

Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission

Commission Meeting #1

June 26, 2024



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE

MAINE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Agenda

- 1:00 – **Welcome & Commission Purpose**, *Commission co-chairs*
- 1:10 – **Commission Member Introductions**
- 1:45 – **2023/2024 Storms and Climate Connections**, *Maine Geological Survey and University of Maine*
- 2:15 – **Storm Preparation, Response and Recovery**, *Maine Emergency Management Agency*
- 2:45 – **Lessons from the Rebuild Texas Commission**, *Texas A&M*
- 3:15 – **Commission Structure**
- 3:30 – **Discussion**
- 3:55 – **Closing remarks**, *Commission co-chairs*
- 4:00 – **Adjourn**



Deliverables

November 15, 2024 – Interim recommendations and report

May 15, 2025 – Final recommendations and report

“The purpose of the Commission is to advance and support the State’s approach to response, recovery, and rebuilding related to the disasters of the preceding eighteen months, and provide analysis, lessons and strategies from this recovery period, and make a report and recommendations”

“The Commission shall issue a public report of its findings to the Governor and Legislature. The Commission shall issue an interim report by November 15, 2024 and shall issue a final report no later than May 15, 2025.”

– Executive Order 8 (May 21, 2024)



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	TBD	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



Listening Sessions

- **Stonington**, Hancock County – Executive Order signing & site visit | *complete*
- **Old Orchard Beach**, York County – site visit | *complete*
- **Rumford/Mexico**, Oxford County – site visit | *June 28, 2024*
- **Downeast Maine**, Washington County – site visit | *July 17, 2024*
- **Midcoast Maine**, Knox County – site visit | *August 5, 2024*
- **Northern Maine**, Aroostook County – site visit | *September 2024*



Listening Session Summary: Stonington

Prior adaptation efforts:

- January 2024 storms exceeded sea level rise projections Stonington had prepared for

Working waterfront infrastructure damage:

- Only two days between storms to assess damage, prevent further loss
- Private wharves at risk of selling due to insurmountable damage, loss of critical working waterfront



*Commercial Fish Pier submerged during January 10 storm.
Photo: Town of Stonington*



Listening Session Summary: Stonington



Left: Oceanville Road overtopped during the storms. Center & right: Deer Isle Causeway overtopped and impassable from debris during/after the storm.

