STEERING COMMITTEE
COASTAL RISKS AND HAZARDS COMMISSION

Friday, November 6th, 2015

9:00AM – 11:00AM

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

Minutes

Attending: Cliff Sinnott, Cory Riley, Senator David Watters, Ann Scholz, Representative Fred Rice, Senator Nancy Stiles, Representative Renny Cushing, Jennifer Gilbert, Sherry Godlewski
Others attending: Kirsten Howard, Julie LaBranche

1. Call to Order
9:03am
Quorum present

2. Approval of Minutes from June 5th, 2015 Meeting* *(Attached)*
June 5 meeting minutes
Cory Riley makes motion to accept minutes
Fred Rice seconds motion
Senator Stiles abstains
Sherry abstains
Cliff clarifies that you don't have to abstain if you didn't attend the meeting.
Minutes approved

Review of Meeting Notes from October 2nd 2015*
** a quorum was not present at the October 2 meeting*

3. Draft Report – – *Kirsten Howard*
a. Report revisions since last meeting

- Kirsten Howard gave update
- Senator Watters: we should seek approval of where we are at the upcoming Commission meeting
- Rep. Rice: leaner meaner version of the recommendations
- Senator Stiles: this still needs a summary
- Sinnott: one version has all the tasks, but one that just has the recommendations
- Rep Rice: good detailed staff work, now we need to be something that people can look at
- LaBranche: ultimately implementers are going to look at these recommendations as a work plan
- Rep Rice: in other formats you might see all of this stuff and an appendix. I don't want to see audiences put this on the shelf.

    - Rep. Cushing: I read it and I thought it was succinct. Recommendations are less than a sentence.
- Godlewski: for the Commission we need to provide them with this detail, with the caveat that specific audiences will get summarized information.
- Rep Rice: it's still a lot for people who have never seen it before
- Senator Watters: we have a year to do this, it's important to get all of this into one document. Most people will enter it in the Executive Summary and in the two pagers. We have a year.
- Rep Rice: agreed
- Ann Scholz: look at the STAP fact sheet. Also question about this document—is it going to be a chapter in this report?
- Howard: yes, section 9
- Sinnott: Climate Action Plan—set up as a reference document
    - Sherry: online you can look at specific chapters
- Rep. Cushing: Icon for legislation should be a scroll or state house dome.
- Senator Watters: people are moving fast on what they think about this issue. Perspectives are changing.
- Senator Stiles: primary focus of that conference was flooding.
- Godlewski: Molly doesn't like that it's Our Built Environment—Our Built Infrastructure
    - Watters: How about Our Built Landscape? (Kirsten will make change)
- Watters: will pass along some text to adjust definition of economy, exchange of goods and services
- Riley: good job organizing it
- LaBranche: Could include a side box in the sections of the report
- Stiles: Change the budget dates on last recommendations—18-19, 20-21

b. Requested action(s) of Commission on Nov. 13

Senator Watters:

- Approve current draft for public use—to share with public and gather feedback
- For use in public hearings and meetings
- Good to have a motion written
- Approve for public review—not approving the document contents, but approving for public review phase, clarify that there will be changes

Sinnott:

- Useful way of describing it. I'm interested in the review and comments we get.

Godlewski:

- Ask are these good draft recommendations that we can start shopping?
- Ask for confirmation that the report is a draft

Rep Rice:

- Are we looking for tweaks or revisions?
- Cliff: Revisions

LaBranche: Ask of Commission if the draft recommendations are ready for approval.

Cliff: bifurcating the draft into the recommendations—on Friday we approve the recommendations for discussion group use. The writers don't think the report is at the right stage for public consumption yet.

Cory: Need a nod that we're far enough along that we can shop recommendations around to specific groups. Then in February we'd incorporate tweaks/revisions to the recommendations and we'd have a report with a review process.

Sherry: Get the approval of the recommendations.

Renny: Will the discussion groups have the context?

Cliff: The two page STAP report gives good assumptions about the science

Senator Stiles: why would we have anyone comment on the report?

Cliff: Eventually we do—there may be some information that's wrong or missing.

