

NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL RISK AND HAZARDS COMMISSION  
(RSA 483-E)

**COMMISSION MEETING**

**Friday, June 17, 2016**

**9:00AM – 11:00AM**

NH Coastal Program Office, Pease

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Eighteen members (or alternates) were recorded as present and three presenters and guests. See attached attendance roster.

**1. Call to Order – *Cliff Sinnott, CRHC Chair***

Meeting called to order at 9:05am. Cliff Sinnott confirmed that a quorum was present and gave a brief overview of the agenda stating that the focus would be on reviewing the public comments and responses. C. Sinnott welcomed a new member – Jason Bachand, Town Planner and representative for Hampton - and announced that Sea Grant would be appointing a new representative as Jonathan Pennock is departing for a new position in D.C.

**2. Approval of minutes from March 18, 2016 meeting**

S. Godlewski (NHDES) asked if Brown's was the first meeting of the Commission as stated in the March minutes. Others clarified that there had been prior meetings in Concord, at Seacoast Science Center, and at GBNERR Discovery Center. Minutes will be amended to reflect this correction. C. Sinnott called for a motion to approve the March 18, 2016 minutes. Motion by C. Riley to approve as amended; second by Sen. Stiles; Approved with one abstention by Jason Bachand, Hampton.

**3. Commission Outreach Activities since March meeting (draft report release)**

Sens. Stiles and Watters and Rep. Cushing reported on the legislative briefing event: well attended, standing room only; legislators received valuable information to move forward on issues outlined in the report; information well received by audience. Rep. Cushing noted that Merrimack Valley representatives thought the report was well done and that a similar effort could be done in their region of the state. R. Stephenson asked whether there should be follow up with the legislators, and Sen/ Stiles replied best to wait until after the fall election. S. Godlewski noted that the Communications Committee discussed several opportunities to meet with new representatives after the election. Rep. Cushing suggested the RPC annual legislative forum might be a venue to reach them.

N. Morrison presented a graphical summary of the public notices and press releases completed to date including a list of news outlets, groups, organizations and stakeholders who received the official press release. Follow-up reminders about the public comment period (which closes June 30<sup>th</sup>) were distributed as well as all materials posted to the Commission's website, CAW website, other partner websites, Twitter and Facebook. The May 26<sup>th</sup> public event had 35 attendees and the June 1<sup>st</sup> event had 34 attendees. Both events had a panel of diverse representatives from the Commission. N. Morrison presented a graphical summary of the main themes and issues brought forward at both public events including: need for funding to implement recommendations, perception that the state won't provide

financial support, and report does not cover climate change mitigation. Both Sens. Stiles and Watters suggested contacting the media to do a follow-up story and a strong release of the final report in the fall. Sinnott was surprised there wasn't stronger turnout and interest in commenting by municipalities; perhaps already familiar enough with the draft report. J. Kipp felt there is a need to bring more sense of urgency to act, even though impacts may be far in the future. Perhaps voter apathy plays a part? C. Wake agreed that because impacts are in the future, this presents a challenge to spur action. Members offered the following suggestions to encourage action: incorporate recommendations in town master plans, targeted outreach to municipalities, as towns take action the public will take notice, C-RiSe project will increase visibility of issues and Commission's report with the 10 inland/Great Bay municipalities, planning to showcase the CRHC report for fall CAW workshop, need one last push to encourage more comments, encourage members to reach out to their constituency.

#### **4. Report out on Commission Member Outreach Efforts**

Members reported on their outreach efforts: C. Riley presented to Fish & Game and senior staff from state Departments with good reception and questions that showed a solid interest in the report; S. Godlewski and J. LaBranche gave a presentation at the annual Emergency Preparedness Conference on June 9<sup>th</sup>; R. Stephenson will present to the Stratham Selectmen on June 20<sup>th</sup> and stated need to meet with the NH Municipal Association; C. Wake noted that the March PS21 event had over 200 attendees where he presented on the risks and hazards of climate change in NH; K. Pimental noted that SRPC had a climate resilience panel discussion at their annual meeting where the STAP and Executive Summary were distributed; J. Gilbert noted that the draft report was highlighted in the recent edition of Floodlines, and that NHOEP has a new Director, Amanda Merrill; K. Nyan noted the draft report has been widely circulated at NHDOT; P. Winslow noted that Rye is in the process of incorporating CRHS recommendations in their new draft Coastal Hazards and Adaptation Chapter of the master plan; C. Sinnott reported that Shep Kroner, North Hampton, presented the draft report to elected officials, boards and the Little Boars Head District; J. Bachand distributed the draft report to elected officials, boards, commissions and will resend a reminder about the public comment period; C. Sinnott presented the draft report at a recent RPC MPO meeting.

