

STEERING COMMITTEE
COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, December 5, 2014
9:00AM – 10:30AM

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office
Pease International Tradeport
222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Attending: Representative Fred Rice, Steve Couture, Jennifer Gilbert, Sherry Godlewski, Peter Kinner, Paul Kirshen, Chris Muns, Ann Scholz, and Cliff Sinnott.

Others Attending: Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commission.

Commission Chair Cliff Sinnott began the meeting at 9:05 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2014 Meeting

A motion by Representative Rice was made to accept the Committee's minutes of September 5, 2014. The motion was seconded by Steve Couture. All approved.

2. Workgroup Updates: Status and Progress of Work

Chairman Sinnott stated the workgroups are scheduled to report their recommendations to the full Commission at the January meeting.

A. Coastal Workgroup

Representative Rice began the update by thanking Julie for all her work helping the workgroup keep on track. He stated that the community workgroup members have been tasked with gathering information from other officials in their communities. They have received reports from some of the communities. The information from the communities will be summarized and they will look for the big commonalities.

Chairman Sinnott stated he thought the raw results from the PREP (Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership) survey were now in. The final results are scheduled to be released in February.

Julie stated that the key poll results from the 2014 Coastal NH Climate Summit will be posted soon on the NH StormSmart Coasts web site.

Representative Rice stated the next workgroup will be meeting on December 15.

Julie stated that she presented to the workgroup regarding the Georgetown report. She has also complied information about all the workgroup's discussions, which may be used as preliminary recommendations.

Chairman Sinnott stated the workgroups should be prepared to give a preliminary overview of their recommendations at the December 19 full commission meeting.

Sherry suggested sharing the Inland workgroup's recommendations with the other workgroups, which can be used as guidance.

B. Inland/Great Bay Workgroup

Peter Kinner gave the workgroup's update. He stated the workgroup reviewed several documents and reports (Georgetown report, Durham, FEMA documents, Dover and Exeter studies, and the VT law study) and has been completing the recommendations template. There are still some remaining questions regarding cultural and historical resources. The next workgroup meeting will be on December 19 just prior to the full Commission meeting.

C. State & Legislative Workgroup

Steve Couture gave the workgroup's update. The workgroup has met three times and will be meeting after this meeting to start completing the recommendations template. The workgroup's recommendations will be related to legislation, state statute, or executive order. Maps were produced by the DOT, DRED, and Heritage Bureau showing the state's assets. Additional assets have not been mapped and have been identified as a gap. The workgroup looked at other states' reports and legislation including New York, Boston, Maryland, and Maine. Chairman Sinnott stated he liked the Maryland plan's recommendations since they included exceptions (i.e. for historical or community purposes).

D. General Discussion

The Committee members discussed some lack of representation from some of the communities of the Commission. It also discussed that there is a need to stress that the role of the community representatives is two-way and that they should not only be bringing back information from the Commission but bringing information back to the Commission. It was also suggested that a letter from the Commission be sent to the communities' Board of Selectmen regarding the need for representation and stressing the importance of their representation since the Commission proposes putting forth legislation.

The Committee members also discussed some communication problems between the workgroups. It was suggested when sending the workgroup meeting notes to the workgroup's chair and vice chair that the chair and vice chair of the other workgroups be copied on the email. The workgroups should also be posting their meeting's agendas and notes on the Commission's web site.

It is anticipated that the workgroups will continue to meet for another month past the January full Commission meeting in order to wrap things up. The workgroups will need to continue meeting at separate times to allow some members to attend more than one workgroup meeting.

3. Followup – Letter of Interest (LOI) re NHDES Coastal Program Funding for potential coastal resilience technical assistance

Chairman Sinnott stated that he put together a letter of interest on behalf of the Commission for NHDES Coastal Program funding but that it was not selected. The Committee members discussed other potential resources including the Coastal Economic Development Corporation, the Charitable Fund, and the New England Grassroots Environment Fund.

Paul asked about the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development National Disaster Resiliency Competition. Sherry stated that the Governor's office and other state agencies have met to discuss whether to submit an application for this grant. There is another meeting on Monday, December 8.

4. Annual Report to Legislature

Chairman Sinnott stated the Commission's Annual Report, which is a status report from the Chair, has not been submitted yet. He stated that he will send it out before the full Commission meeting on December 19 and will include it as an agenda item for that meeting.

5. CRHC Timeline & General Status Review/Discussion

The Committee members discussed the Commission's proposed timeline. The changes that were discussed to be changed to the timeline include: moving the start for the Vulnerability Assessment from 2015 Q1 to 2015 Q2 and extend the Evaluate Responses/Measures from 2015 Q2 to 2015 Q3.

Julie volunteered to develop a snapshot document of all related studies and documents.

6. December and January Commission agendas

The Committee members discussed the December full Commission agenda and that it will include the workgroup updates, the timeline, and summaries of other states' reports. Chris suggested also having the community officials and state agencies give updates at the meeting. The Committee meeting discussed how the updates could be done in one meeting. Peter stated that he felt it was more of a priority for the Commission to spend time on the other states' report summary. Chairman Sinnott stated he will work on a summary of the Maryland plan and Steve will work on a summary of the New York legislation.

Chairman Sinnott stated someone from NOAA is interested in presenting information about their Coastal Services' assessment tools at the January meeting.

7. Other Business

A. GBNEER Shoreline Management Conference - CRHC registration

Sherry asked who at the meeting had registered for the conference. She stated that approximately 90 people had signed up with only about half the Commission membership signed up. The registration deadline is Monday, December 8.

B. Other

None.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Meeting notes prepared by:
Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk