

Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission

Commission Meeting #2

July 24, 2024



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE

MAINE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Commission Meeting Schedule (through Nov.)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---|
| May 21 | 11am-12:30 | Executive Order signing, Stonington visit (optional) |
| May 31 | 9am-12pm | York County visit (optional) |
| June 26 | 1-4pm | Commission meeting #1 – zoom |
| June 28 | 9am-12pm | Western Maine visit (optional) |
| July 17 | 11am-2pm | Downeast visit (optional) |
| July 24 | 1-4pm | Commission meeting #2 – zoom |
| August 5 | 1-4pm | Midcoast visit & Commission meeting #3 – hybrid |
| September 4 | 1-4pm | Commission meeting #4 – zoom |
| September 18 | 1-4pm | Commission meeting #5 – zoom |
| September TBD | TBD | Northern Maine visit (optional) |
| October 2 | 1-4pm | Commission meeting #6 – in person location TBD |
| October 30 | 1-4pm | Commission meeting #7 – zoom |
| November 12 | 1-4pm | Commission meeting #8 – in person 109 Capitol Street, Augusta, DHHS conference room |



Agenda – July 24

1:00 – **Welcome & meeting purpose**

1:15 – **Commission member reflections**

1:30 – **Lessons from Vermont**, *Julie Moore, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources*

2:15 – **Commission member panel**

2:45 – **Break**

3:15 – **Discussion**

3:55 – **Closing remarks**

4:00 – **Adjourn**



Discussion questions

- With the options from Vermont in mind, what recommendations are emerging for you?
- What additional information or research is needed to shape a policy or action recommendation?
- Based on what you heard today, where should the commission continue to focus?



Discussion themes

- What recommendations are emerging for you?
 - Explore adopting state “codes and standards” to expedite FEMA funding applications.
 - Municipal technical assistance program. Regional planning orgs have been active providers of assistance for many years.
 - What recommendations for the new Office of Community Affairs, particularly around assistance to communities?
 - Understanding the challenges and opportunities of scale
 - Leveraging regionalism and partnerships as vehicles to scale solutions, e.g. code enforcement
 - Reducing barriers to funding opportunities. Local and regional funding mechanisms
 - State capital planning that includes consideration of adaptation to climate risks
 - Statewide insurance mechanisms, e.g., for public infrastructure, property casualty markets, etc.
 - Voluntary buyout program that is independent from FEMA but complimentary
 - Review state Public Improvement Project Policy Manual (at DAFS) to expedite emergency funding
 - Resources for community engagement and education

Discussion themes

- What additional information or research is needed to shape a policy or action recommendation?
 - There is a lot happening in Maine – how do we collect and understand what is happening at local, county, regional, state level? Potential benefits for communications, project funding, hazard mitigation planning.
 - Need better understanding of changes in risk, and ways of evaluating costs and risks when making decisions. Should consider risks beyond flooding – for example, wind damage is increasing.
 - What percentage of the tax base is in the flood plain? More broadly, info, modeling, and digital tools related to flood risk (e.g climate informed flood plain modeling)
 - A few other emerging recommendations to consider based on today's meeting: (1) increasing social resilience, (2) increased communications between agencies as well as local emergency communication plans, (3) efficient emergency regulatory approval processes to rebuild post-storm

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