

Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission

Commission Meeting #6

October 2, 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 6	9:30-11am	Northern Maine visit (optional, Zoom or in-person)
September 18	1-4pm	Commission meeting #5 – zoom
October 2	1-4pm	Commission meeting #6 – in person, Augusta
October 30	1-4pm	Commission meeting #7 – zoom
November 12	1-4pm	Commission meeting #8 – in person Tentatively Augusta



Fall timeline

October 2	1-4pm	Commission meeting #6 – in person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize recommendations
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cochairs' status report to Governor by 10/4• Staff draft interim report based on prioritizations• Draft to Commission members by 10/25
October 30	1-4pm	Commission meeting #7 – zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review, refine, and approve interim report
November 12	1-4pm	Commission meeting #8 – in person tentatively Augusta	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interim report announcement event• Final report work planning for December-May



Agenda – October 2nd

- 1:00 **Opening Remarks**, Commission co-chairs
- 1:10 **Resilience Framework & Recommendations**, consultants
- 2:05 **Prioritization Exercise**, facilitated small groups
- 3:00 **Break**
- 3:10 **Small Group Report Outs**, staff facilitators
- 3:20 **Reflections**, Commission members
- 3:55 **Closing Remarks**, Commission co-chairs
- 4:00 **Adjourn**



Speaker

Sam Brody, Texas A&M





Preliminary Recommendations for Discussion with IRRC
Members

October 2, 2024

Agenda

- Inputs and Progress to Date
- Review Preliminary Recommendations
- Next Steps

Inputs and Key Milestones to Date

Milestone	Timeline
Present Mitigation Framework to IRRC	6/26
Collect and review data; review State and local plans	8/13 – 9/15
1:1 Conversations with IRRC Members to understand Commissioner priorities, collect feedback, identify local examples of mitigation strategies in action <i>21 interviews conducted to date with IRRC members</i> <i>Additional interviews scheduled for week of 10/7</i>	9/9 – 10/9
Develop preliminary data analysis and recommendations	8/13 - ongoing
Present preliminary recommendations to IRRC	10/2 (Today)

Agenda

- Review Approach and Progress to Date
- Review Preliminary Recommendations
- Next Steps

The following slides introduce preliminary recommendations for the Commission to consider.

For our discussion, please consider the following questions:

- What prioritization criteria should be used?
- How would you go about sequencing different strategies?

Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 1	Category
Establish a local capacity building storm risk reduction program to empower under-resourced Maine communities with digital tools and training to make informed disaster mitigation decisions and reduce future losses.	<i>Community Support</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local communities are not well positioned to prepare for and respond to the impacts of natural hazards.• Investments in flood infrastructure including data collection, analytics, modeling, and mitigation are critical for responding to flood risk• A Flood Technical Assistance Corps (FTAC) can:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure communities benefit from the federal and state investments in improved flood data collection and analytics leading to improved resilience over the long term• Position under-resourced and underrepresented communities in Maine to effectively develop the capacity to assess, plan for, and mitigate current and future flood impacts	

Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 2	Category
Establish a State of Maine Disaster Data Service that serves as a hub for storing and analyzing critical datasets, developing decision support tools, and helping local communities better understand their disaster risk.	<i>Data Sharing</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<p>A State of Maine Disaster Data Center would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a central location to collect, store, and analyze data• Make data easily accessible• Analyze data and create decision support tools• Integrate data on physical, environmental, socioeconomic conditions• Provide a venue for local communities without technical capacity to have their data stored• Track and monitor implementation/outcomes of resiliency recommendations/policies• Build upon existing data portals and programs already in place• Engage with universities conducting research and producing datasets	

Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 3	Category
Better position Maine and its communities to capture current and future funding opportunities at the federal level to build capacity for storm risk reduction, especially at the local level.	<i>Funding</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<p>Maine can increase its ability to capture federal funds for storm risk reduction by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopting an “Enhanced” State Hazard Mitigation Plan• Increasing capacity and speed to report damage assessments that justify federal assistance• Offering technical assistance to local communities pursuing funds for planning and mitigation• Providing local matching funds for property buyouts• Increasing awareness of and help residents apply for Individual Assistance (IA), Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	

Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 4	Category
Establish a state-wide communication and public information program that better informs local decision makers and residents on their risk of flooding-related storms and provides guidance on how they can mitigate potential adverse impacts.	<i>Data Sharing</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<p>Maine can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a risk communication system (e.g., buyersaware.org) to support the recently adopted hazard disclosure law• Maintain a state hazard risk disclosure and data repository identifies areas most vulnerable and in need of increased support• Establish a Flood Technical Assistance Corps (FTAC) spearheading education and outreach based on an extension agent model• Implement a model flood early warning and alert system to inform citizens during disaster events• Increase participation and effort in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program to support flood education and outreach activities	

Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 5	Category
Establish state-wide resiliency overlay districts using the best available science and data to promote storm resiliency through increased investments in critical infrastructure, higher standards, and incentives for developing in a way that reduces adverse impacts over the long term.	<i>Vulnerable Infrastructure</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<p>Overlays in Maine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are not a new concept – <i>see recent Portland and South Portland efforts</i>• Would rely on comprehensive data collection and analysis to identify areas of disaster risk• Could identify areas with high flood/coastal storm exposure and low human capacity• Would provide a rationale for targeted state investments, grant applications, technical assistance, additional development reviews, incentives to develop more flexibly, or adopting higher standards for flood and storm resiliency	

Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 6	Category
Increase local participation and effort in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS).	<i>Funding</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<p>CRS Participation will incentivize local communities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement higher regulatory standards, such as freeboard, fill limitations, local drainage protection, and critical facilities protection measures• Identify flood-prone properties and enact measures to acquire/protect properties• Protect natural functions of floodplains and critical habitats by implementing nature-based solutions• Reduce the cost of NFIP policies to households and increase the number of new policies held across the state	

Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 7	Category
Review current state building codes for aspects of disaster resiliency and encourage adoption of additional standards to better protect structures from the adverse impacts of storms.	<i>Regulatory</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<p>Resilient building codes in Maine would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt most recent IRC and IBC codes that include flood resiliency elements• Provide assistance to local communities interested in higher code standards• Take advantage of FEMA grant program for resilient building code implementation• Consider amendments to Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes• Be informed by national standards including ASCE24, FORTIFIED Homes offered by IBHS, National Green Building Standard (NGBS) ICC-700, etc.• Elevate, anchor, harden structures to significantly reduce risk	

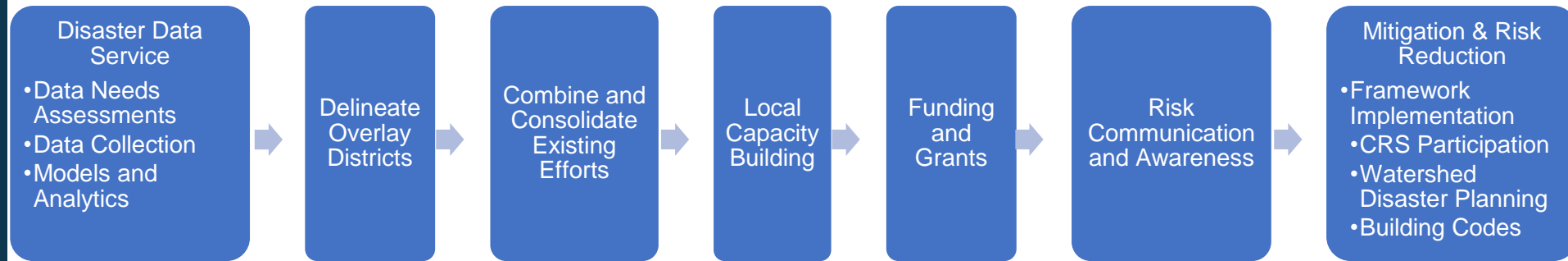
Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 8	Category
Establish a state-wide watershed flood planning program that incentivizes the adoption of collaborative plans focusing on mitigating flood risk and impacts along hydrologic boundaries.	<i>Data Sharing</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<p>Watershed Flood Planning in Maine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could leverage already-identified watershed units that could serve as a starting point for establishing a flood risk reduction watershed planning program for the state• Better recognize how communities are connected by the flow of water• Will facilitate collaboration across localities critical to addressing riparian and coastal flood problems• Will support regional capacity building and investments in an under-resourced landscape	






Preliminary Recommendations

Recommendation 9	Category
Implement a Home Strengthening and Climate Resiliency Program to provide grants to Maine residents to strengthen their homes against loss from weather events.	<i>Energy Resilience</i>
Description / Statement of Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligibility would be targeted to insurable properties that are owner-occupied• A project funded with grant money must comply with local permitting and inspection requirements and Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IHBS) standards• Homeowners could be eligible for a reduction in their homeowner's insurance• Examples of projects might include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roof replacement• The purchase and installation of storm windows or shutters• The removal of tree branches overhanging an insured structure• Regrading to reduce flooding potential• The construction of retaining walls	

Resilient Decision Pathway for Maine



Next Steps through November 15, 2024

Milestone	Timeline
Present Mitigation Framework to IRRC	6/26 
Collect and review data	8/13 – 9/15 
1:1 Conversations with IRRC Members to understand Commissioner priorities, collect feedback, identify local examples of mitigation strategies in action	9/9 – 10/9 
Develop preliminary data analysis and recommendations	8/13 - ongoing 
Present preliminary recommendations to IRRC	10/2 
Develop compendium of federal disaster funding sources	By 11/15/24
Develop case studies of recommended strategies in action in Maine	Now – Q2, 2025
Identify national examples of best practice	Now – Q2, 2025
Present interim policy and research report	By 11/15/24
Review recommendations with national expert panel	11/15/24 – Q1, 2025

Prioritization Exercise

5 minutes – individual reflection on recommendations

- Which 1-2 recommendations in each category should be prioritized?
- Which recommendations are low-hanging and no-regrets actions (i.e., relatively easy to implement and impactful)?
- Which recommendations should be modified or omitted?
- What recommendations are missing?



Prioritization Exercise – Small groups

- Small group discussions by category
 - 2 rounds, 20 minutes each

<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2</u>
FUNDING – Room 118, Brian	REGULATORY – Room 118, Brian
COMMUNITY SUPPORT – Room 224, Maggie	DATA SHARING – Room 224, Maggie
VULNERABLE INFRASTRUCTURE – Room 236, Hannah S.	ENERGY RESILIENCE – Room 236, Hannah S.

*Rooms 224 & 236: go outside, enter the next door to the right, go upstairs, and to the right.



Prioritization questions

In each category:

- which 1-2 recommendations should be prioritized?
- which recommendations are low-hanging and no-regrets actions (i.e., relatively easy to implement and impactful)?
- what recommendations should be modified or omitted?
- what recommendations are missing?



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Thank you

- More information on the Resilience Commission, including meeting dates and a Commission Contact form, is available on the Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's website:
- <https://www.maine.gov/future/infrastructure-commission>

