

**New Hampshire Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission (RSA 483-E)
Meeting Minutes**

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

April 17, 2015
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Name	Representation	In Attendance
Arcieri, Bill	Town of Newmarket	
Becker, Dr. Mimi	Town of Exeter	
Bird, Steve	City of Dover	Yes
Borden, Rep. David	Town of New Castle	
Bowman, Peter	Alternate, NH DRED – Division of Forests and Lands	
Caron, David	NH Municipal Association	
Carroll, Patrick	Town of Rollinsford	
Cormier, Robert	Homebuilders and Remodelers Association of NH	Yes
Couture, Steve	Alternate, Department of Environmental Services	Yes
Cushing, Rep. Renny	Representative, NH District 21	
Feighner, Edna	NH Division of Historical Resources	
Fitzgerald, Brian	Alternate, Town of Rye	Yes
Gilbert, Jennifer	NH Office of Energy and Planning	Yes
Godlewski, Sherry	NH Department of Environmental Services	Yes
Hawkins, Don	Town of Seabrook	Yes
Houle, Jamie	Town of Durham	
Huber, Richard	Alternate, Town of Exeter	Yes
Kinner, Peter	Town Greenland	Yes
Kipp, Jonathan	NH Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex)	Yes
Kirshen, Dr. Paul	University of NH	Yes
Kroner, Shep	Town of North Hampton	
Kupper, Theodore	NH DAS – Bureau of Public Works, Design & Construction	Yes
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls	
Miller, Steve	City of Portsmouth	
Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington	Yes
Nyhan, Kevin	NH Department of Transportation	
O’Sullivan, Michael	Town of Madbury	
Pennock, Jonathan	UNH Marine Program & NH Sea Grant Program	
Pimental, Kyle	Strafford Regional Planning Commission	
Rice, Rep. Fred	Representative, NH District 21	

Name	Representation	In Attendance
Rice, John	Seacoast Board of Realtors	
Riley, Cory	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR	Yes
Ryan, Mary Kate	Alternate, NH Division of Historical Resources	
Scholz, Ann	Alternate, NH Department of Transportation	Yes
Sinnott, Cliff	Rockingham Planning Commission	Yes
Smith, Raymond	Town of Seabrook	
Stanwood, Sabrina	NH DRED – Division of Forests and Lands	Yes
Stephenson, Roger	Town of Stratham	
Stiles, Sen. Nancy	Senator, NH District 24	
Watters, Sen. David	Senator, NH District 4	Yes
Winslow, Phil	Town of Rye	Yes
Wolek, Gail	NH DRED – Division of Parks and Recreation	Yes
Wood, Rep. David	Town of Hampton	

Others in Attendance

Name	Representation
Howard, Kirsten	NH Coastal Program - Department of Environmental Services
LaBranche, Julie	Rockingham Planning Commission
Pruyne, Robert Jr.	Rockingham Planning Commission

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chairman Cliff Sinnott started the meeting at 9:10 am and welcomed everyone. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Introductions were made around the room.

Chairman Sinnott stated that Chris Muns will likely not be attending any further Commission meetings due to his new position. He thanked Chris for all of his work on the Commission.

2. Coastal Adaptation Workgroup – EPA Environmental Merit Award Recipient

Chairman Sinnott stated the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) was nominated by Trish Garrigan of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 for an Environmental Merit Award for the group's hands on assistance with small communities. CAW will receive the award on April 22, 2015 at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Mimi Becker will also be recognized by the EPA and will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the same ceremony.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes of March 27, 2015

A motion by Tom Morgan was made to accept the minutes of March 27, 2015. The motion was seconded by Senator Watters. Jonathan Kipp abstained. Sabrina noted a correction needed in the minutes regarding the date of the next meeting, which should be April 27 and not April 17. All approved.

4. Live Demonstration of the Coastal Viewer

Kirsten Howard gave a demonstration of the Coastal Viewer and showed some of its features. She noted that the Viewer is a screening tool and is not to be used for design purposes. The Viewer has 2 years of support funding.

Comments by Commission members regarding the sea level rise data layer included adding more depth resolution (i.e. 3 foot increments), to be able to identify sea level rise point areas, more explanation about what you're looking at, and to not use predictions but use scenarios.

Senator Watters stated that we may want to include a demonstration of the Coastal Viewer when the Commission makes recommendations available to the public in September. Chairman Sinnott stated that the Commission could create pre-made maps.

Paul asked if we can make our Scientific Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) report to be consistent with the sea level rise data in the Viewer. The response was it can't because the sea level rise data in the Viewer was done using different scenarios.

Cory asked how much would cost to add scenarios. Robert Pruyne, Jr. responded that the scenarios shown are part of the Cameron Wake report. RPC can add more scenarios for a small cost. The initial cost to create the Digital Elevation Model was \$20,000, however adding new scenarios would cost much less.

Phil stated that the Commission members need to understand the data before the public release.

Jennifer stated that the floodplain layer in the Viewer is the current 2005 FEMA floodplain areas. Once the new coastal maps become effective they will be incorporated into the viewer.

5. Initial Results of Coastal Vulnerability Assessment from Tides to Storms Project

Julie LaBranche gave an overview of the Tides to Storms project. She stated the proposed timeline for the project is as follows:

- May 2015 – complete assessment and launch web site
- June 2015 – workshop to present assessments
- May-September 2015 – RPC staff to meet with municipalities
- Draft climate change chapters for hazard mitigation plans. Currently updating Rye and Hampton's plans
- Prepare recommendations, actions, and strategies.

6. Review of Suggested CRHC Comments on Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

Senator Watters convened a meeting with staff from the Governor's office about submitting comments on the implementation guidelines for the new federal executive order that established the new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. At that meeting there was a discussion of other states' comments on the implementation guidelines. Chairman Sinnott drafted a memo regarding the Commission's comments.

Chairman Sinnott asked for comments from the Commission. The comments are due on May 6, 2015 but the Governor's office needs time before then. He and Senator Watters will get the comments in final form on Monday.

Senator Watters suggested including a "whereas" that NH has a standard developed that we intend to use.

Gail suggested including the need to address and protect cultural and historic resources.

It was decided that bullet #2 needs more work.

Chairman Sinnott asked Commission members to email him with any additional comments on the memo by Monday afternoon.

7. Next Steps on Refining Consolidated Recommendations & Actions

The following is a summary of the discussion:

- Reorder actions (i.e. short-term to long-term)
- Create graphic of goals
- Detailed version of recommendations in appendix
- Need process to review recommendations by May meeting
- Between now and May 15th meeting, Commission members review recommendations and bring top-level objections to meeting
- Small group will continue to work on tweaks and completing the responsible parties section
- Small group will send out revised document on May 1 or 4 and then Commission members will review and offer comments

8. Next CAW Workshop: *Preparing our Coastal Communities: Using Climate Science to Guide NH Decisions for Today and Tomorrow*

This CAW workshop will be held on April 30, 2015 from 5 to 7:30 pm at the Hugh Gregg Center in Greenland. Commission members are encouraged to register and attend.

9. Next Meeting: May 15th – Agenda Items

The proposed agenda items for the May 15th meeting include a check in on the recommendations and the Commission's communication strategy.

10. Other Business

Steve Couture mentioned the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) request for proposals, which has a June 5, 2015 deadline. He will email everyone a link to it.

Julie announced that the Tides to Storms project has been extended to include inland areas.

Chairman Sinnott stated that the Paul's proposal for a state shoreland plan was not invited to apply. There will be an effort to try again.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM.

Meeting Notes Prepared By:
Jennifer Gilbert, Commission Clerk