

NHCRHC Coastal Communities Workgroup Meeting Notes Nov 14, 2014 8:00 to 11:00 AM

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office Pease International Tradeport

In attendance: Julie LaBranche RPC, Rep. Fred Rice, David Wood Hampton, Steve Miller Portsmouth, Brian Fitzgerald Rye alt, Paul Melanson Hampton Falls, and Cliff Sinnott.

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Introductions Rep. Fred Rice Chair

2. Julie reported on Stakeholder Input, and reviewed keypad data from climate summit. Biggest needs are examples of adaptation strategies, and estimates of cost and benefits of adaptation strategies. There is a need to get the citizens engaged through education of how this affects their towns and themselves as well as more local examples that link the issue to people and places that we know. Biggest capacity needs to work on adaptation is funding. To motivate people we need examples of what has been successful in other places and to understand the risk associated with CC.

Good discussion of the Seashell as an example of the need for clear guidance about how to build and what to consider when rebuilding in vulnerable areas. Two issues 1. rebuilding and taking advantage of the opportunity to build better and 2. the issue of roads and bridges as well as utilities are a more complex issues and a much more difficult to resolve.

Link to the NECAP <http://necap.mit.edu/necap/>

A key need is a "ten year environmental plan" with a list of prioritized projects on both the state and town level. This list would have documented prioritized issues that need to be addressed, this is a key need when applying for funds and to take advantage of funding/grant opportunities.

Discussion of how the work of the NHCRHC might be carried forward after Dec. 2016.

It would be good to have an exercise, from the perspective of a municipal official what is that you will need to affect the changes needed to effectively deal with adaptation efforts.

3. Hampton is going through a big change in town staff and will need time to complete the report. David will present the Hampton report at the next meeting.

4. Hampton Falls is in the process of completing their report.

5. North Hampton has not been active on the NHCRHC and it would be helpful to find ways to assist them in their report.

6. Julie reported for Chris Munns on the Vermont Law School report regarding reducing risk and legal challenges within projected floodplains. Key points are municipalities do not need to take any specific action related to municipal liability in adopting or failing to adopt new floodplain maps. Do municipalities have the legal authority under state planning and zoning enabling legislation? This should be checked specifically for each issue, the report advises to check the language of the statute to make sure specific authorizations are not being exceeded. What legal standard of scientific and technical reliability must planners meet in order to support

regulatory measures that are based on current and future environmental conditions? The report advises to identify in the ordinance/regulation the reason for adopting or referencing the science/technical information. As long as there is a reasonable justification for using the data the regulatory action will be upheld. What about the issues of Takings? The report advises to identify in the ordinance/regulation the reason for adopting the new information. As long as you have reasonable justification new regulations will be upheld (e.g. protecting the health and welfare of the community from the dangers of the hazard). Make the basis for the regulation clear in the master plan and hazard mitigation plan. Provide flexibility in zoning and regs in order to preserve some economic viable use of the land. The report has many very good recommendations and guidance that is directly applicable to the work of this commission.

7. Discussion of cost of road repair/upkeep as an example of the issue of who pays for work that may only benefit for a few.

8. Deliverables and timeline.

Committees are charged to finish work in December and report out in January 2015.

Suggest take up discussion points from meetings and form these into recommendations.

Next month review vulnerable areas on the maps. Look for commonalities among towns and issues that are town specific.

Finalize report outs from the towns.

Review maps and

Then start throwing recommendations against the wall – brainstorm recommendations and start the process to see what sticks.

Tides to Storms due to be completed next year.

Next meeting date is Dec. 15, 2014 9:00 to 12:00 AM. NHDES Pease Field Office.