Local Planning and Regulation: Options to Minimize Risk and Vulnerability

and the importance of taking action despite uncertainty

Julie LaBranche

ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION

NH Enabling Statutes

RSA 672:1 Planning and Zoning – Declaration of Purpose

RSA 674:2 Master Plan – Purpose and Description

RSA 674:16 Duties of the Planning Board

RSA 674:21 Innovative Land Use Controls

NH Enabling Statutes

RSA 674:56	(I) Floodplain Zoning, (II) Fluvial Erosion Hazard Zoning
RSA 674:57	FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)
RSA 482-A	Water Management & Protection - Wetland Regulations
RSA 483-B:9	Minimum Shoreland Protection Standards (SWQPA-Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act)

Master Plan

Establish broad goals for
- Public health and safety
- Future growth
- Environment/resources

Municipal actions and regulatory approaches must be supported in master plan

Municipal Audit

Review policies, zoning, regulations and plans

Identify level of protection for areas vulnerable to natural hazards

Linking public safety with development standards can promote safe growth and resiliency both before and after a flood

Fluvial Erosion Hazard Zones
"meander zone"

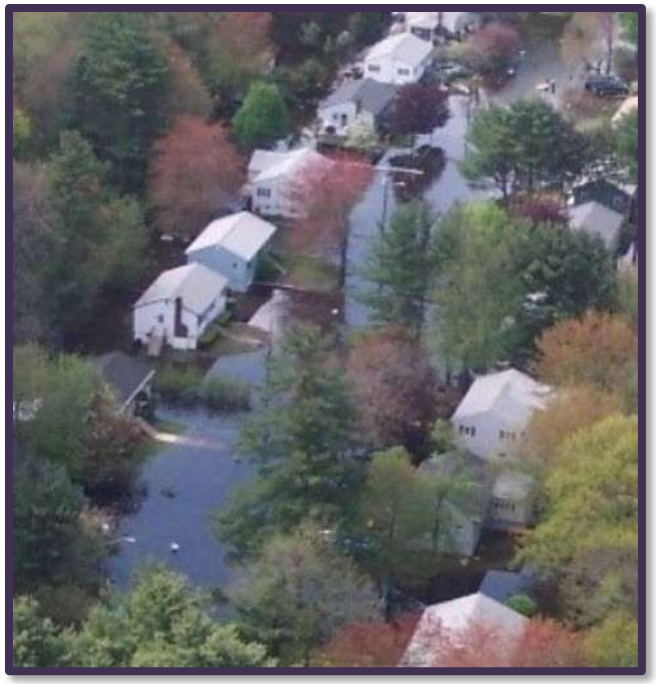
Land adjacent to a river, where active river processes are predicted to occur in the future

Options – limit new development and prohibit management or control of river processes

Floodplain Property Buyout

Acquisition of properties using state and federal $

Restoration of critical flood storage areas, floodplain functions



Transfer of Development Rights

Preserve high risk areas with compensation to property owner; shift development and investment to designated growth areas

Designate High-Risk as No-Build Zones

Preserve strategic lands where erosion or flooding is severe via land acquisition or protective easements

Prevention is a cost-effective tool for minimizing risk and vulnerability

Shoreland and Wetland Standards

SWQPA and Water Management and Protection Statutes

Setbacks, buffers, impervious surface cover, stormwater management, preserve vegetation

Uplands provide critical flood storage

Strengthened when paired with fluvial erosion hazard zones

Zoning Ordinance

Overlay District
Floodplains
Buffers
Water Quality
Drinking Water
Environment-Natural
Resource Protection
Public Health and Safety
Design-Performance
Standards

Land Development Regulations

Site Plan Review Regulations
Subdivision Regulations

Site Design Standards
Stormwater Management
Water Quality
Building Footprint
Structure Setbacks
Impervious Surface Cover
Buffers/Landscaping

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Plans for construction of sustainable, disaster-resilient infrastructure

Provides for reconstruction standards that ensure communities reduce future vulnerability/loss

Response and Recovery Plan

Identifies existing and future flood hazard areas

Provides a clear pathway for safe and comprehensive planning (reuse) after a flood

See Association of State Floodplain Managers at www.floods.org

Capital Improvement Plan

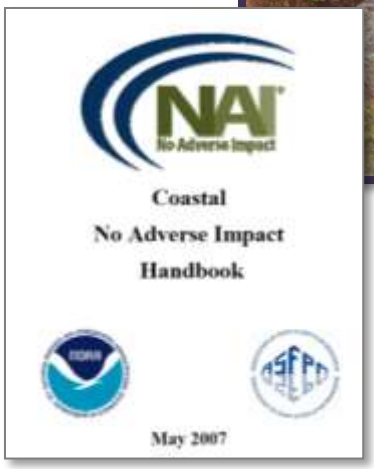
Limit investments in infrastructure located in flood hazard areas

Decrease the amount of vulnerability and risk from flooding by planning for future conditions and needs

Apply new designs, PPT data, technology

No Adverse Impact Performance Standard

Asserts no new development can increase the likelihood or magnitude of flooding or damage to other properties



Association of State Floodplain Managers
www.floods.org

Questions for Speakers

Group Discussion -

NH has experienced extreme weather events!

(flooding, drought, increased precipitation, more ticks, more allergies)

Q? - How are communities and individuals responding?

(zoning and land use changes, generators, electric line trimming, public outreach)

Q? - What Have We Learned?

climate change, preparedness, perception, solutions?

Q? - Theory to Practice

some people call it adaptation, some people call it common sense

Q? - Unlikely Partnerships

who should be our partners in adaptation planning (EMDs, public health, planners?)