Photos: Town of Stonington



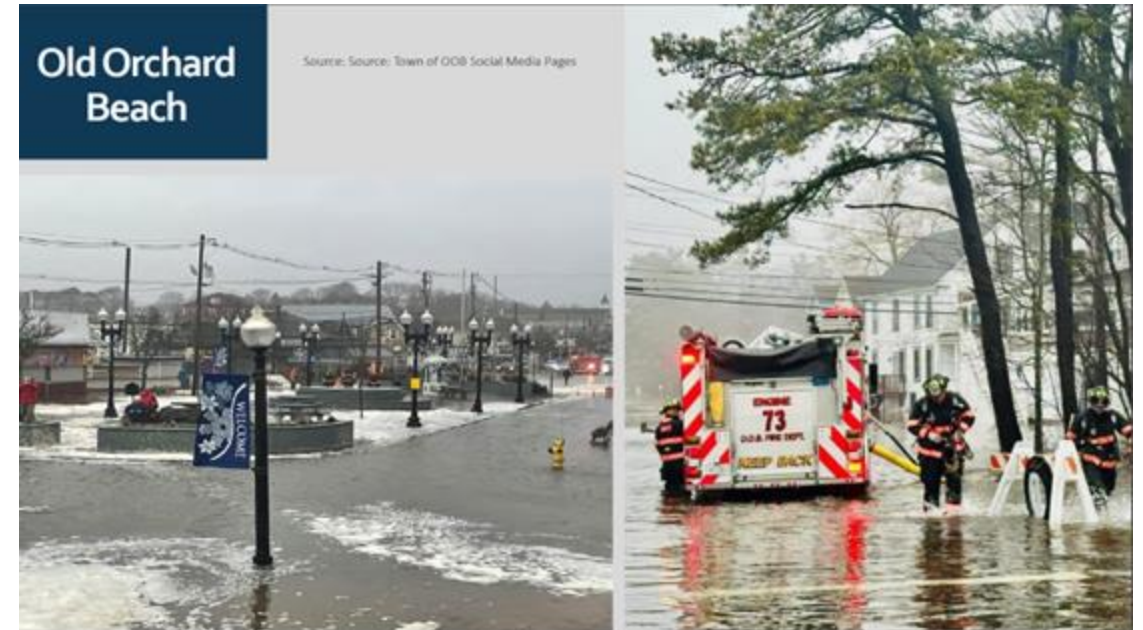
Listening Session Summary: York County

During storms:

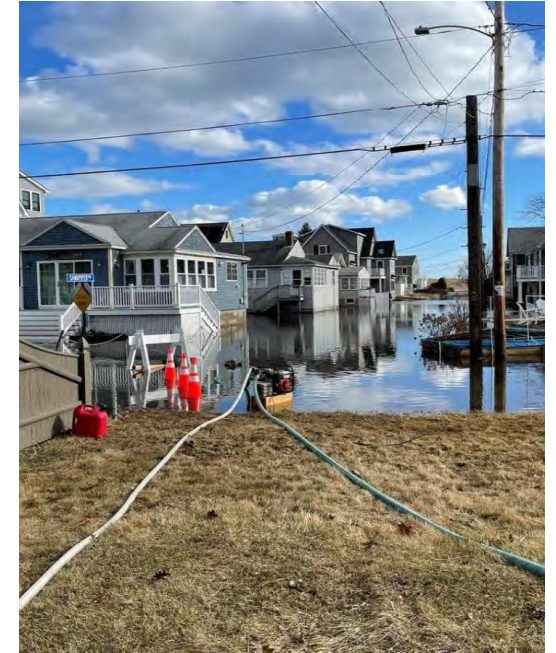
- Rescue teams encountered fast rising storm surge, electrical fires, lack of personnel
- Flooded roads & pump stations

Post storm damage:

- Severe loss of Old Orchard Beach sand dunes, 5 feet of beach sand
- Camp Ellis has lost approximately 38 homes over the past 60 years



Listening Session Summary: York County



Aftermath of the storms. Left: Saco. Center & right: Old Orchard Beach.

Photos assembled by York County EMA.



Commission Topics

- 1. *Avoiding the unmanageable*** – recommendations to mitigate disaster risks and avoid future damages through:
 - a. flood plain management,
 - b. building codes,
 - c. infrastructure design standards, and
 - d. insurance
- 2. *Managing the unavoidable*** – recommendations for resilient disaster recovery and rebuilding in the future through:
 - a. Hazard mitigation and communication
 - b. planning,
 - c. permitting,
 - d. capacity, and
 - e. funding
- 3. *Keeping the lights on*** – recommendations for:
 - a. reducing electric grid outages and delivered fuel interruptions,
 - b. mitigating the impact of outages for people and businesses during and after disasters
- 4. *Sustaining community infrastructure*** – recommendations for long-term protection of vital community and economic infrastructure including working waterfronts from natural disasters, redevelopment, and disrepair
- 5. *Leveraging strategic partnerships*** – recommendations for expanding the role of capital markets and philanthropy in disaster recovery
- 6. *Maximizing use of existing funding*** – recommendations for addressing gaps in disaster recovery support and funding for infrastructure adaptation



Commission Staff

Brian Ambrette, GOPIF – lead policy staff

Anne Fuchs, MEMA – lead policy staff

Anthony Ronzio, GOPIF – external communications and press

Maggie Kelly-Boyd, GOPIF – internal communications, commission member support

Hannah Silverfine, GOPIF – logistical support

Dan Matz, GOPIF – infrastructure and federal funding connections

Commission website – maine.gov/future/infrastructure-commission

