

**Sea Level Adaptation Working Group (SLAWG)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: 1/28/2011**  
**8:30 – 10:00 am**

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

**Brief Discussion on Administrative Changes and Impacts on SLAWG**

Some type of reorganization of existing local and state laws/regulations that helps streamline the confusing multiple jurisdictions would be extremely helpful.

**Review of Agenda**

Reviewed the spring meeting schedule that was posted as part of the agenda. Most of the meetings will be located City Hall Conference room.

**FEMA RISKMAP meeting**

JT summarized the meeting that FEMA held. FEMA will be using input from the local consultant that was hired by towns and will rerun data analyses using output data. We also reviewed signing of a town charter that would allow collaboration with FEMA as part of the RISKMAP process. Could potentially cost communities local monies; amounts unknown at this time (would be dependent upon amount of work that FEMA might have to do). Towns that do not sign a “charter” will also likely get enhanced maps. Review of HAZUS software and mitigation planning. County mitigation plan was just finished 6 months ago. Review of the CRS (Community Rating System) program and how that increases the ‘ranking’ of communities.

**Points discussed:**

- If individual communities prepare their own hazard mitigation plans, that makes them eligible for additional grant funding from FEMA over and above the county mitigation plan.
- Some concern on the RISKMAP process and FEMA’s efforts and SLAWG connection with FEMA process. Removing the two processes from each other seems silly as they are redundant to an extent. We need to consider how FEMA work complements our efforts. Should we be ready to present a case on how our work does or does not dovetail with FEMA? If councils choose to participate in RISKMAP, SLAWG can potentially inform the process, but not volunteer information.
- Have all towns signed on with the consultant? It does not appear that Saco or Old Orchard Beach has signed on. Scarborough has, Biddeford may have.
- RISKMAP effort can be politicized. New FEMA maps will result from remapping, regardless of whether or not a community takes part in RISKMAP. SLAWG can help inform the RISKMAP process with its vulnerability report.
- We discussed how insurance companies use own methods for determining risk outside of the FEMA process.

## **COAST**

Pete reviewed how the COAST economic tool came to be, and what it does. GIS-based software that is being developed that can help determine the cost-benefit of certain adaptation strategies by building in economic tools. MGS involved in early versions of project – informed by FEMA HAZUS software.

SLAWG role can be to help inform communities on what information is available out there, i.e., clearinghouse of information. Put floodplain and shoreland zoning ordinances on the table from each of the communities and review how they interrelate – need to be careful with the timing with the RISKMAP process and when a uniform ordinance might be roled out.

## **SLOSH**

Pete presented the newer data developed with the SLOSH maps for Category 1 or 2 storms. This could help inform open coast vulnerability. It points out that the southerly facing communities (Scarborough, Old Orchard north, and Biddeford) are much more vulnerable to tropical system approaches. This information is typically not considered by communities in Maine.

## **For next meeting**

JT and Pete will develop Action Plan Outline. For the next meeting, we will identify those low-lying uplands where marsh transgression may occur within each of the communities.

We will eventually want to create multiple overlays for identifying vulnerability.

The meeting ended at 10:05 am.

The next meeting is on Friday, February 11, 2011 at 8:30 am at Saco City Hall.

Minutes by P. Slovinsky, MGS.