

# Adaptations to Create Resilient Beach Communities

Plenary Session II: 3:05 to 3:50 PM

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Gary Lamb, Town Planner, Old Orchard Beach

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# Coastal Hazard Resiliency Tools Project

- Multi-year effort, with a partnership between Maine Geological Survey and SMRPC, funded by the Maine Coastal Program.
- Getting municipal decision-makers the information they need, and a forum to actually make decisions about adapting to sea level rise and becoming more resilient to storms & hazards.



# Coastal Hazard Resiliency Tools Project

- Not just another restatement of the problem – but seeking concrete actions.
- Biddeford, Saco, OOB, and Scarborough have been participating.
- This year Kennebunk and York will be added to the roster.



# Examples of Municipal Adaption Actions

Regional Challenge Grant Idea: Sea Level Adaptation Working Group (SLAWG) of Saco Bay Municipalities.

Duties would include:

- Commenting on federal or state beach nourishment/erosion control efforts that affect more than one community.
- Identifying infrastructure vulnerable to storms and sea level rise such as culverts, storm drains, bridges or tide gates. Using regional approaches to plan for improvements and obtaining monies for adaptation construction projects.

# Duties of “SLAWG”

- Recommending the standardizing of floodplain management standards and building code interpretations resiliency of individual private structures.
- Recommending standardizing of standards affecting the shorelands adjacent to Saco Bay, as well as standardizing review and controls for water activities or structures affected by sea level rise or coastal storms.



# Duties of “SLAWG”

- Such water activities may or may not include land-based development, and could include aquaculture, marina, or green energy production projects.
- The group may provide non-binding comments on various applications for development review affecting Saco Bay that may be vulnerable to sea level rise or coastal storms, to those individual review authorities having jurisdiction.



# Improving Shoreland Zoning

- Using Lidar to set an accurate shoreline position
- You can begin to deal with adaptation unless you know where your shoreline is!
- Highest Annual Tide Level – HAT
- For Old Orchard Beach, it's 6.3 feet.



# Questions for Our Panel:

- Do Elected Officials and Citizens in your community believe that actions need to be taken to adapt to sea level rise?
- What are the obstacles to going beyond the talking stage with this issue?
- What construction projects are being considered (or even constructed) to adapt?
- What is your top priority?
- What regulatory actions for adaptation are under consideration, if any?

