

Sea Level Adaptation Working Group (SLAWG)
Meeting Minutes
Date: 11/05/2010
8:30-10:00 am

Attendees: Gary Lamb (OOB), Jim Walker (OOB), Jay Chace (Scarborough), Lucy LaCasse (Scarborough), Peter Marks (Saco), Ken Buechs (Biddeford), Steve Zeeman (Biddeford), JT Lockman (SMRPC), Peter Slovinsky (MGS)

SLAWG Overall Goal:

- The Group needs to develop an Action Plan and list of projects that can realistically tackled on a local and regional basis.
- Need to come back to Town/City councils with a list of 5-10 actionable projects by the end of December in order to move forward.

Discussion of Action Plan Items:

- Brief review of Milone McBroom report (Gary handed out copies of summary), including identified major issues. At this point, Old Orchard Beach Council is the only Council that reviewed and considered the recommendations in the report. OOB and Scarborough staff members have had one preliminary discussion.
- Need to identify large areas of vulnerability within each of the communities that are important to each community, an across town/city boundaries.
- Use CHRT project and data to identify, inform and develop the action plan items
- Need to determine what specific alternatives the group wants to explore in terms of sea level rise scenarios (e.g., HAT+2 ft, 1978 storm + 2 ft, etc.)
- Need to identify specific infrastructure (roads, structures) and natural features (marshes, low lying undeveloped uplands) that will be impacted, on a town-by-town basis. This can inform a list of priority areas.
- Regional Sediment Management (RSM) program with the US Army Corps of Engineers – MGS letter of support for program funding in Saco Bay; will require SLAWG support from communities at some time.
- FEMA RISKMAP process - a more collaborative process that uses local modeling in conjunction with FEMA consulting work results). If all 4 communities have hired the consultant, it might be more powerful as the group to move forward. Sees this as a collaborative process for the other communities; potentially new maps from the RISKMAP process will be issued by July 2011. problem = need modeling completed in each of the communities, and the modeling would be different for each of the communities. We need to remember that FEMA mapping process is static, while SLAWG is looking forward on the impacts of sea level rise. There is an advantage of sharing information across town lines. The group decided that this should be on the list of potential action items for the group to work on.
- Look specifically at impacts to sewer pump stations - for example, the OOB pump station at Ocean Park did not take into account sea level rise. Looking to move the controls for the tide gate into the pump house.
- Phragmites Invasion Problem - management of the problem is cross-town issue.

- Armoring of New Salt Road (Ocean Park) with a coastal berm - could potentially impact area negatively, including Saco. Other problem is the jetty along Goosefare Brook.
- Camp Ellis erosion control/Section 111 project - the project needs to be on the SLAWG list, especially from a Regional Sediment Management approach. SBIT covers this issue, but Saco river provides sand to the majority of the bay. One of SLAWG roles can be to keep the community informed on the issues. Problems at Hills Beach.
- Need to develop a preliminary decision matrix that will list projects and pros/cons of the different projects.

Additional Items:

- Each community should do homework on what has been done in each community to bring to the group by the 19th.
- Gary will be leaving the Town of Old Orchard Beach by November 24. Looking for a designated replacement.
- Discussion of process if all of the attendees cannot attend a meeting – can we have a meeting if we are not voting on an issue? Technically we could do this if not having a voting issue.
- Each town needs to post information (agenda) about each of the meetings that SLAWG has on the websites.
- Manomet hosting a climate change group at Harraseeket Inn in Freeport; real focus on forestry impacts, etc. Nov 16.
- There was a climate change forum in early October at UNE for discussion on whether or not climate change was occurring, and discussion of both sides of the issue. SLAWG decided that we are addressing the effect issues, not the causes.
- Additional funding to support the SLAWG process beyond December 31, 2010 from SPO/MCP is highly likely.

Immediate Action Items:

- Pete and JT will develop maps by next meeting highlighting problem areas for culverts, roads, infrastructure, and marsh impacts for HAT+2ft and Highest WL + 2 ft; will include a list of the top areas and the issues.
- Pete will create a general map showing the dominant currents along Saco Bay.
- JT will develop a preliminary decision matrix on some of the issues discussed today for the Action Item List.
- Each community will do some research on reports that have been completed within the community that could help inform the SLAWG Action Items list.

The next meeting will be 8:30 am, Friday, November 19, at Saco City Hall.
Minutes by P. Slovinsky, MGS.