mitigation Council study, *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation Activities*, documented that every \$1 spent on mitigation saves society an average of \$4.

Jennifer Gilbert mentioned that she serves on the State Hazard Mitigation review Committee and that they will be considering climate adaptation in future reviews. She also noted that HSEM is developing a Repetitive Loss tool; she will keep the workgroup apprised of its progress.

Kevin Nyhan stated that NHDOT will consider projects' climate vulnerabilities in its next update of the 10 Year Transportation Plan.

Mary Kate Ryan noted that DHR has received a grant to digitize all above ground historic and cultural resources. The data will be available through GRANIT.

c. Task J: Identify legislative actions. (ATTACHED- NY State - Please review prior to meeting)

The workgroup felt the NY legislation was worth investigating and Edna Feighner mentioned MA as another state to investigate. Jonathan Kipp mentioned that the group needs to consider Article 28-A of the NH Constitution relevant to unfunded mandates.

Vice Chair Kupper will inquire if Senator Watter's staff or Senate staff could review the MA and NY legislation and provide a summary of how it could relate to potential legislation for NH.

Steve Couture will email CRHC Chair Cliff Sinnott about posting the NY legislation on the CRHC website.

4. Workgroup communications – internal & external

The workgroup noted a disconnect with communications with the other workgroups. Steve will email CRHC Chair Cliff Sinnott requesting a reminder to the other workgroups about the need to share information and meet right to know requirements.

5. Next meetings:

November 14- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. December 19 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (tentative)

6. Other Business / Adjourn

Sherry Godlewski noted that DoS Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is absent from the workgroup. All concurred it was an oversight and that they should be invited to participate. Vice Chair Kupper will extend an invite to HSEM.

The workgroup would like to have an overview of the Coastal Viewer at a future meeting. Steve Couture will track progress of its development and coordinate a presentation at a future meeting.

Sabrina Stanwood will lead an effort to compile data for Task h: Identify state statutes that are needed to enable municipal and state actions.

Edna Feighner will continue to lead efforts for b.Task H: Review existing regional adaptation strategies, legislation and executive orders.

Cory Riley will disseminate the CRHC Resources List developed by Julie Labranche.