

Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission (RSA 483E)

Cliff Sinnott, Commission Chair
Executive Director
Rockingham Planning Commission
Exeter, NH

Commission Established

- SB-163 Introduced by Sens. Watters, Stiles, Fuller-Clark in Jan. 2013
- An Act... *“establishing a commission to recommend legislation to prepare for projected sea level rise and other coastal and coastal watershed hazards”*
- Adopted and signed July 2, 2013
- Commission first assembled August 16, 2013
- Will sunset December 1, 2016

Commission Membership (= 37)

- 2 Senators, 2 House members
- Reps from 17 coastal & tidal municipalities
- State Agency designees from:

NHDES

NH Fish & Game

NHDOT

Bureau of Public Works

NH Office of Energy & Planning

DRED – Commissioner's office

Div. of Parks and Recreation (DRED)

Div. of Historic Resources (DCR)

- Other Stakeholders:

NH Homebuilders

Seacoast Board of Realtors

UNH - SeaGrant

UNH – Pres. designee

PRIMEX

NHMA

Strafford RPC

Rockingham RPC

Duties

1. The commission shall recommend legislation, rules and other actions to prepare for projected sea level rise and other coastal watershed hazards such as storms, increased river flooding, and storm water runoff, and the risks such hazards pose to municipalities and state assets.
2. The commission shall review National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other scientific agency projections of coastal storm inundation to determine the appropriate information, data and property risk.

Approach

- End Product: Reports with guidance and recommendations to: legislature, state agencies, municipalities
- Process:
 1. gather facts; understand the science, quantify risks
 2. receive input from stakeholders and the public
 3. assess and evaluate
 4. develop recommendations
 5. report to the legislature, stakeholders, public
- Organization:

Steering Comm., Science Adv. Panel, Sector Workgroups

Information needs

- Anticipated Future Conditions (ranges)
 - Sea level rise, 2050 & 2100 (CSRC/AECOM/RPC)
 - Areas vulnerable to coastal flooding, with SLR, storm surge (RPC Vulnerability Study)
 - Changes in precipitation (Wake report)
 - Impacts to wetlands and fisheries (NHF&G SLAMM model)
 - LiDAR based high resolution topography

Science Advisory Panel

- Established to help Commission interpret & assess peer-reviewed science
- Chaired by UNH CRHC member Dr. Paul Kirshen
- Focused on preparing guidance on future sea level rise, storm surge and coastal flooding conditions based on existing published science
- Initial findings due June-July 2014

Guidance

- Scope of Interest
 - Assumptions RE sea level rise, flooding, precipitation, etc.
 - Economic impacts (business continuity, real estate, insurance)
 - Infrastructure (roads, bridges, telecomm, utilities, public facilities)
 - Ecosystem & Environment (salt marsh, groundwater)
- Dynamic and evolving information
 - Recognize explicitly that our findings are based on information and science that is still developing
 - implementation of recommendations should be phased and iterative allowing for “course corrections”

Recommendations

- Municipal focus:
 - assumptions to use
 - models & templates for taking action
 - recommended process for preparing for greater coastal flood risks
- State agency/asset focus:
 - minimum standards
 - recommended policies
 - infrastructure investment conditions

CRHC General Timeline

	2014				2015				2016			
	Fact Finding				Assessment/Evaluation				Reporting & Outreach			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
CRHC Meetings	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX
Science Advisory Panel			★									
Vulnerability Assessment				★								
Sector Working Groups					★							
Other Research												
Eval. Responses/ Measures												
Devel. Recommendations												
Public Engagement												
Reports				★				★				★

Observations Made

- Keep it Simple (as much as possible)
- Ours is the 'first' guidance, not the last
- Understand risk tolerance in our guidance
- The information we are using is dynamic
- Most responses to coastal risks will be iterative

More Information

- CRHC Commission meetings:
 - 3rd Fridays, 10am, locations vary
 - Open to the public
- Website – via StormSmart Coasts NH
<http://nhcrhc.stormsmart.org>
(agendas, minutes, presentations, members, reports, resources)