Senator Stiles: Why do we want people to comment on the report?
Senator Watters: Educational function—period of 6 months, they have a report, it can be read and discussed in public meetings. Once we file a report, there'll be a press release. But then we can't capture the public's attention for the whole effort.
Senator Stiles: That's in the recommendations
Cliff: The report needs review but not from the public. Making sure the facts are right. That can happen on a parallel track. The two come back together in February.

e. Other
4. Legislation filed re CRHC Draft Recommendations – *Senator Watters***
First item:

- Meeting with Meredith Hatfield on Monday morning, concerns about asking them to do something that's too costly to do

Gilbert: Hatfield wasn't at the Steering Committee, she wants more information about what it involves.
Godlewski: One concern is that OEP is an Executive Office, so the agency could be changed by a future governor. Any other state agency is not an Executive Office.
Scholz: does the convener review information? Or do they get a group together? This group asks someone to do the work for them.
Riley: the group will need to find resources to convene a group of experts
Watters: purposefully left vague, if I make it too specific it will have to go through rules
LaBranche: reference the report. Do we mention UNH as the researchers?
Sinnott: maybe strike "and planning recommendations"
Suggested changes were:

- 2018 for agency audit deadline
- Couture: must implement the use of sea-level rise…
- Stiles: and take appropriate action
- Sinnott: different agencies will have different requirements, get our lever in there

After some discussion, the legislators agreed that legislation is a safer approach than an executive order.

Sinnott: what about design specifications in the report? They aren't really clear.
Riley: We're not referring people to the casual design standards in the report. We want to recommend that people go to the science in the report.
Sinnott: Should we refine the door that was opened by the STAP with regard to design specs? Do we need more guidance on how to deal with uncertainty?
Riley: We could put some big takeaways in the report about assessment and implementation.
Sinnott and Rice agreed: Important to leave flexibility.
LaBranche: use some of the Tides to Storms recommendations to deal with this.
Scholz: going down the right path—DOT works under Federal Highway Guidance, looking at the EO, then other things come into the decision like wetlands guidance.
Sinnott: I will take a stab at an overarching "guidance" section.

Will a report in February meet the legislature's needs?
Sinnott: I just want the context. I'll have the STAP report. Late January hearings.
Godlewski: We'll get a draft out by then.

Watters: Motion at 11-13 Commission meeting will be to accept the draft recommendations for public discussions.

5. Municipal Discussion (Focus) Groups & Plans to date -- *Sherry Godlewski***
Sherry Godlewski summarized the discussion group plan. Molly Connors from NH Cooperative Extension is helping. Need to pick dates. There will be four discussion groups, all with well-trained facilitators.

Discussion Group Questions as of now:
Are there recommendations that are important that aren't included?
How would these recommendations help you prepare?
What do you need to feel comfortable discussing these recommendations in your community?

Stiles: have two communities at one table so they can get input from elsewhere but also work on their.
Cushing: could also slice groups by function rather than by town
Watters: people like CAW process so much because it mixes people up
LaBranche: benefit of putting the collective vision from one municipality
Sinnott: are we trying to foster a regional approach and interaction?
LaBranche and Riley agreed: seems like the second phase to foster…
Godlewski: There will be a report out. Need to take all info from flip charts and someone will type it up and respond. We need to respond to criticism or all input. Let them know we were listening. Lets them read all the info at the groups.
Rep Rice: Have the teams from neighboring communities work together. Merits on both sides. Suggestion with full teams from a couple towns around each table is preferable. Need SHEA together. Need North Hampton and Rye together.

Suggested dates: December 8 and December 17 (morning and evening on both days)

Sinnott: Will the questions lead people to talk about specific recommendations? Maybe it will come out. We might want to prompt that thinking.
Riley: Could chunk out the specific recommendations.
Godlewski: Questions will be asked in the specific groups. Some leading questions: what issues are you finding in your town?
Riley: so you won't share the actions?
Sinnott: agree. Pull out the municipal group recommendations.
Watters: Are historical groups included?
Godlewski: Yes and I will add harbormasters to list.
Godlewski: sheet of paper on table for additional comments. CAW members will help facilitate.
Sinnott: maybe we'll get things that we've overlooked. Will there be media participation?
Godlewski: hold onto that idea for when we do public.
Stiles: if you put this in the paper, you'll get lots of phone calls about why people weren't invited.

6. Project of Special Merit Proposal for FY16 – *Kirsten Howard***
- NH Coastal Program is applying for a grant for $250,000 to implement recommendations
- Will ask for a letter of support from the Commission at Friday's meeting

7. Other Business
a. RPC Legislative Forum on Coastal Risks and Hazards – CRHC Panel Nov. 18
- Special Session on that day
- Will be looking for permission to release draft recommendations for public review/draft input
- Sinnott: it's Senator Stiles district
- Rep Rice: just a reminder: don't invite push back. We'll get further that way.

c. November Commission meeting

Agenda is pretty set. November 13.

d. Other
None

8. Public comment
None

9. Adjourn
Sherry Godlewski moves to adjourn. Adjourned at 11:10am