

## **STATE/LEGISLATIVE WORKGROUP**

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION**

November 14, 2014 10:00 AM – 12:00 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, Ted Kupper, Representative Fred Rice, Edna Feighner, Jennifer Gilbert, Cory Riley, Kevin Nyhan, Sabrina Stanwood, Jonathan Kipp, Robert Cormier, Sherry Godlewski, Cliff Sinnott, Mary Kate Ryan, Dick Huber, Dave Carron, Pete Kinner

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

Workgroup Chair Senator David Watters began the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Workgroup members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

### **2. Acceptance of October 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes.**

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

### **3. Distributed Information**

NY Plan

Maryland Plan (David will send attachment) Cliff thinks this document may be something the Commission could use.

Boston 2014 Draft Climate Action Plan (updated every three years). Appendix contains facility evaluation and Legislative Action plan.

### **4. Review of Work Plan Assignments**

Task h:

Sabrina made presentation of her document. She would like all to review...this is a draft document...a working document and as such is open for comment.

Sabrina felt that this could be adequate or it could become overwhelming and "out of control".

Please remove or add statutes as we feel necessary. Please send any statutes to Sabrina for her to add.

Should be limited to municipal and State statutes only.

David Watters asked if we should suggest where additional authority is warranted when we recognize it is lacking.

After a lengthy discussion, the following was suggested language that might be considered:

"In light of the adopted science relative to sea level rise, does your Agency need additional Legislative statutes, Rules or other Regulations that would enable your Agency to inventory infrastructure and identify at-risk elements of that infrastructure? Conversely, are there any regulatory barriers that you feel prevent your Agency from responding to the task of infrastructure compilation and identification?"

There was a suggestion that there may be other avenues besides statutes that would encourage communities and Agencies to act without law.

Should there be a statute that compels State Agencies to inventory their assets?

Should we re-survey folks we represent to see if they feel Legislation would be helpful to them in accomplishing this task?

Discussions ensued about funding these suggested laws and/or funding personnel positions to accomplish these tasks.

Does the Federal Government have funding sources that Agencies could tap into?

Maryland and Boston mandate a 3-year review period.

Mandates may be made, through Executive Order, for funding and Agency directive.

What do we think would be useful for our workgroup? There is a filing window to submit Legislation until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in December. Budgets can be submitted until the end of May.

December may be premature to have anything ready to be submitted.

Edna will send link for a National Park Service document that might be helpful. She reminds us that including cultural resources such as libraries, museums, archeology and historic structures are important.

It was pointed out that there is a 1996 Executive Order for the State to comply with municipally adopted codes for flood hazard areas establishing minimum flood elevations.

A discussion regarding the timeline to implement an infrastructure inventory followed:

Should Agencies be given a deadline to consider how climate change will affect them and their assets? ...Or to adopt the science into their Agency's consideration...possibly with a series of dates or milestones for implementation?

Education of Legislators so that they are aware of the science was deemed important.

Legislators could be educated through a Coastal Adaptation presentation or other specific Seminars or Programs.

What would be the most efficient way to get the message out? Perhaps "Lunch and Learns" scheduled for March and April 2015 to the House and Senate would be effective. The Governor could mandate Agency heads to attend educational seminars.

In any case, it would be July 2016 before any bill would be passed and it was thought that Agencies would be working on these issues before any laws were enacted.

**4. Next meetings:**

November 21:	8-10AM, Inland Group
December 5:	9-10:30 AM, Steering Committee
	10:30-AM -12:30PM, Leg/Agency Group
December 15:	9-12AM, Leg/Agency Group
December 19:	10AM-12PM, Full Commission

**5. Other Business / Adjourn**

Meeting adjourns.