

**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

July 17, 2015
9:00 AM – 11:30 PM

Name	Representation	In Attendance
Arcieri, Bill	Town of Newmarket	
Bird, Steve	City of Dover	
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	
Couture, Steve	Alternate, Department of Environmental Services	X
Cushing, Rep. Renny	Representative, NH District 21	X
Feighner, Edna	NH Division of Historical Resources	X
Fitzgerald, Brian	Alternate, Town of Rye	X
Gilbert, Jennifer	NH Office of Energy and Planning	X
Godlewski, Sherry	NH Department of Environmental Services	
Hawkins, Don	Town of Seabrook	
Houle, Jamie	Town of Durham	
Huber, Richard	Alternate, Town of Exeter	X
Kinner, Peter	Town Greenland	X
Kipp, Jonathan	NH Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex)	X
Kirshen, Dr. Paul	University of NH	
Kroner, Shep	Town of North Hampton	
Kupper, Theodore	NH DAS – Bureau of Public Works, Design & Construction	
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls	
Miller, Steve	City of Portsmouth	
Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington	
Nyhan, Kevin	NH Department of Transportation	X
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	
Rice, John	Seacoast Board of Realtors	X

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

Others in Attendance

Name	Representation	In Attendance
Howard, Kirsten	NH Coastal Program - Department of Environmental Services	X
LaBranche, Julie	Rockingham Planning Commission	X
Olson, Neil	NHDES/Geological Survey	X

1. Welcome/Introductions

- Call to order at 9:09am
- Introductions done for Representative Renny Cushing (Hampton, District 21) who is attending his first full meeting.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of June 12, 2015

- A. Edit to commissioner from Town of Seabrook, delete Raymond Smith—should be Dawn Hawkins representing Seabrook
- B. Cliff reviewed Commission schedule details laid out in last meeting:
 - i. Plan to review draft recommendation report at September meeting
 - ii. Commission will hold two focus group meetings: during day and evening, one municipal, other focused on elected/community members—Sherry Godlewski and Steve Miller are organizing.
 - iii. Jonathan Kipp reminded about need to approve minutes
- C. Motion to approve 6/12/2015 minutes by Sabrina Stanwood
 - i. Seconded by Gail Wolek
 - ii. None opposed
 - iii. David Wood and Jonathan Kipp abstained

3. Other business:

- A. Steve Couture explains new funding opportunity through NOAA and requests letter of support from Commission. The NH Coastal Program is applying with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and NERACOOS, and the application has two key parts:
 - i. High Resolution Coastal Inundation Modeling led by NERACOOS
 - Goal is to have information like river flood forecast, predict inundation

- 24-48 hours out
 - Will be able to start answering questions about the connection between freshwater and saltwater flooding in Great Bay and inland communities
 - ii. NH Coastal Protection Green Infrastructure Assessment, Key partners include GBNERR, UNH, The Nature Conservancy, and other state coastal programs
 - Senator Watters asked if DOT would be involved to discuss road infrastructure and bridges and culverts
 - a. Steve responded that DOT would likely be at the table
 - iii. Senator Watters moved to authorize Chair to write letter of support
 - Peter Kinner seconded
 - Discussion: Richard Huber brought up the Exeter grant proposal for dam removal from the \$4 million NMFS grant opportunity
 - Steve Couture responded that \$4 million is different pot of funds than what the Coastal Program wants to apply for through the National Ocean Service so the two projects aren't in conflict with each other.
 - Cliff: Is this seen as chipping away at doing a Comprehensive Shoreline Management Plan?
 - a. Kirsten and Steve responded that it is a start.
 - All in favor, except abstention from Steve Couture.
 - Kirsten and Cliff to draft letter together.