S. Godlewski noted that she has several boxes of report copies available for Commissioners after the meeting.

P. Winslow asked what are the most recent trends in sea-level rise and which scenario are we tracking currently? C. Wake explained that the rate of sea-level rise has increased in period from 1992 to present, compared with the prior decades of record.

#### **5. Powerpoint Summary Presentation on draft report and comments**

N. Morrison reviewed the model/standard Powerpoint presentation on the report and recommendations for use by Commissioners and others. The presentation was well-received by members and will be useful to their outreach efforts.

#### **6. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard responding to coastal hazards**

R. Stephenson reported on his meetings with leadership from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which also included C. Wake, Erika Spanger-Siegfried, UCS, who reported on flood impacts to military installations nationwide. They reviewed these results with Commander Crosby, head of public works,

and his staff. It was good exchange of information, they're already highly informed about climate change impacts with assessments and maps, seeing flood impacts under current conditions, preparing for more intense flooding, and concerned with adequate planning for employees to enter and exit their facility. C. Wake noted it appears other coastal stakeholders are not taking climate change as seriously so there should be more outreach for example to large institutions. Sen. Stiles suggested contacting Chambers of Commerce. Communications workgroup have targeted Chambers as a stakeholder for outreach. C. Riley suggested outreach to other groups such as businesses who might be interested in learning about what other are already doing and common messages used. J. Labranche noted that Eversource is conducting statewide stakeholder interviews about resiliency planning and issues. Rep. Cushing suggested contacting the Pease Development Authority. J. LaBranche noted PDA is actively interested in the C-RiSe vulnerability assessment project. P. Winslow believes the report has already sparked interest in Rye about adaptation, increased precipitation, stormwater runoff and impervious surface.

C. Sinnott asked if a conference for fall targeting these coastal stakeholders would be a good idea. Members felt it's too tight a timeframe to plan for it, but it's a good idea for 2017. The CAW workshop would be a better fit.

## **7. Summary of proposed responses to comments received to date on draft report**

N. Morrison reviewed with members the spreadsheet of compiled comments and proposed responses, focusing on those comments that require a detailed response from the Commission and its experts.

Members reviewed the spreadsheet and recommended the following edits to the response/comments and draft report:

- E. Feigner asked if a recommendation should be added to prioritize survey of historical and cultural resources using the sea-level rise and storm surge maps [from Tides to Storms].
- Add a general introductory paragraph to the report and same for the Science Section about the climate change parameters covered in the STAP.
- Comment #2 - Add a reference to research being conducted by Jane Knott, UNH, about rising groundwater levels and salt water intrusion.
- Comment #4 – No change to report, but add reference to the Seacoast Evacuation Plan which references flood scenarios in the response.
- Comment 5 – Response from Kevin Knuuti added, add “K.K. was contacted by the Chairman on ....” remove reference to C. Wake in response, focus on the consensus process during preparation of the STAP.
- Comment #8 – Added C. Wake’s response and analysis of sea-level rise rates from tide gauge record since 1992, and his memo added as an Appendix to the spreadsheet. Members agree that further debate is not warranted and believe the amended response addresses the question raised based on best available science. Future updates to the STAP may include information about probabilities when that information becomes available.
- Report Edit – Add to “What we’re Facing” section clarification from the STAP about relationship of the immediate threat of storm surge and extreme precipitation to the long-term impacts of sea-level rise.
- Report Edit – Add a new section at end of report “Next Steps” describing continuity planning and the ongoing efforts already underway that support continuity. Include a contact person in this section so anyone who are empowered to take action has a direction to turn for help. C. Wake suggested placing emphasis on the importance of leadership throughout the report. C. Sinnott suggested

adding reference to examples of self-empowerment, formation of new partnerships and collaborative actions. Rep. Cushing suggested adding a recommendation to form local committees to lead local efforts, their role and charge. S. Godlewski noted that in order to have continuity, creation of the climate coordinator position will be key, and the Commission should start acting on this before it sunsets, reaching out to Comm. Burack or the Governor’s Office to help the legislature move this forward. The Steering Committee and Communication Committee will work on this effort.

- N. Morrison noted that several comments focused on the absence of economic impacts (property values, tax base, local and regional economy) in the report. C. Sinnott stated coastal hazards do pose an economic risk and this is an issue that needs more attention in the report. C. Riley and C. Wake supported adding more information about economic risk to the Our Economy section of the report but can’t promise a high level evaluation using existing data.
- C. Wake suggested adding information to the What We’re Facing section about what climate mitigation is in terms of climate science (GHG emissions reductions) and the value of mitigation as the best response to sea-level rise and climate change.

