

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Working Group:
Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach-Scarborough-SMRPC
Action Plan

Purpose:

The purpose of the Sea Level Adaptation Working Group (SLAWG) is to review the recent Coastal Hazard Resiliency Tools Project that has analyzed the problem of sea level rise, and then develop an action plan that will estimate regional vulnerabilities, identify regional objectives to address such vulnerabilities, and provide implementation strategies for regional solutions. The SLAWG shall limit its scope to its defined region, which shall consist of any coastal estuaries, marshes and beaches subject to tidal influence and storm surges, whether by fresh or salt water, as well as any associated developed areas, roads, and other infrastructure, within the four member municipalities.

Goals and Principles:

1. *Retreat v. Engineering Approaches* - SLAWG will strike a balance between the opposing policies of retreat from the coast versus devising engineered solutions to adapt to sea level rise. SLAWG will strive to use an even-handed approach.
2. *Setting Priorities* - When developing plans for sea level adaptation projects for Council consideration, the SLAWG will rank them for priority according to
 - Rough calculation of benefits versus costs
 - Number and value of properties affected/protected
 - Criticality of an Evacuation Route
 - Natural Values preserved
 - Recreation Values preserved
 - Numbers of people served by the subject infrastructure
3. *Transparency* – The SLAWG will update its website and publish timely meeting notices, agendas, and will attempt to stick to its advance schedule. SLAWG will report to the member Councils annually, and when milestones are reached.
4. *Civility* - The SLAWG will operate in a congenial atmosphere, so that members feel comfortable expressing their ideas, and differences will be respected.
5. *Geographic Balance* – The SLAWG will strive for geographic balance for the projects it is considering, with the understanding that we can't work on all four communities at once, and some may have to wait for the next turn.

Analysis of Existing Conditions and Identification of Problems and Issues:

The SLAWG will create a Vulnerability Assessment based primarily upon information from the Coastal Hazard Resiliency Tools Project, funded by the Maine Coastal Program, and any updates prepared by the Maine Geological Survey and Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission. The group will also gather and study all of the best available data on Saco Bay issues, which has been produced by the communities, federal and state agencies,

environmental groups, and universities. The SLAWG should also consult the Saco Bay Management Plan for guidance, but with deference to the fact that its recommendations are ten years old. The assessment shall identify properties and infrastructure vulnerable to storms and sea level rise, such as buildings, culverts, storm drains, bridges or tide gates, as well as any natural areas at risk, such as saltwater marshes and adjacent uplands.

Objective:

Percent Complete: 85%

Target Completion Date: April 2011

Implementation Strategies and Objectives:

1. Create a ranking process, and prioritize a list of potential sea level adaptation construction and conservation projects for the SLAWG to focus on.

Objective:

Percent Complete 0%

Target Completion Date June 2011

2. Use regional approaches to plan for improvements; and obtaining grants or appropriations for construction or conservation projects on a regional basis, or supporting individual municipal grant or appropriation requests for such projects.

Objective:

Percent Complete 0%

Target Completion Date December 2011

3. Comment on federal or state beach nourishment/erosion control efforts that affect one or more communities, including management or deposition of dredged materials.

Objective:

Percent Complete na

Target Completion Date Ongoing

4. Recommend the standardizing of floodplain management standards and building code interpretations across jurisdictions to improve resiliency of individual private structures.

Objective:

Percent Complete 0%

Target Completion Date December 2011

5. Recommend standardizing of ordinance review standards affecting the shorelands adjacent to Saco Bay, as well as standardizing review and controls for water activities across jurisdictions, for structures and activities affected by sea level rise or coastal storms. Such water activities may or may not include land-based development, and could include aquaculture, marina, or green energy production projects.

Objective:

Percent Complete 0%

Target Completion Date December 2011

6. Provide non-binding comments on various applications for development review affecting Saco Bay that may be vulnerable to sea level rise or coastal storms, to those individual review authorities having jurisdiction.

Objective:

Percent Complete na
Target Completion Date Ongoing

7. Coordinate with MS4 stormwater planning programs to comply with EPA and DEP requirements.

Objective:
Percent Complete na
Target Completion Date Ongoing

8. Coordinate with the Saco Bay Implementation Team in its efforts to devise a solution to the Camp Ellis jetty and erosion problems.

Objective:
Percent Complete na
Target Completion Date Ongoing

9. Coordinate with the New England Environmental Finance Center in its research on the economic impacts of sea level rise, and the estimation of costs and benefits of various adaptation strategies.

Objective:
Percent Complete na
Target Completion Date Ongoing

10. Report to the Councils of each party municipality at least once a year about its activities and to present its annual budget.

Objective:
Percent Complete na
Target Completion Date Ongoing