

Hampton-Seabrook Estuary (HSE) Collaborative Meeting

March 26, 2025

11:00AM – 12:30PM

MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Liz Durfee, Interim Coordinator for the HSE Collaborative, welcomed everyone to the meeting, provided an overview of the agenda, and asked Steering Committee Members to introduce themselves:
 - Rayann Dionne, SHEA
 - Jay Diener, SHEA
 - Kevin Lucy, NHDES Coastal Program
 - Kate Swailes, NOAA
 - Erik Beck, US EPA Region I
 - Betsy Nicholson, NOAA

Amy Sauber attended on behalf of PREP

2. Steering Committee Updates

Chris Meaney

- Budget allocation is expected later this Spring (May)
- Invasive species removal funding that was provided to the GOMCP remains on pause

Betsy Nicholson

- The National Coastal Resilience Fund (NOAA/NFWF) is coming soon. (now open: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund>)
- BIL CZM proposal is being reviewed now.

Amy Sauber

- PREP is monitoring the federal updates and working on budget planning, including situations for maintaining monitoring efforts as well as contingency scenarios. Wrapped up in PREP's budget is direct funding from PREP for both HSE tributary monitoring as well as HSE Collab Coordinator support.
- PREP was also seeking signatures for a support letter for the National Estuary Program. Over 2,000 signatures were received nationally.

3. Draft Section 309 Enhancement Grant Program Assessment and Strategy July 2026 to June 2023, Kevin Lucey, NHDES Coastal Program

- A recording of Kevin's presentation and Q&A is available at: <https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:v:/t/UNHHPREP/EUa8ESQXTEpOhmEPY0-8scBktpnR4OMUa8reaj3KzIjOw?e=ILmWSQ>

- Slides are available at
<https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:b:/t/UNHPREP/EdnczMVpcBNHlq6QR1eISy8BVkA5MwpjS1wbQf5GjplcvQ?e=NhHmsh>.

4. Thin Layer Placement Project, Wells, ME, Bri Benvenuti, Ducks Unlimited, and Gregg Moore, UNH

- A recording of Bri and Gregg's presentation and Q&A is available at
<https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:v:/t/UNHPREP/ERvoU0wCc7FBpggTXejFwXoB6ftyKrx9OTSazxoFfcP0xQ?e=rnqpT9>.
- Slides are available at
<https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:b:/t/UNHPREP/EbjGgTS7rvdPgq4S7CuUiyYBaPFxQZ89sP2FwVSI6AMLOW?e=IOhRNn>.

Chat box comments:

- Alyson Eberhardt (she/her): This is such a great model of how this work might happen in NH. In a meeting with the ACOE earlier this month (about use of Hampton Harbor dredge material) they mentioned the stockpile approach as an option for NH.
- Chris Peter, Great Bay NERR: Also a lot of good case studies further south in RI
- Bri Benvenuti, Ducks Unlimited: bvenuti@ducks.org

5. Hampton Natural Resources Inventory, Sara Gagnon, SHEA

- A recording of Sara's presentation and Q&A is available at
https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:v:/t/UNHPREP/Ef7sl73oFdBFgRwuIODkprUBHE42vVZE9Isp7-Wb44CI_w?e=mwT36c.
- Slides are available
<https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:p:/t/UNHPREP/EaJVBjvwxxBDkGPBnvJO1r8Bm4BkoUgE9jE4sEZT1BC6PQ?e=YKE7yb>.

Chat box comments:

- Alyson Eberhardt (she/her): Our beach profiling data is in the new Hampton NRI
- Christine Bunyon (FBE): Not coastal, but FBE is currently working on an NRI update for the Town of Moultonborough, NH.
- Amy Sauber (she/her/hers): PREP has supported a few towns on NRIs through our PREPA Grant Program: <https://preestuaries.org/resources/prepa-grants/>
- Mary.A.Tilton: NH DES On-line GIS Mapping Tools
- Mary.A.Tilton: NHACC The NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions - YouTube

6. Project & Other Updates from Collaborative Members

Betsy Nicholson

- NOAA's Transformational Habitat funding program through BIL is still on track and applications are due in 2 weeks. No new intel beyond that. They are hoping for a great turnout, so hope there may be some submissions for the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary!

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience-grants>

Mark Nutter, NH Audubon

- NH Audubon is involved with salt marsh restoration on 2 properties: Little River and Depot Road area. In the permitting phase. Hope to be able to start the monitoring for saltmarsh sparrow monitoring this summer as well as the restoration work this fall and winter. Iterative process over the next 5 years. We have a huge partnership and always welcome any advice. Excited for some runneling and ditch remediation work.

Hannah Mogensen, Merrimack Valley Regional Planning Commission

- Work for regional planning agencies and Mass Bay. A lot of work is focused on the Great Marsh. Trying to conduct more monitoring in the Great Marsh, shift from high to low marsh. Following along the monitoring protocol. Working to develop a Survey123 that will allow people to drop a pin and share the monitoring parameters and frequency. Rolling out in MA but hoping for a regional approach. To track who is monitoring what and where. Intent to share the findings with participants. Hoping to roll this out in the next month or so.

Pete Steckler, NE Conservation Services

- There is a webinar next Tuesday (4/1) for Connect to Protect. This will include a status update on progress towards land protection in the coastal watershed.

Chat box comments:

- Mary.A.Tilton: [https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.epa.gov/wotus/public-outreach-and-stakeholder-engagement-activities_!!Oai6dtTQULp8Sw!RQ42nrfkRf3CIXQ9wI736x8zXDduQH40YpOuwNack8jUnG6SJsgglUQJElyTYOK4E6VRDifnBa3S3XXC8fVW\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.epa.gov/wotus/public-outreach-and-stakeholder-engagement-activities_!!Oai6dtTQULp8Sw!RQ42nrfkRf3CIXQ9wI736x8zXDduQH40YpOuwNack8jUnG6SJsgglUQJElyTYOK4E6VRDifnBa3S3XXC8fVW$)
- Gregg Moore, DBS/COLSA: <https://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/2025/03/unh-scientists-helping-address-threats-critical-wildlife-refuge>

7. **Estuary Management Plan Follow Up & Implementation**, Liz Durfee, EF | Design & Planning, LLC / HSE Collaborative Interim Coordinator

- A recording of Liz's presentation and Q&A is available at <https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:v/t/UNHPREP/EWNWiZZPbaIMoNzipA0VbgwBMGPsvgRJEJ5luRfBx2xIDA?e=ov5I7v>.
- Slides are available at <https://universitysystemnh.sharepoint.com/:p/t/UNHPREP/EadvDw8KKsIAj1VmGFAhEgEBAn14sX0e4qkGSu5YW5TZ5A?e=qsmbAy>.

Chat box comments:

- Rayann Dionne: Link to Estuary Management Plan: https://shea4nh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FINAL_EMP_4.3.23.pdf

****All are encouraged to visit the [HSE Project Tracker 2.0 and grant opportunities list](#) and send updates and additions to HSE.Collaborative.Coordinator@gmail.com!****