

## March SLR Working Group Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 14, 2020

**Time:** 9:00AM- 11:00AM

**Location:** WHC Office/Zoom Web Conferencing

**Attendees:** Pete August, Melissa Cote, Jocelyn Lahey, Jill Scola, Deborah Lamm, Christian Fox, Grant Simmons, Ed Morrone, Janice Sassi

**By Phone/Zoom:** Dick Sayre, Randy Abood, Dick Holliday, Dennis Algieri, Lydia Cottrell, Will Eglin, Joan Beth Brown, Georgia Jones.

### **Welcome:**

Deborah welcomed the group. Deborah, and the Conservancy, understands that there are many things going on right now and thanked those who were able to participate in the meeting.

Jocelyn provided an update on SLR Archive web page. Janice provided an update on student projects regarding SLR.

Pete August described Zoom conferencing a bit and informed the group that the session will be recorded and placed on the SLR Web Archive. Pete introduced Melissa Cote.

### **Melissa Cote - Review of Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Adaptation Actions in RI**

- Barrington
  - Mixed Use Climate Response Demonstration Site
  - Municipal Community Resilience Building Workshop
  - Barrington Beach
  - Latham Park
  - Allins Cove
- Newport
  - King Park
  - Tide Gate
  - Gateway Center
  - The Point Neighborhood - “Keeping History Above Water”
- South Kingstown
  - Matunuck Seawall
- Wickford
  - Coastal Green and Resilient Infrastructure (GRIP) Design Project for Brown Street Parking Lot
- Resources
  - Shoreline Adaptation Inventory and Design Project (SAID)  
<http://www.crmc.ri.gov/coastalresilience.html>
  - Coastal Green and Resilient Infrastructure Project (GRIP) Interactive Map  
[https://www.crc.uri.edu/activities\\_page/interactive-map-tour-of-coastal-green-infrastructure/](https://www.crc.uri.edu/activities_page/interactive-map-tour-of-coastal-green-infrastructure/)
  - Barrington Municipal Resilience Program Community Workshop Findings  
<https://www.riib.org/sites/default/files/Barrington%2520MRP%2520CBR%2520Summary%2520of%2520Findings%2520-%2520Final%2520-%2520October%25202019%2520%25281%2529-compressed.pdf>
  - Barrington and Warren Mixed Use Climate Demonstration Site Report  
[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/546d61b5e4b049f0b10b95c5/t/5e233a7d3e92f95439495562/1579367043560/CI\\_MixedUseDemoSite\\_Report\\_2019.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/546d61b5e4b049f0b10b95c5/t/5e233a7d3e92f95439495562/1579367043560/CI_MixedUseDemoSite_Report_2019.pdf)

## **Grant Simmons - Review of Park Commission Mitigation Studies Regarding Fort Road Flooding**

### History:

- Fire District Park Commission has been working on these problems for the past 5 years.
- Problem becoming acute, need to resolve now.
- Access to Napatree is an image issue, access issue and a public safety issue.

### Areas affected:

- Napatree Point entrance
  - Unlike some of the projects seen in today's presentation, the entrance is protected and there is not a lot of wave action.
  - Parks Dept. is exploring a project using coir bags filled with sand and coir "logs" to raise the elevation of this location to allow for dry access on more days. Native plantings would be used to stabilize the soil.
  - Idea is to harvest existing stones to reduce wave energy and protect the bay side of the coconut coir envelopes.
  - The design is being reviewed by a coastal engineer, Fairbanks Engineering Company. Fairbanks is scheduled to come out to Napatree on 03/19/2020 to perform an independent peer review of the proposed project.
- WHYC entrance (WHFD responsible for the road and WHYC responsible for ramp)
  - Tides at 0.8 feet over MHHW result in water overtopping the entrance ramp.
  - Proposal is to raise and seal the roadbed so that water does not percolate up from underneath.
  - Most of the flooding on Fort Road comes from the opening of the sea wall at the WHYC entrance. Exploring damming this opening.
  - Can address scuppers after this is completed.
- Seawall
  - There are new backflow preventers installed and they are working well.
  - Cherenzia and Docko have been working together on surveyed elevation information.

Deborah noted that the presentation of possible solutions from Grant and the Parks Commission still needs to go in front of the Watch Hill Fire District Council and they will make a decision whether to pursue them.

### **DEM Grant:**

RI DEM is intent on spending the \$3 million allocated. They are looking for green solutions not gray solutions. Coir bags are seen as a green solution. This proposal could be very competitive. We would need commitment from the group that this is a community backed project. The landowner of the property (Fire District) has to sign off on the application. The project could be structured as such that only the Napatree entrance proposed solution is part of the application.

### **Next Steps:**

The Conservancy will schedule a meeting for May to discuss the student presentations, as well as 3' SLR/ 2050 conditions and solutions, and form a sub-committee to review those options.