4. Update from Report Drafting Work Group –Kirsten Howard, NHCP [revised outline as part of handouts]

- A. Kirsten explained that the report drafting work group had met twice to begin drafting the report based on the outline approved by the Commission. Participants on the work group include Cliff Sinnott, Sherry Godlewski, Julie LaBranche, Kirsten Howard, Steve Couture, Cory Riley, and Renny Cushing. Other members are welcome to participate.
- Rich commented on Section 10: I think we could add a section about “How we do it.” Recommendations for specific programs, education—essentially an Implementation Plan
- Edna: Will DHR be asked to participate in vulnerability assessment section on cultural and historical resources?
 - Gail: On recreation resources, lots of info in PPT brought forward.
 - Julie will get in touch with both groups.
 - Cliff: Should Economic Development add the word Recreation to the title?
 - Edna: suggest no. Others seemed to agree.
- Peter: From the Great Bay community perspective, it would be nice to incorporate the next study on vulnerability that the planning commissions are going to do.
 - Julie: project is Called Climate Ready Culverts and Municipalities. RPC and SRPC will try to have some vulnerability info on inland communities for the report by winter. Won't be in draft, but will be in final version of the report.
- Should we list all other activities in this realm that are going on somewhere in the report?
 - Senator Watters agreed this is a good idea. Doesn't have to be in printed version of report.
 - Cliff: Idea is that it is going to be short. Target is 25 pages in main body. It won't be possible to explain everything in that document.
 - Gail: Beauty of appendices, the data we collect will be used by different interests in different ways.
 - General agreement to try to include an appendix or link to a list of ongoing projects.

Kirsten, Coastal Program intern, and CAW are working on the list.

- Kevin: At last meeting, we talked about what is already being done by private groups as well as public groups. Where does that fall in the outline?
 - Cliff: Under economic development piece. Perhaps as success stories or examples.
- Senator Watters asked how will recommendations be organized?
 - We're still deciding. Possibly by goal and then by audience or timeframe.
 - Kirsten will send latest version of draft recommendations to Senator Watters
 - Will also create 2 page communication documents for different audiences
- Cliff: Let's go back to Rich's recommendation on a Section 10.
 - Jonathan Kipp: Who will this section be for? The Commission? Others who are supposed to implement the recommendations?
 - Senator Watters: Supervise ongoing efforts. Set up an Advisory Committee that would continue to do work?
 - Julie: Implementation plan might focus on short term recommendations in more detail
 - Kevin: I suggest that we end with recommendations—our mission is to make recommendations
- 5. Review result from breakout groups next steps: Communications and Outreach Strategy for the Commission—*Roger Stephenson, Kirsten Howard*
 - A. Cliff: tabling this piece because we need Roger here. This really kicks in after we have a draft report—even a final report. Kirsten put the notes into a spreadsheet that Roger is looking at.
- 6. Tides to Storms Coastal Vulnerability Assessment—Initial Results and Outreach, *Julie LaBranche, RPC [See PPT presentation for details]*
 - A few key points:
 - A. Intention was to take National Climate Assessment projections and map vulnerabilities, and ultimately adapt hazard mitigation plans for municipalities to include climate adaptation
 - B. Although critical facilities might not be inundated, often roadways to get to them are inundated so that's considered an impact to roadways
 - C. You plan differently for daily inundation from SLR vs. episodic/low probability storm event
 - D. Phil: identified an error for Seabrook in 2F to be corrected
 - E. Senator Watters: key strategy for report is that we should plan for 100-year flood twice every day—good argument for us to focus on. Key point to highlight in report.
 - F. Julie has met with a couple communities so far—Rye and Seabrook. Plans to meet with more. Had great participation.
 - i. Phil: she's being modest. Done outstanding job in Rye. Got lots of people together.
 - G. Regional Considerations for Critical Facilities and Infrastructure on slide.
 - i. Jonathan Kipp: are schools included in critical facilities?
 - Julie: yes
 - ii. Edna: I want to hear that some of the bridges and culverts and other infrastructure are cultural and historical resources. Suggest adding that detail to the narrative.
 - iii. David Wood: telephone exchange/switching center near Winnacunet High School is important. Is that included? If that goes out, every phone in Hampton would be off including 911.
 - Julie: we can look. Not sure. Sensitivity seems to be at 4 feet of SLR.

That's when you really start to see big tipping point impacts.

