
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #12

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

3 PM – 5 PM

Hampton Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room

NOTES

Participants: Jay, Rayann, Jason, June, Steve B, Steve L, Jim, Deb (via skype), Barbara

Absent: Mark, Bryan, Nancy, Tom

Staff: Kirsten, Natalie and Kevin, DES, Liz,

Liz began the meeting at 3 PM and introduced the members and visitor, Kevin Lucey - NHDES Coastal Program

1. Approve meeting notes from November 2019

Jay motioned to approve the November 2019 meeting minutes. Rayann seconded the motion. With 3 abstentions the motion was approved 7-0-3.

2. Vote on posting meeting minutes online (SHEA's website)

Liz asked the Team if they would like to post the CHAT meeting minutes on SHEA's website. The minutes are available upon request now.

Jim motioned to post the CHAT meeting minutes on SHEA's website. Jason seconded the motion, with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation: Resilient Tidal Crossings Project

Kevin Lucey, NHDES

Mr. Lucey passed out handouts entitled "Tidal Crossing Summary Sheet" for Drake's River located on Drakeside Road dated 5/30/2017 which is one example of 118 studies available (insert link from Kevin). The Tidal Stream Crossings guidance can be found at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/resilient-tidal.htm>. The second handout showed a Map of New Hampshire's Tidal Crossings with unique crossing identifier. Appendix F is the Interpretation Guide.

Mr. Lucey explained the range of the scores on the first handout, from one to five with one being low and five being high as well as the legend graph for the Crossing Cross Section and Stream Longitudinal Profile with the black dotted line being the stream profile and the hat-shaped points designating the road bed. The chart showed values for height from -8 to 10 and distance from Upstream Hydraulic Control (feet) from 0 to 250.

Mr. Lucey explained some of the tidal restoration projects he has worked on, 16 of which dealt with salt marsh restoration. Mr. Lucey explained how sea level rise impacts the marshes and the importance of water coming in also going out so the marshes don't drown and the vegetation disappear leaving mud flats. Some indicators can be changes in vegetation and plant types. Mr. Lucey found the inland to be more protected.

Mr. Lucey discussed the Charles Street basin and tide gate and collaborative efforts with the NH DOT in the future. He discussed having the right size culverts for the elevation. The rail corridor has a huge impact on the estuary. He also mentioned the potential impact of the proposed bike path and bridges affecting the adjacent marsh, which has dumbbell shaped scour pools. At Bridge 286 scour pools are 40' deep. The Team discussed the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) grant, Fish & Wildlife, and the support provided by NH DES with grant writing, design and permitting.

Jay asked about Hampton's crossings that may be considered impaired and for advice in how the restorations could be prioritized and Mr. Lucey indicated some drivers can be structural condition with potential for identifying condition and value. Age of structures can be an issue. There are some rusted corrugated metal pipes that used to be asphalt covered. Mr. Lucey will send a list in pdf to Liz. The next step would be to have the Town rank the projects with scores, cost, time, etc. Liz noted the CHAT could discuss prioritization at a later meeting. Rayann indicated it would be beneficial to have Jen (DPW) be part of that discussion.

4. CHAT Progress and Recommendations Discussion

a. Comments, questions, recommendations on the 2019 CHAT review

Liz passed around copies of the 2019 CHAT review and asked for any questions, comments or additions. Liz will post the amended draft. Members should provide comments before the next meeting.

Jay recommended also posting this information on SHEA's website. Public outreach should involve the Emergency Management and the SHEA Floodsmart Roundtable. Jay noted Flood Awareness week is in early March and CHAT could co-host. Liz questioned what role CHAT could have in co-hosting, whether it be an agenda item or being generally present. Rayann noted it will take place March 12th at the Masonic Lodge.

Channel 22 could be contacted to cover it. Bob suggested moving it to the Beach Fire Station so that Channel 22 could more easily cover it. There is better attendance when the residents return for the summer so if doing off-season it could be recapped in the summer.

Steve recommended making note of some positive and more optimistic results.

Jim questioned whether SHEA's website could track the number of hits. Jay indicated they did not now but he can update the settings.

Liz indicated Tom was not here but sent in comments relative to Page 2 and noted the meetings were not open to the public which he felt conflicted with public engagement and would like to see more outreach.

Kirsten noted she has been working on the Landowners Assistance Program and has a list of bulleted items which she will pass onto Liz. The homeowners on Hobson and Manchester Streets would like to see an action plan.

b. Progress meeting CHAT's objectives

Liz identified one objective for the Team to consider other ways of getting information out. Steve indicated the Village District website gets views from all over the world.

Liz summarized the four objectives which were:

Coordinating efforts

Investing – communicating information to municipal boards

Inform – how to get information to residents

Outreach and Education

Natalie recommended the Team needs to boost its credibility. Jim agreed that other boards have met and not accomplished much and they didn't want to be another one of those.

Liz indicated the previous press release didn't get published and Steve weighed in on how to make the press release more newsworthy and naming names, humanizing it, identifying who the group members are, having an event to announce like the Floodsmart Round Table. Having CHAT at the February 1st Deliberative Session to speak about the Warrant Article funding a process for applying for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding, and having a Town resident like Bob or Steve speak. Having someone who has been impacted by flooding speak. A campaign checklist could be circulated to candidates and their responses shared. Kirsten recommended against politicizing. Steve recommended outreach to High School classes. Kirsten noted there is a program at Winnacunnet called "Climate in the Classroom." Rayann indicated Newburyport, MA does a "Climate Café."

Steve recommended having representatives from banking and insurance come to a meeting to speak. The Team could conduct their business meeting prior to the presentation. Liz encouraged members to share specific names they would like to see for speakers.

Liz urged the Team to come back with ideas of what CHAT's role should be.

c. Your goals for reducing vulnerability to flooding

d. Existing recommendations from past planning efforts (if time)

5. Next Meeting: February 18, 2020 3 PM.

6. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary