

# STEERING COMMITTEE

## COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, April 3, 2015  
9:00AM – 11:00AM

Legislative Office Building  
Room 101  
Concord NH

**Attending:** Senator Nancy Stiles, Senator David Watters, Representative David Wood, Steve Couture (NHDES), Jennifer Gilbert (NHOEP), Sherry Godlewski (NHDES), Kerry McHugh (NH Governor's Office) Kevin Nyhan (NHDOT), Ann Scholz (NHDOT), Chairman Cliff Sinnott (RPC), and Ben Wilson (NHDRED).

Commission Chair Cliff Sinnott began the meeting at 9 AM.

### 1. Welcome/Introductions

Chairman Sinnott welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### 2. Meeting Purpose; Initial Comments from Kerry McHugh, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

Senator Watters described the meeting's purpose and his discussions to date with Kerry.

### 3. Overview of Executive Order 13690 - Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) and *Draft Guidelines for Implementing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard*; Review of public comment process

Jennifer gave an overview of Executive Order 13690 and the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. She distributed a brief summary and a timeline, which will be posted on the Commission's web site. She also distributed copies of the comments that were submitted by the New York Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association and the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management on the draft *Guidelines for Implementing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard*.

### 4. Comments from State Agency Reps. regarding perceived positive and negative effects of the Executive Order

Below is a summary of the discussion:

- NHDOT already goes beyond the minimum requirements by requiring 1 foot above 100-year flood.
- One climate-based standard for state but be flexible based on project type/cost/risk; case-by-case basis as appropriate.
- Our Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) report says what will happen but not how to design to it; a few steps are needed that we haven't taken yet.
- The STAP report is not a statewide standard but a coastal standard.
- Need for flexibility in funding.
- For agencies to use the best available climate standard.

### 5. Comment process and other State responses to date

- The group agreed on submitting public comment. The Committee will help develop the "whereas" statements and the Governor's office will develop the cover letter.
- The group agreed to follow the New York and New Jersey resolution examples.

## 6. Formulating comments for New Hampshire

- Cliff will start draft of “whereas” statements based on today’s discussion, which included:
  - Importance of a thriving economy.
  - Future federal investments done in a way that address future flood risk.
  - Use of federal standard as appropriate.
  - Science based approach to NH.
  - Cultural resources; NH is an old state.
  - Assuring eligibility of federal funding.
  - Community resilience.
  - Climate change impact on increased precipitation.

## 7. Next Steps

- Cliff and Senator Watters will talk to discuss the Commission’s response next Friday. They will then send the draft to Kerry. The comment period ends on May 6, 2015.

## 8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned.

Meeting notes prepared by:  
Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk