

Tracking Progress - *Better Safe than Sorry* Workshop

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Mather Auditorium

June 22, 2015 9 am – 3:00 pm

Summer is here and the coastal communities of southern Maine are geared up for another busy season. Coastal communities prepare for the arrival of summer residents and visitors placing lifeguard stands, activating beach parking and increasing police patrols. These same coastal communities are working within a longer time frame to improve their resilience to coastal hazards and extreme weather events, particularly in light of climate change. Cities and towns benefit by learning from their neighbors. In light of capacity constraints and limited resources, there may also be benefits in working together toward shared goals. This workshop brings 10 communities together to meet with experts in climate change adaptation to learn from each other, identify shared goals and the ways communities currently track progress toward the goals they set for themselves, and discuss how those indicators and metrics may need to be modified to track progress and measure success in working toward greater resilience in the face of change.

Ten Communities Working Together to be *Better Safe Than Sorry*
Kittery + York + Ogunquit + Wells + Kennebunk + Kennebunkport +
Biddeford + Saco + Old Orchard Beach + Scarborough

Objectives:

1. Participants will share and learn about work currently underway to safeguard people and community resources through planning and preparing for coastal hazards and flooding, including climate change-related measures.
2. Participants will identify the ways their communities track progress toward community goals for preparation, mitigation, and response to coastal hazards and flooding.
3. Participants will explore how their individual community goals related to hazard mitigation and climate adaptation may align to shared regional goals.
4. Participants will consider the advantages of developing a small number of common indicators to use to track progress toward those shared regional goals.
5. Participants will evaluate the advantage of continued collaboration to build capacity and take advantage of synergies in our work to increase the resilience of the region.

Agenda

8:45 Sign-in and Coffee/Tea

9:00 Welcome and Introductions - Christine Feurt, Wells Reserve & UNE

9:30 What can southern Maine coastal communities expect in the next 50 years? –
Cameron Wake, UNH (20 minute talk/10 minutes questions)

What is coming our way? What do we know about flooding, coastal storms, sea level rise and extreme weather events trends and impacts on the Southern Maine Coast?

10:00 Successfully adapting to coastal change: Thinking about "adaptation success" and how to measure progress Susi Moser, Susanne Moser Research and Consulting and James Arnott, University of Michigan

10: 50 Break

11:05 The landscape of efforts of Southern Maine coastal communities to be *Better Safe than Sorry*: Introduction and overview Annie Cox, Wells Reserve

11:25 What are we aiming for? From community to shared regional hazard preparedness goals

12:30 LUNCH will be provided

1:00pm Learning from participants about how success/progress is measured

Participants share how progress/success in their hazard mitigation and climate adaptation goals is being measured at present.

Current actions southern Maine coastal communities have taken aim to:

- Assess vulnerability of important resources
- Communicate the need for/value of adaptation and mitigation actions
- Plan to reduce the impacts of coastal hazards and flooding to community resources, human health and private property
- Strategize response to hazard events
- Mitigate impacts through
 - Elevation of vulnerable infrastructure
 - Protection of existing green infrastructure that provides benefits
 - Moving vulnerable people and structures out of harm's way

2:00 Do current ways of tracking progress and measuring success need to be adjusted to account for climate change?

Considering current indicators and ways of tracking identified by participants and indicator examples developed by others previously presented, is there a small set of indicators usable by southern Maine communities to track progress toward shared goals?

Do these ways of tracking progress need to be adjusted in any way to account for climate change? Identify ways the Wells Reserve can facilitate tracking of indicators and support communities in their adaption work. What is needed to make indicator tracking feasible?

Group discussion

3:00 Adjourn