

**Increasing Social Resilience in Midcoast Maine to Plan and Recover from Coastal Hazards
Pilot Meeting, February 25, 2019, 10:30am – 1:30pm
Bowdoin College, Roux 212**

Introductions to Project and Meeting – Kristen Grant

Kristen outlined both the Overall Project Goal and the Pilot Meeting Goal (from agenda). The project conveners have been trying to pull this together and seek funding for a few years now. The group decided to start working in small steps to increase the likelihood of obtaining funding.

Kristen went over the objectives for this pilot meeting (from agenda).

Introductions/Tools and Resources Used

- Kristen Grant, Maine Sea Grant
- Annie Cox, Wells NERR
- Eileen Johnson, Bowdoin College
- Liz Hertz, Blue Sky Planning Solutions
- Victoria Boundy, CBEP
- Ruth Indrick, KELT: Not involved in same way as most here but have been thinking about resilience in terms of where roads might flood; fish passage, marsh migration. How to tie all these things together for multiple functions.
- Mary Ann Nahf, Harpswell Conservation Commission: Harpswell Conservation Commission volunteer. ConCom has no budget; to help them rise community awareness they have tapped into Bowdoin College, former State Planning Office, CBEP and other resources to focus on town & private road infrastructure.
- Art Howe, Harpswell Emergency Manager/Fire Administrator: Ties public safety with coastal resilience issues; works with Cumberland County EMA regularly.
- Sarah Bennett Sagadahoc County EMA: Starts with local level then comes up to Sag EMA, then state; they use [Hurrevac](#) tool (storm tracking and decision support tool for government EMs—need to be vetted)
- Matt Fournier, Deputy Dir. Sagadahoc Co. EMA: has been with County for 12 years so very familiar with resources available. Matt deals with first responders.
- Jerry Gamache, Deputy Dir. Sagadahoc Co. EMA: uses local: Fired Dept; regional: Sagadahoc Co. EMA; State (MEMA)
- Karin Gamache, Georgetown EMA: In addition works with other individuals/organizations in Georgetown, e.g. working women's league, historical society
- Beau Blanchard, brand new with Red Cross Disaster Management: Many years with Maine National Guard so is familiar with their resources.
- Laurie Levine, MEMA - funded through Homeland Security and paid by Red Cross; disaster liaison for ME: Nexus between MEMA and nonprofit orgs that assist in disasters. Co-chairs VOAD – brings together social service agencies and other agencies.

A Brief History of Resilience Projects/Data Collected in Region – Eileen Johnson

Eileen distributed a Resource List. She then gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining these resources.

Regional plans – Sagadahoc Region:

- Modeling project, Bowdoin College 2010
- Coastal Resilience Project, Georgetown, Bath, Bowdoinham, Phippsburg (2014)

CBEP Climate Change Vulnerability Report, Casco Bay Community Guidebook; Sea Level Rise Impacts on Casco Bay Wetlands (done for 10 Casco Bay communities including Harpswell, Phippsburg, and West Bath).

Input: Harpswell ConCom familiar with these materials: they used the SLR Impacts report as a starting point to begin tackling sea level rise projects.

Sagadahoc County Mitigation Plan – 2016 Update

Input: Sagadahoc EMA, KELT, and Georgetown EMA all familiar with this resource. Sarah: User-friendly, updated every five years and after major storms (like last year's windstorms). Work with towns to make sure it is accurate. Update process includes local EMAs, fire and police chiefs; public works, selectboard. Liz: Are these plans shopped around to orgs other than EMAs? Victoria: CEDS process with Cumberland County EMA plan. MCEDD assisted with the Sag EMA process. Ruth: KELT looked at project list to see how they aligned with KELT proposed projects. Sarah: There should be communication with local EMA lists – if local projects are in the County Plan, it can be funded.