- H. Watters: Under existing state statutes, do municipalities have authority to zone based on SLR?
 - i. Julie: I think so.
 - ii. Cliff: Same question as Vermont Law School study, can municipalities act? Answer was yes.
- I. Rye and Hampton both received PREP grants to apply to the FEMA Community Ratings System for FEMA
- J. Senator Watters: Could we identify areas in new floodplain/wetland migration areas where residents get tax break if they establish easements/current use or conservation to forgo future development rights?
Marked as possible recommendation ideas:
 - i. *Julie: Don't need districts. Just need to create a map that shows important areas that can then be prioritized.*
 - ii. *Might modify Current Use definition to incorporate smaller areas than currently allowed. Now it's 10 acres. But could be reduced.*
 - iii. *Municipalities/State could also reorient Open Space to require that they accommodate flooding areas.*
- K. Edna: be sure to include Historic District Commissions in meetings
 - i. Julie: We do include Federal and State Historic properties on maps, but need to sit down with DHR to manually ID other areas and add to map layers.
- 7. Analysis of Shoreline Change on the New Hampshire Coast—*Neil Olson, N.H. Geological Survey [See PPT slides for more detail]*
 - A. This talk looks at the recent trends from data that we have about the recent past and current trends. Neil discussed background of BOEM project, unit of analysis (beaches), and methods (LiDAR and historic aerial photographs).
 - B. Sabrina Standwood: It looks like the coastline is shifting to me. Is that happening?
 - i. Neil: It's possible that this shows that. But also remember it is a snapshot in time.
 - C. Rep. Renny Cushing: Looks like Great Boar's Head is a dividing line? Is that true?
 - i. Neil: Didn't look at longshore transport. Can't say all that much.
 - D. Cliff: Would it be reasonable to expect that as the SLR rises, the beach would rise?
 - i. Neil: You would expect the waves to push sand further back from a process standpoint as sea level rises. But this analysis isn't long enough to capture that. Didn't look at amount of sand in floors of harbors—LiDAR can't capture below water well.
 - E. Showed linear regression analysis of aerial imagery. Showed analysis of historic dredge/sand nourishment projects.
 - F. Management advisory perspective:
 - i. Good to gather as many lines of evidence as possible, using the two lines, you can see that deposition is happening in Hampton and Seabrook, and beaches further north are struggling, in particular North Beach and Plaice Cove. Further north of those two the volume changes are fairly small.
 - ii. We don't have nearly the problems that some coastlines nearby and elsewhere have. It's generally fairly stable.
 - iii. Dick Huber: It's a baseline. As things change we can understand that change better.
 - iv. Rep. Renny Cushing: 1935 is when they created the State Park in Hampton

Beach. But for the seawall at North Beach, Route 1A would be further inland.

- v. Phil Winslow: Rye Harbor will be dredged in the next 3 years. Does DES work with Army Corps to figure out what to do with it?
 - o Steve: It is always discussed. Cost. Need to find a willing recipient. We try to get beneficial reuse.

8. Commission Member Roundtable

- A. Rebecca Newhall from NOAA wanted to explain a training viewer.
 - i. Two part training. August 11. First work yourself. Second part is a webinar to learn about application. Cliff will share link.
- B. Cliff opened it up to other members. No comments.
 - i. Dick: movies. Last Call. Based on book Limits to Growth. Based on 30 years of research out of MIT. Merchants of Doubt: explains how tobacco industry spin doctors have been hired by the energy industry. On web too. Inside Out: Pixar movie to help you deal with fear, anger, and disgust from watching the other movies.

9. Other Business

- A. 11th Water, Weather, Climate, and Community Workshop
- B. Next meeting: No August meeting.
 - i. Steering Committee does need to meet. First Friday is Labor Day weekend so SC meeting second Friday of September (September 11, 2015). Full Commission September 25, 2015.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Phil Winslow.
- Seconded by Jonathan Kipp.
- Adjourned at 11:45am.

Meeting Notes Prepared By:

Kirsten Howard of the NHDES Coastal Program, acting for Commission Clerk Sherry Godlewski