

New Hampshire Coastal Marine Natural Resources and Environment Commission

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office  
Pease International Tradeport  
222 International Drive, Suite 175  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

March 22, 2021  
9am-10am

1. Roll Call

a. Present

- i. Erik Chapman
- ii. Judith Spang
- iii. David Watters
- iv. JD Barnardy
- v. Jennifer Dijkstra
- vi. Brian Gennaco
- vii. Sabrina Stanwood
- viii. Steve Couture
- ix. Cheri Patterson
- x. William Gannon

b. Not Present

- i. Michael Edgar
- ii. Tracy Merick
- iii. Jason Janvrin
- iv. Erik Anderson
- v. Jay Baker
- vi. Alix Laferriere
- vii. Melissa Paly
- viii. Geno Marconi

2. Announcements

3. No notes from previous meeting to review

Judith: speaking the responsibilities of Municipalities regarding plastics

Sen. Watters: advised the Senate has passed a 10-year plan? DES and solid waste management. Pulled PFAC Food Packaging out of Bill 146, because DES is overwhelmed with lack of staff. Have heard from American Chemical, who are proposing a Bill banning of PFAC in packaging.

Judith: Very concerned about DES lack of resources.

Erik: Last session Jay Deiner and Rachel Boulliard spoke on Sea Level Rise and the emerging environmental state. Want to acknowledge and recognize the work that has already been done. That brings us to guest speakers

4. Presentations:

Dr. William Sweet - NOAA Sea Level Rise and High Tide Flooding

Dr. Sweet spoke on;  
NOAA High Flood Annual-decadal guidance  
NOAA Relative Sea Level Trends  
NOAA Tide Gauges and Coastal Flooding  
NOAA Tidal to Storm Surge Flood Severity and Impacts – Coastal impacts  
Land Exposed to High Tide Flood Impacts  
Shifting Geometry  
The Accelerating Nature of SLR-Tidal Flooding  
NOAA (2017) SLR Scenarios for the U.S.  
Current and Future Flood Risk  
NOAA High Tide Flood Outlook  
NOAA Coastal Inundation Dashboard  
NOAA High Tide Bulletin

Erik: asked Dr. Sweet to what degree are we trying to help understand the long and short-term tendencies?

Dr. Sweet: There are trends a 4, 8 and 19 year range of high tides. Variable water patterns. Developing statistical model to make better predictions.

Sen. Watters: Do you have a sense of how this is effecting marsh migration, sea fish, water quality, and algae blooms.

Dr. Sweet: Time has a series of impacts, and he does not have a direct answer to that question. G.I.S. is developing tools that can better answer that question.

Erik: asking about flood waters

Dr. Sweet: Concerns are in lower lying areas, effecting septic tanks

Presentation 2:

Renee Collini; Mississippi SEA Grant - Tools for Finding a Path Amid Uncertainty

Renee spoke about:  
SLR scenarios in context  
Tools for operationalizing SLR scenarios  
Risk Tolerance

Scenario Planning  
Adaptation Pathways  
RAD – Resist, Accept, Direct

Bill Gannon: asking if there a National Resource, National Estuary examples using the tools?

Renee: Louisiana is taking models and using them in them. Using tools from the National Estuary, Sentinel Site Program, and foundational data, also using MARS tool.

Erik: asked about finding knowledge caps

Renee: First ask people the value of the resource, second decide if results would be productive or counter productive

Bill Gannon: Asking about tides on the Gulf Coast, has been going there for many years and has seen very little in tides change, why

Renee: Depends on Hydrodynamics in the environment

Dr. Sweet: Urban areas water will find its way out, water may be surfacing in places that aren't noticed.

Renee: advising that rainwater sticks around

Erik: advising presentation is in a different form, depending on where you are

Bill Gannon: Asking about Goat Island in Newport, also very little tide change there. Why?

Dr. Sweet: Advising tides gauges in some areas are rising fast, all depends on topography. Flatter, low-lying areas are being more effected. New England is at a higher level

Renee: Just check and Newport, RI is tracking @ .1 inch increase, it's not much but it is increasing.

Erik: advised that assessment is accurate, but there are other signs telling the story.

Bill Gannon: he is concerned about the salt marshes

Renee: advised the supply of sediment and SLR is an issue

Erik: Can look at Hampton/Seabrook Estuary

Sen. Watters: ground water is having an impact on home and roads according to NH DOT. Many things not visible.

Erik: Thanking Dr. Sweet and Renee Collini for presentations

Erik: Where do we want to go, next steps, follow up on Jay Deiner and Rachel Boulliards presentation from last meeting. Thoughts and reflections

Steve: Was a great overview Renee raised, do have a 5-year plan for Salt Marshes, working with NERS. Things mentioned in presentation are being worked on in NH.

Sen. Watters: Was good to look at Hampton/Seabrook, good work is being done. Thinking of more concerns for the Commission.

Erik: First, here a place to go for more knowledge, or summarize, need more info on salt marsh health. Share with Commission, Community or move on.

Sen. Watters: Do we have enough information. Think of summary, target summary, areas of concern.

Erik: asking if could have Cory on the Marsh plan

Sen. Watters: Yes, it would be helpful

Cheri: Noted through the SHEA meeting marsh migration missing upper component, held back by dams and culverts. Should expand on that, not productive impoundments, impeding marsh migration.

Brian: mentioned he is seeing more hardscaping, specially near steep area

Cheri: Maybe a discussion on more living shoreline

Sen. Watters: Good items to summarize, Wagon Hill Far, Dover dam and issues in Portsmouth with built landscape.

Erik: looking down the line, maybe shine a light on living shore lines

Cheri: Infrastructure – Portsmouth transfer station, where will we be 10, 30, 40 years from now

Sen. Watters: Exeter wastewater has done many improvements. Wastewater, now MS4 and permits from EPA. Nitrogen meeting

Steve: Once permit issues settled, maybe next year is a better time to talk about that.

Erik: Would like to vote to adjourn the meeting

Sen. Watters: Makes a motion to adjourn the meeting

Dave: Aye

Erik: Roll call

Bill: Yes

Brian: Yes

Erik: Yes

Sen. Watters: Yes

Judith: Yes

Cheri: yes

Sabrina: yes

Erik: meeting adjourned; the next meeting is the fourth Monday of April.