Town level initiatives

- Bath – DART Project
- Bowdoinham Comp Plan
- Phippsburg
- Georgetown climate report
- Harpswell

Are local orgs aware of regional efforts and vice versa? (Not an overwhelming YES). Ruth, Georgetown Concom is aware but only because she works for KELT perhaps. The idea of a network to share lessons learned could be helpful – general agreement. Communication gaps: regional to local; local to local (Georgetown EMA to Georgetown ConCom). Mary Ann: Harpswell is end of Cumberland Co but are part of MCEDD/MCOG, so there is a bit of a geographic gap.

Plans – Areas Covered: Merrymeeting region, Casco Bay, Cumberland/Sagadahoc

Online data sets that are available:

- SLR and storm surge data from Maine Geological Survey
- Data only – heat and precipitation projections (Casco Bay RRAP – Dept. of Homeland Security)
- TNC Coastal Application (<https://maps.coastalresilience.org/maine/>)
- All tools using same base info from MGS – updates to data sets

Most people in the room indicated that they are familiar with online data sets. Liz Hertz question: do EMA managers use the tools that show projections? Sagadahoc EMA uses Hurrevac for a particular storm. (They look at storm surge.) Joe Lavine paper- mapped hazard mitigation areas with local EMs.

Liz: What baseline do you use? Answer: use NOAA predicted high tide as the baseline. Also, get real time data from NWS.

RRAP dataset: Has anyone used this? (No)

Technical/Planning materials:

- NOAA Adaptation planning
- Maine Flood Resilience Checklist
- DACF Municipal Climate Adaptation Guidance Checklist
- Maine Adaptation Toolkit

Kristen: Are these resources familiar? Sarah, Sag EMA: No. Mary Ann is familiar with some of these. Art: Does not have enough time to devote to these but keeps track in a generic sense of who the players are and is good at finding resources. Also likes to tie in with economic piece.

EM is the nexus for different disciplines; people involved in EM aren't necc. into coastal resilience.

For people that have used them, do you see barriers to people using them? Mary Ann: Wish State webpages were more intuitive; cannot find resources again (especially DACF site). Victoria: Website pages are not easy to find; old archived pages come up first in Google search. Ruth: Flood resilience checklist is useful but it would be useful for outside group to come and help town navigate it and go through that process. (Liz: that process was designed by Abbie Sherwin, now SMPDC, to be facilitated by regional planners and others).

Mary Ann wanted to follow up to do flood resilience checklist but does not know how to do that; the checklist might not be the best tool for Harpswell in particular. Kristen: If a town were going to work with Abbie, would they need to pay for it? (Liz: She has some funding; not sure how many communities she can work with. Mary Ann was told she should work through MCOG.) RPCs were trained but towns still have to pay them, so it is a budgeting issue.

Sarah: Sarah described a gap that existed between emergency responders and local level planners and the need to better connect missions, use of data, and create more synergy. EMAs focus on respond and recovery and have a more seasonal dimension to work. But need to move toward planning and mitigation and develop ways to educate citizenry

Liz: Gap between groups; between county EMA, local EMA and other municipal entities. Art: He is in emergency response but also looks at planning and mitigation so that future emergencies can be prevented or mitigated. In addition: educating citizenry is important. Harpswell has different seasonal audiences – summer visitors, etc. How do you change the mindset of year round folks?

MEMA - Laura: There are groups at the state level that do cultural mitigation (libraries, town office archives, etc. Basic preparedness information (people, commerce and culture).

Silos (different missions)--EM: respond & recover; local, muni, orgs: plan & mitigate
gap: people, commerce, culture

Potential student projects:

- Bowdoin students collaborate with network of professionals to guide communities through the resilience planning process.
- Cataloging cultural/historical areas/documents that towns want to protect
- Eileen’s “Building Resilient Communities” course – these students could be a resource
- Dissect road data from TNC /town

Social Vulnerability Index – Eileen/Liz

Coastalresilience.org/maine

Handout: TNC SVI article

Eileen laid out what social vulnerability and coastal resilience mean, and why they are important for emergency and adaptation planning. Functional and access needs: medical equipment need electricity, bed-bound folks. Thoughts on definition: add culture; start with individual and work out to community.

