

Sea Level Adaptation Working Group (SLAWG)

Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/11/2011

8:30 – 10:00 am

Attendees: Mike Nugent (OOB), Bob Hamblen (Saco), Peter Marks (Saco), Ken Buechs (Biddeford), Steve Zeeman (Biddeford), JT Lockman (SMRPC), Peter Slovinsky (MGS)

Draft SLAWG Action Plan

The draft Action Plan was provided to the Working Group for review. Purpose statement from the ILA; goals and principles (#2) needs to be expanded; initial bullets provided for further discussion. Vulnerability assessment will be completed in April with inclusion of impacts to natural resources and public utilities and infrastructure. Strategies and objectives have general timelines. The group would like more time to review the draft Plan and review the goals.

Comments/Additions to the Plan:

- Remove civility section
- Mention public safety role in the threats of rising sea level.
- Revenue protection (taxes, etc. associated with small businesses).
- Financial feasibility of some of the suggestions for responses. Could potentially test response ideas from an economic sense (with NEEFC COAST model, determine cost-benefit analysis).
- Include permissibility of beach nourishment/other actions relating to regional efforts.
- Need to research the existing programs that are available for providing funding for voluntarily elevating of structures, roads, beach nourishment programs, etc. Pete will look into existing loans or grant programs from FEMA, USACE, etc.
- Wordsmith #2 under Implementation Strategies to focus on how things will be paid for.
- Focus on education of not only coastal owners, but the rest of the town.
- Need to include specifics to sharing of information between communities (e.g., Wright Pierce work at West Grand Ave. in OOB, Milone & McBroom report, etc.) Mike will send JT information on the work, along with RISKMAP process
- Mention SLAWG relationship with RISKMAP and the concentric role of mitigation in our plan? RISKMAP should inform our process down the road on minimum impacts to the open coast. Need to be careful with inclusion of RISKMAP in SLAWG, however. In our text for the Plan, we need to be clear how the SLAWG process and the RISKMAP process are different.
- When are we going to be starting to talk about the Action Plan itself and identifying issues?

Additional points of discussion:

- Could potentially use the steps OOB is taking for mitigation examples that are being informed/complement SLAWG efforts.
- Need to get comments from Jay for setting priorities piece (#2) under Goals and Principles. How are we going to decide on projects (decision matrix).
- Need to position SLAWG's role for influencing future dredge projects and beneficial reuse of dredged materials including the Scarborough River (~2012) and the private dredging of the Saco River. Biddeford Pool also gets dredged on occasion.
- Need to keep in mind that Maine harbors are small and there is a possibility that USACE dredging projects may go away sometime in the future; this may impact federal funds, but may make any agreements between communities for sediment sharing and planning more important.
- York County EMA has requested tsunami simulation maps of HAT + 2 m of increased water level to simulate impacts. MGS will be doing this work.

For next meeting

Pete will provide the group with results from initial analyses of impacts to natural wetland system. Pete will also research existing programs for funding for mitigation. JT will revise the Action Plan and garner further input on prioritization strategies.

The meeting ended at 9:55 am.

The next meeting is on Monday, February 28, 2011 at 8:30 am at Saco City Hall.

Minutes by P. Slovinsky, MGS.