### **8. Next Steps in preparing the final report**

Next steps are to make edits to the report and the comments/responses, adding any that are submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The report team will work toward finalizing these materials for review at the August 19<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. C. Riles stressed the need for more outreach to members about the comments/responses and for a quorum at the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. C. Wake suggested preparing a separate document listing the substantive changes in the revised draft report would help members understand revisions better.

### **9. Other**

#### NOAA – NH Coastal Program Resiliency Funding Opportunity

K. Howard described the grant opportunity – Design and Implementation Solutions – is open to coastal municipalities and others, noting the application deadline is July 21st and grants are centered around desing/analysis/implementation and creative communications.

#### CRHC Calendar Update – Distribution and Process

Sinnott reviewed the Commission’s meeting calendar noting the next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> and the next full Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 19.

#### Other

Northeast Ocean Planning project has a document out for public comments until August 25, 2016. S. Stanwood noted a recent article about the report in the Coastal States newsletter.

### **10. Public Comment**

None

### **11. Adjourn.**

Chairman Sinnott adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15

Respectfully submitted,

Julie LaBranche, RPC

ATTENDANCE – JUNE 17, 2017

Present	Name	Representation
	Arcieri, William	Town of Newmarket
Yes	Bachand, Jason <sup>vi</sup>	Town of Hampton
	Bird, Steve	City of Dover
	Borden, Rep. David	Town of New Castle
	Bowman, Peter	NH DRED -Division of Forests and Lands - Alternate
	Kasnet, Peter <sup>i</sup>	Homebuilders Association of New Hampshire
	Caron, David	NH Municipal Association
	Carroll, Patrick	Town of Rollinsford
	Couture, Steve	NH Department of Environmental Services - Alternate
Yes	Cushing, Rep. Renny <sup>ii</sup>	Representative – District 21
	Durfee, Liz	Strafford Regional Planning Commission - Alternate
Yes	Feighner, Edna	NH Division of Historical Resources
	Fitzgerald, Brian	Town of Rye - Alternate
Yes	Gilbert, Jennifer	NH Office of Energy and Planning
Yes	Godlewski, Sherry <sup>iii</sup>	NH Department of Environmental Services (Commission Clerk)
	Hawkins, Donald <sup>iv</sup>	Town of Seabrook
	Houle, James	Town of Durham
	Huber, Dick	Town of Exeter
yes	Kinner, Peter	Town of Greenland
Yes	Kipp, Jonathan	NH Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex)
	Kroner, Shep	Town of North Hampton
Yes	Kupper, Theodore	NH Department of Admin Services - Bureau of Pub Works Design & Con
	Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls
	Miller, Steven	City of Portsmouth
	Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington
Yes	Nyhan, Kevin	NH DOT Bureau of Environment
	O’Sullivan, Michael	Town of Madbury
	- vacant -	UNH Marine Program & NH Sea Grant Program
Yes	Pimental, Kyle	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
	Rice, Rep. Frederick	Representative – District 21
	Rice, John	Seacoast Board of Realtors
Yes	Riley, Cory	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR
Yes	Ryan, Mary Kate	NH Division of Historical Resources - Alternate
	Scholz, Ann	NH DOT Bureau of Environment - Alternate
Yes	Sinnott, Cliff	Rockingham Planning Commission (Commission Chair)
Yes	Stanwood, Sabrina	NH DRED -Division of Forests and Lands
Yes	Stephenson, Roger	Town of Stratham
Yes	Stiles, Sen. Nancy	Senator, District 24
Yes	Wake, Cameron Dr. <sup>v</sup>	University of NH
	Watters, Sen. David	Senator, District 4
Yes	Winslow, Phil	Town of Rye
	Wolek, Gail	NH DRED – Division of Parks and Recreation
	Howard, Kirsten	NHDES
Yes	LaBranche, Julie	RPC
Yes	Morison, Nathalie	NHDES
Yes	Newhall, Rebecca	NOAA

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- <sup>i</sup> Replaced Kendall Buck in December 2015
  - <sup>ii</sup> Replaced former representative Christopher Muns in January 2015
  - <sup>iii</sup> Replaced former Asst. Commissioner Vicki Quiram as NHDES CRHC representative in April 2015
  - <sup>iv</sup> Replaced Raymond Smith as Seabrook CRHC representative in June 2015
  - <sup>v</sup> Replaced Dr. Paul Kirshen as the University of New Hampshire CRHC representative in October 2015
  - <sup>vi</sup> Replaced Rep. David Wood as the Town of Hampton CRHC representative in May 2016