Someone mentioned the Maine mentality of not asking for help. Someone else said “the Maine way” is asking for help from neighbors (e.g. neighbors coming out with chainsaws after a storm event to clear downed trees from driveways) SoVi – Liz:

There are three apps:

1. Future Habitat Explorer
2. Aquatic Barrier Prioritization
3. Coastal Risk Explorer

Of note regarding SoVi:

- Address locations are from E911 so they include both homes and businesses.
- The cost estimates for upgrading roads are very much ballpark (big caveat) but they do provide relative costs for block group vs. townwide.
- Public and private roads are included.
- If a town has multiple census block groups within their town, they can look at the social vulnerability index for each block group.
- This is the first project in Maine that actually looks at how people are vulnerable to impacts.
- The new version will look at change in assessed value and provide more accurate local road information as well as more accurate projected costs to upgrade.

Harpswell and Georgetown as Case Studies – Kristen

Georgetown state roads vs. local roads. Issue: lack of responsiveness from MaineDOT regarding unsafe roads. Have to get on their priority list. Can do so by being the squeaky wheel! KELT is working on a project with DOT.

Harpswell – Mary Ann:

Their Basin Point Road project: A peninsula with one access road. Predicted to be overtopped with as little as one foot SLR. They worked with engineering firm to look at 3-foot rise and 6-foot rise. CBEP assessed current ecological conditions and planning for impact of a culvert replacement on adjacent

ecosystems. Basin Point Road has around 200 residences and some businesses, including Dolphin Marina and Restaurant, a large employer. The Town will now use 3 foot SLR as the metric in their CIP planning.

Kristen asked if Georgetown was familiar with Harpswell's project, and they said they were not.

Addressing projects with the potential for multiple values (e.g. SLR, ecological restoration, etc.) brought up some discussion about other partners who could potentially be around the table, including MaineDOT, DEP, and USFWS.

Bottom-up communications (i.e. local-to-local, then up the chain to state) is the best avenue and perhaps state folks could be brought on later.

Georgetown and Harpswell are in different counties, which makes it hard to keep up to date on what each other are doing and to coordinate. Therefore, a regional networking structure like this could be valuable.

Draft Invite List to Larger Workshop (to be heavily vetted and folks should add actual names to orgs.):

- Jay McCreight, Representative
- Brownie Carson, Representative
- Maine DOT
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited, Brunswick HQ
- Friends of Casco Bay
- Cumberland County EMA
- Dept. of Marine Resources
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- USGS and Maine USGS
- Maine Preservation Alliance or other organization that is concerned with protecting historic and cultural resources
- CDC
- Nate Robbins, DEP
- Ruta Dzenis as link to the RPOs
- Environmental Finance Center
- Maine Coastal Program
- Town senior support groups
- Laurie mentioned "The Ready Rating," a preparedness survey for small businesses.
- Town staff/committees (general agreement that towns should send one or two reps that have influence and that can communicate with other parties): Local shellfish committees, DPWs, Selectboard Chairs, ConComs, planners, etc.

Someone asked who would be the bridge to keep these communications going? Kristen said the conveners have been looking for funding and they will keep the project moving while continuing to look for outside resources.

Liz mentioned that this would be a good project for Hannah Pingree's new Office of Innovation. Also the Maine Municipal Conference.

Laurie cautioned the group that perhaps we want to start local and regional and add State folks later.

Structure of follow-up workshop? We revisited the goals and objectives to look at how to structure the larger workshop. Kristen asked if it looked like a good structure: work with partners at the table to figure out how they want to work together and then smaller topical working groups could potentially come out of it.

Next Steps:

- Send out our invite list to this group vet list as well as ID individuals.
- Conveners draft the agenda and to-do list and send out to all to look over.