

STEERING COMMITTEE
COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, February 6, 2015
9:00AM – 11:15AM

Rockingham Planning Commission
Conference Room
156 Water Street, Exeter, NH

Attending: Senator David Watters, Representative Fred Rice, Jennifer Gilbert, Sherry Godlewski, Kirsten Howard, Peter Kinner, Ted Kupper, Julie LaBranche, Chris Muns, Cory Riley, Ann Scholz, Cliff Sinnott, Roger Stephenson, and Senator Stiles.

Commission Chair Cliff Sinnott began the meeting at 9:08 AM.

1. Introduction

Chairman Sinnott introduced Kirsten Howard, who is now the Coastal Resilience Specialist for the NH Coastal Program. One of her responsibilities is to help the Commission. She is also working on other projects related to assessing ecosystems and shoreland management issues.

2. Recent Reports/Policies of Interest

Chairman Sinnott gave a brief overview of a recent report and a federal policy.

A. U.S. Army Corps Northeast Analysis Report

The North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study: Resilient Adaptation to Increasing Risk report includes state analyses. New Hampshire is shown in the report to be located at the lower end of risk. Figure 1 in Appendix D shows New Hampshire with a low storm impact.

B. Executive Order – Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

Executive Order 13690 revises Executive Order 11988, which directs federal agencies and federally funded projects, and proposes a new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. The Standard gives federal agencies flexibility to select one of three approaches. They can:

- Use best-available, actionable climate science;
- Build 2 feet above the 100-year (1% annual chance) flood elevation for standard projects and 3 feet above for critical buildings (i.e. hospitals); or
- Build to the 500-year (0.2% annual chance) flood elevation.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2015 Meeting

A motion by Representative Rice was made to accept the Committee's minutes of January 9, 2015. The motion was seconded by Senator Stiles. All approved.

4. Tides-to-Storms Vulnerability Assessment Update

Julie presented an overview of this project, which will identify areas that will have impacts to infrastructure, critical facilities and natural systems. Six scenarios can be looked at for each of these impact areas. The results of the vulnerability assessment will be used for regional planning recommendations and for community's hazard mitigation plans.

One of the maps Julie showed was a DOT transportation asset map, which shows the various types of assets that are at risk. An accompanying spreadsheet shows further details including the total assets in each town under the six sea level rise scenarios. A map showed how 90 percent of Route 1A could be impacted by 2100. She stated that local roads could be impacted as much as state roads.

Julie stated that the mapping will be completed in the next couple of weeks. An assessment report and town profiles will also be completed.

Kirsten suggested including a caveat to towns that the mapping includes the marshes and if there are less marshes there may be more flooding.

Cory stated that Paul Kirshen and Dave Burdick (both from UNH) are currently working on a study that is looking at infrastructure without marshes.

Chris asked if dams were included. The reply was yes.

5. Consolidated Workgroup Recommendations – 1st Pass

The Committee began the process of reviewing each of the workgroups' recommendations, which were consolidated by a small group of the Committee. Below is a summary of the general comments and changes to the recommendations.

- The purpose of Goal 1 is to use the Science and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) report and update.
- Use the STAP Report to identify critical gaps.
- Existing and ongoing efforts are identified in the appendix.
- The objective is working toward one standard specifically for NH.

The Committee then discussed how to present the workgroups' recommendations to the full Commission. The Committee decided to move the recommendations from Excel into a Word document and have a small group consolidate the number of recommendations further. A revised consolidated version will then be sent to the full Commission for discussion at the February 20 meeting. The Committee was asked to further review the recommendations and to email Julie or Sherry about any red-flag issues by next week.

6. Other Business

A. February & March Commission Agendas

At the February meeting, the Commission will review the recommendations to see the basic organization of the template and to flag any recommendations that need further work. The Steering Committee will then do more work

at its March 6 meeting. The Committee agreed to start the February 20 meeting an hour earlier (at 9 AM) to allow for presentations from NOAA regarding climate trends and their new coastal tools.

At the March meeting, the Commission will discuss how to get from here to the draft report, hear a presentation about the Tides to Storms project, and more information about the new Federal Executive Order.

Cory suggested that the recommendations from the Shoreland Conference in December be presented and considered by the Commission. Sherry stated they can add the recommendations from the Shoreland Conference into the recommendations template.

B. Other

Two items were shared:

- Brown University's Choices Program now offers curriculum about climate change.
- U.S. Global Change Research Program – Sea Level Rise Tool

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Meeting notes prepared by:

Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk