Meeting Minutes * Maine Climate Council Coastal & Marine Working Group (MCC CMWG)
Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, Maine
November 21, 2019, 9am-12pm
Notes prepared by Jess Reilly-Moman and approved by Heather Leslie and Kathleen Leyden (WG co-chairs). For more information, please contact heather.leslie@maine.edu

The meeting began with introductions by 25 members of the working group (WG) around the table. WG co-chairs asked folks to state their name, affiliation, and what motivated their participation in the WG. After the WG member introductions, staff seated around the room introduced themselves, as did members of the public.

Next, the group reviewed the agenda, which included

1. Statement of the goals of the Maine Climate Council and this working group;
2. Explanation of the role and timeline of the science and technical subcommittee (STSC);
3. Review of the pre-meeting survey, to which 28 WG members and affiliates responded;
4. Discussion on the approach to meetings to come and the decision-making process;
5. Group exercise to understand the varied interests and expertise among the WG members.
6. Closing

1. **Overall charge, timeline, and big picture for the Maine Climate Council**
The presentation on goals includes information about the Maine Climate Council (MCC) charge to develop the climate action plan by December 1, 2020. This plan needs to address mitigation strategies to reach the specific target of gross 45% greenhouse gas reduction below 1990 levels by 2030, and at least 80% by 2050. Groups are developing adaptation and resilience strategies to build community resilience, while considering good paying clean jobs and ensuring that rural, low income, and elderly citizens not adversely impacted in the process. This is a big charge on an accelerated timeline.

The legislative charge for the MCC is to focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as accelerating Maine’s adaptation and resilience to climate change impacts. Working groups will meet monthly and will generate recommendations for the MCC to consider by June 2020. The Science and Technical Sub-Committee is charged with defining the highlights of what we know about a changing climate and effects in Maine, as well as gaps in our knowledge and a research agenda for the future. A question was posed how can the STSC weigh in on technology development; STSC welcomes these kinds of questions to direct their activities.

Questions arose about economic research to inform the MCC’s WG activities. An RFP is in development to engage consultants to assess the costs and benefits of different mitigation and adaptation strategies. This RFP will include:

1. Greenhouse gas (GHG) wedge pathways analysis (i.e., how different mitigation measures will contribute to overall carbon emission reduction goals);
2. Adaptation: including the scenario of no action and the associated costs; and

In response to a question about public participation, it was suggested that the WG

1. Budget time at end of meeting;
2. Utilize an online ‘comment box’:
   https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate/climate-council/contact
3. Use the comment form for our specific working group:
   https://tinyurl.com/MaineClimateComments
4. Leverage WG member networks to host targeted stakeholder meetings in the spring.

The MCC leadership does not want to limit what groups will recommend, and want everything to be data and evidence-based. All WGs will solicit stakeholder inputs, consider impacts of vulnerable communities, and recommend funding sources for potential strategies.

Regarding the public record and access to information of the WG meetings, public documents include handouts and working papers. Members can but are not required to share their personal notes. WG members should cc emails to co-chairs and state employee on communications related to substantive council work, or docs in progress. If WG members receive a request for document or email, a Maine Freedom of Access Act (“FOAA”) request, forward this to a state employee, as a response to the request must be made within 5 days. WG co-chairs must be cc’ed on emails when information is ‘substantive’ (in contrast, emails re logistics on where to meet for coffee are not substantive).

2. STSC information

STSC member says they are preparing a Phase 1 report for January for each working group. These include likely scenarios for changes for near term and 2100. By the June report, more will be fleshed out. There were requests for data looking at the impact of precipitation during storms and how this is related to storm surge, the combined data which does not exist. STSC has not focused on the science communication piece back to communities, nor on the social science related to climate impacts or adaptation. Members can communicate what data or information they would like through the working group co-chairs to the STSC.

WG members involved with industry, e.g., the marine trades, offer to survey their constituents where appropriate and possible to gather information about industry and business needs. Some discussion ensued about how to most efficiently do this, particularly within the next 4-8 weeks.

3. Review of Pre-meeting Survey

The pre-meeting survey had five emergent themes, with associated possible actions:

1. The expertise of the group is adaptation focused. This leads to a possible action: ensure that mitigation expertise is available to the group by reaching out to agencies and organization to see what projects already exist and learning from those.
2. The WG is concerned that recommendations to the council have context, both in understanding challenges of varied communities, from municipalities to oil dealers, and
that the recommendations ultimately serve these communities. Potential Action: Assemble stories from stakeholders based on group questions and concerns.


4. The WG wants more info from businesses / industries directly impacted. Potential Action: Reach out to industries.

5. Who else has done this, and how did it go? Group members want to learn from other similar places that have done this. Potential Action: invite regional leaders to speak about their successes, failures, unforeseen opportunities and threats.

4. Goals, Process and Products
The WG wants to focus on mutual understanding of issues. The co-chairs anticipate that the WG will divide into sub committees to dig into potential mitigation and adaptation strategies in particular areas.

The WG operates on consensus, meaning all views will be heard and concerns addressed. When there is not full consensus, that should be noted and minority views recorded. We will be guided by the principles of mutual understanding and a shared commitment to take action.

In Dec-Feb, mutual learning will take place through webinars, as well as in person meetings. The first webinar is scheduled for December 19th. During this same time frame, we will organize into sub committees and begin to identify potential mitigation and adaptation strategies for the full WG to vet and then prioritize during in person meetings in Feb and March. In April we will have an outline of the report, with priority strategies highlighted. In May we will draft the report, and in June, it is due to the Council. The MCC leadership recognizes that this is an aggressive timeline. We will do our best.

5. Expertise and interests exercise
The morning concluded with an exercise. WG members were asked to vote their passion and their expertise. Major strategy areas were listed on large pieces of paper taped to the wall. They were divided into Mitigation and Adaptation, and further divided from there into buckets, including port related strategies; ocean renewable energy; ecosystem conservation and restoration; fisheries and aquaculture; tourism; coastal community resilience and environmental, social and economic monitoring. Each person received three sticker green dots that represented their expertise, and three blue sticker dots that represented their passion, and they put them in whatever buckets they chose. This exercise allowed participants to think about their expertise, group knowledge gaps, and address both mitigation and adaptation.

6. Conclusion
At the conclusion of the meeting, the chairs ask for feedback in terms of thumbs up or down. While there was a positive feeling voiced, there also was uncertainty and concern about the lack of a clear framework to guide the work of the next 8 months. WG members would like more clarity on the timeline and process.
List of Participants in the November 21, 2019 meeting

**WG Members**
- Jeremy Bell
- Kathleen Bell
- Angela Brewer
- Joanthan Carter
- Justin Chenette
- Amanda Cross
- Andy Door
- Greg Dugal
- Claire Enterline
- Bob Faunce
- Ivy Frignoca
- John Hagan
- Dawn Hallowell
- Stacey Keefer
- Heather Leslie, co-lead
- Kathleen Leyden, co-lead
- Kathy Mills
- Bill Mook
- Chris Peterson
- Hattie Train
- Bill Needleman
- Curtis Bohlen
- Kristen Puryear
- Steve Walker
- Don Witherill

**Members of other WGs and Sci and Tech Sub Committee**
- Susie Arnold
- Nick Battista
- Rick Wahle
- Bob Marvinney

**Supporting staff**
- Sarah Curran
- Diedre Gilbert
- Rebecca Peters
- Jessica Reilly-Moman
- Cassandra Rose
- Jessica Waller

**Public**
- Mal Carey
- Monique Coombs
- David Costello
- Joan LeBlanc
- Ben Martens
- Alex Mihalov
- Richard Nelson
- Laura Singer
- Geoff Smith