

Minutes

2 June 2010

8:30 am, Saco Transportation Center Conference Room  
Steering Committee for Sea Level Adaptation Working Group

Members Present:

Dr. Steve Zeeman, Biddeford  
Peter Marks, Bob Hamblen, Saco  
Jay Chace, Lucy LaCasse, Scarborough  
Gary Lamb, Jim Walker, Old Orchard Beach

Absent: Ken Buechs, Biddeford

Staff in attendance: J.T. Lockman, SMRPC, Laura Wurst, Intern, MGS, Maine Dept. of Conservation

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 and began with introductions. All future meeting dates will be held at the train station conference room at 8:30 am. The next five meetings will be held on June 23, July 7, July 21, Aug 4, and Aug 25. J.T. Lockman led the meeting and went over background materials on the project, including the grant narrative and revised grant schedule. He also presented a short document on ideal group size for a committee.

J.T. emphasized that in the grant proposal, SMRPC did not create a Working Group structure, but left it up to this steering committee. The proposal for a Sea Level Adaptation Working Group structure will be presented to all four town/city councils for ratification, once this steering committee finishes its work.

The steering committee began to discuss the basic outline of how the SLAWG might function, and there was consensus on the following points:

The SLAWG would consist of 8 members, with two appointed from each of the four Saco Bay municipalities. One planner from the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, and one geologist from the Maine Geological Survey will serve as staff. The group would make recommendations and be advisory to the Town and City Councils, and would reach its recommendation decisions by consensus. Towns and Cities would agree to refer capital planning, policy, and development review matters impacted by sea level rise, for the SLAWG to consider and make recommendations back to the authority having jurisdiction. J.T. suggested how this might work, using an example of an aquaculture project proposal out on Saco Bay. The group also discussed the Milone and MacBroom report, commissioned by Old Orchard Beach Town Council, to study the causes and possible solutions to downtown flooding from the Jones Creek area. It was suggested that the Jones Creek problems would be a good place to identify possible interlocal projects, given the amount of study that has already been done.

The group discussed some other examples of interlocal advisory groups, such as Metro-West (Framingham, MA area) as a possible model. The group also discussed that a pure, doctrinaire "coastal

retreat” policy would not work as a principal for this group to follow, and how in recent years the MGS and SPO have followed a more moderate and politically realistic approach, balancing retreat with other policy options.

Several ideas for SLAWG work tasks were discussed:

Consistent 4 town zoning and regs.

Consistent 3 foot freeboard for floodplain management ordinances.

Mine sand from Scarborough Marsh outlet and deposit spoils in Camp Ellis to allow a “conveyor belt” of currents to slowly bring it back.

For next meeting, J.T. will begin to prepare a white paper with these ideas, and will start a webpage for the SLAWG.

Each town representative was asked to bring its “hot button” sea level rise issues to the next meeting to add to the next draft of the white paper.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 am.