

TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY

Minutes for SLR & SS Committee Organizational Meeting Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 1:00 Location: South Bethany Town Hall

AGENDA Items

- Organizational items – Members, Name, Mission, Logo
- SLR & SS in South Bethany Power Point Presentation
- Where Do We Go From Here?
- Brain Storming
- Assignments of Tasks

The meeting was called to order at about 1:10. All members were present for this meeting.

Jim Gross, Jay Headman, George Junkin, Chairperson, Frank McNeice, Dick Oliver, Al Rae, Dave Wilson

Name of Committee

The current name is Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Adaptation Committee (SLR & SS AC). It has been suggested that the name should not have the word “Adaptation” in it because we need to do more than just adapt. We need to collect data, do research and analysis, etc. The committee agreed that the word “Adaptation” should be removed from the committee’s name.

The Mission Statement and Plan were modified as follows. The most significant change was that the committee would not conduct homeowners’ surveys. They will get feedback from homeowners from public meetings.

Revised Mission Statement and Plan

Given the increasing information about future concerns that coastal communities like South Bethany may face from Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge, as demonstrated by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012, the SLR & SS ~~Adaptation~~ Committee will:

- Conduct a SLR & SS Vulnerability Assessment that will identify ~~homes~~property elevations, infrastructure and ~~community~~public spaces that may be at risk for SRL & SS.
- Gather relevant data and expertise to understand the possible hazards and costs associated with SLR & SS;
- Identify potential, evaluate and recommend adaptation options;
- ~~Evaluate adaptation options;~~
- ~~Recommend adaptation options;~~
- Develop a ~~proactive reasonable~~ response based on information and research;

with the overall goal being the future protection of both the property owners’ and the Town’s assets.

Plan

- Recruit committee members with interest, expertise and communication skills related to SLR & SS. Jim Gross has already volunteered. Complete
- ~~Survey homeowners~~Collect data to determine ~~the cost of damages sustained during Hurricane Sandy.~~
- ~~Use~~Obtain elevation data for roads, catch basins and bulkheads, national and state SLR studies to assess risks due to SLR & SS.
- Review building and zoning code looking for opportunities to adapt to SLR & -SS.
- Identify potential adaptation options.
- Evaluate potential adaptation options (Practicality and Cost Benefit Analyses).
- Develop outreach and educational material particularly focused on ~~cultural~~ acceptance for -changes related to home building and retrofits required to adapt to SLR & SS concerns.
- ~~Survey homeowners to obtain opinions~~Obtain feedback from property owners relative to adaptation options.
- Select adaptation options for submission to Town Council for action.
- Develop information for the Planning Commission so that the PC and Town Council may incorporate planning issues related to SLR & SS concerns into the Town's comprehensive plan.
- Develop information for the Charter & Code Committee so that the CCC and Town Council may incorporate changes related to SLR & SS issues into the building and zoning codes.
- Develop information to improve the Town's level of participation in the Community Rating System (CRS).

Potential Logos were evaluated. It was agreed that the committee logo would have no picture. It would just be words as shown below.



George presented the PowerPoint **SLR & SS in South Bethany** that he has been presenting at the “Meet the Mayor” meetings. There was a lot of discussion about the water levels in the South Bethany Canals over the last 5 years. George was tasked to get more data, since the tide gage has been in place since July, 1999. George agreed to do this.

Where Do We Go From Here? Do to time constraints this agenda topic was skipped and will be discussed at our next meeting.

1. Conduct a Vulnerability Study
2. Set Preparedness Goals
3. Develop Preparedness Plan
4. Implement Preparedness Plan
5. Measure Progress and Evaluate Plan

Brain Storming The following items were discussed. Committee members volunteered for responsibility for specific topics as shown below. The current assignment is to become familiar with the topic. Due dates will be assigned as we become more familiar with the issues and develop our plan for moving forward.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Raise roads | |
| • Raise bulkheads | Dave Wilson |
| • Raise lots | Frank McNeice |
| • Raise houses | Al Rae |
| • Build raised walkways | |
| • Build dykes | |
| • Build canal flood gates | Dave Wilson |
| • Protect underground power cables and transformers | Al Rae |
| • Protect storm sewer system, pumps? | |
| • Protect sanitary sewer system | Frank McNeice |
| • Protect cable infrastructure | |
| • Protect wetlands | |
| • Survey homeowners | |
| • Evaluate elevation data | Frank McNeice |
| • Review/update building code | Jim Gross |
| • Review/update Town Comprehensive Plan | Dick Oliver |
| • Understand FEMA maps, insurance, rules | Dick Oliver |
| • Understand participation in Community Rating System (CRS) | Jay Headman |

Next Scheduled Meeting – is June 27 at 1:30 at the Town of South Bethany Police Station. We will have three visitors at that meeting;

Wendy Carey, Coastal processes/coastal hazards specialist, Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service

wcarey@udel.edu

Wendy Carey is the coastal processes/coastal hazards specialist for the Delaware Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Service. In that capacity, she works with research scientists, local governments, coastal communities and residents to provide information on topics such as beaches, shoreline erosion, salt marshes, sea-level rise, coastal storms and coastal hazard preparedness.

Wendy has a BS in geology from St. Lawrence University, and graduate degrees (MS and PhD) from the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, University of Delaware.

Mike Powell, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Watershed Stewardship

michael.powell@state.de.us

Michael Powell is an environmental scientist with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Science Education and a Masters of Marine Policy degree from the University of Delaware. Michael is a Certified Floodplain Manager who has been responsible for floodplain mapping, implementing flood mitigation projects, and working with communities to improve their local floodplain management programs since 1991. He is active in the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

Susan.Love@state.de.us

Susan has been a Planner for the Delaware Coastal Programs, housed within the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, since 1999 and has significant experience conducting collaborative initiatives to solve emerging coastal management issues. Currently, she is leading the development of a Statewide Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan with an Advisory Committee composed of 25 diverse stakeholder groups. Previously, she worked to improve a range of urban social and environmental issues through the South Wilmington Special Area Management Plan and to ensure the longevity and productivity of bird nesting habitat through the Pea Patch Island Special Area Management Plan. Susan has also spent considerable time engaged in shorebird and horseshoe crab population monitoring and wetland policy and permitting issues.

Susan holds a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Delaware and recently obtained her Masters of Public Administration, also from the University of Delaware

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with them our thoughts concerning SLR & SS and learn from them where they can supply their expertise, experience and guidance in obtaining more resources and support for our efforts.

The meeting adjourned at about 3:00