



MEETING REPORT

SUBJECT: Joint kick-off meeting of the Cambridge Vulnerability Assessment's Technical Advisory Committee and Expert Advisory Panel

DATE, LOCATION: December 18, 2012, City Hall Annex, Cambridge, MA

WRITTEN BY: Eric Roberts and Ona Ferguson, Consensus Building Institute

The newly commenced Cambridge Vulnerability Assessment's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) met on December 18, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to convene these two groups that will give input during the assessment, to introduce them to the project's technical and stakeholder engagement approach, and to get their initial feedback. The project is being led by a team of consultants led by Kleinfelder and a steering committee of City staff. Participants are listed in Appendix A. Meeting materials are available at the project's website at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Climate/climatechangeresilienceandadaptation.aspx>

Welcome and Introductions – Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi welcomed participants and described the genesis of the project. Cambridge Environmental Planner and Assessment Project Manager John Bolduc gave an overview of the project, which includes this assessment and the development of a climate adaptation plan in 2014.

The Need for a Vulnerability Assessment – Dr. Paul Kirshen, Research Professor at the University of New Hampshire and member of the Kleinfelder team, gave an overview of climate science and likely impacts Cambridge can expect, highlighting the need for the vulnerability assessment to identify the city systems most likely to experience the disruption from climate change.

Vulnerability Assessment Methodology – Lisa Dickson, Vice President for Sustainability at Kleinfelder, presented the conceptual framework of the vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process. The process' three main stages are climate change studies (beginning in January), vulnerability and risk assessment (2013), and adaptation planning (2014). The team will use science-based scenarios of how Cambridge's climate might change, analyze impacts on short- and long-term time frames, and identify socioeconomic factors that could influence vulnerability to climate change. They will be identifying vulnerable assets and populations in Cambridge and identifying what is at greatest risk.

Committee Roles and Public Engagement - Nathalie Beauvais, Project Manager for the Kleinfelder team, presented an overview of the ways groups of people with different expertise will be involved. The TAC's 17 members represent companies, agencies and organizations that own/operate big infrastructure in Cambridge citizens. They will share information and give feedback on the project. The EAP's 7 members are scientists and policy experts from local institutions in climate change fields who will advise on the technical approach. There will be three public workshops, other focused outreach efforts to the community, and a project webpage.

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Discussion Topics – Participants suggested deepening connections with others in the region working on similar topics, considering how uncertainty is addressed, studying disease vectors, building a robust public engagement process, and developing compelling framing language to explain the purpose of the project. There was also brief public comment.



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APPENDIX A: Participants

TAC Members Richard Amster, MIT Facilities, Campus Planning, Engineering & Construction

Kathleen Baskin, MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Andrew Brennan, MA Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)

Andrew Winters (for Penni Conner), NSTAR

Peter Crawley, Environmental Consultant and resident

Barry Hilts, Cambridge Health Alliance

Ben Myers (for Bryan Koop), Boston Properties

Penn Loh, Tufts University and resident

Thomas Lucey, Harvard University Community Relations for Cambridge

Michael Johnston (for Gregory Russ), Cambridge Housing Authority

Terrence Smith, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce

Kevin Walsh, MA Department of Transportation Environmental Services

Patricia Walsh, Verizon

Richard Zingarelli, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Hazard Mitigation

EAP Members

Bruce Anderson, Boston University Department of Geography and Environment

Peter Frumhoff, Union of Concerned Scientists

Stephen Hammer, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Henry Jacoby, MIT Sloan School of Management

Joyce Klein Rosenthal, Harvard Graduate School of Design

Ramon Sanchez (for John Spengler), Harvard School of Public Health

City and Kleinfelder Team Members

Andrea Baker, Kleinfelder

Nathalie Beauvais, Kleinfelder

John Bolduc, Cambridge Community Development Department

Lisa Dickson, Kleinfelder

Patrick Field, Consensus Building Institute

Paul Kirshen, University of New Hampshire

Christine McCarthy, Kleinfelder

Brian Murphy, Cambridge Community Development Department

Owen O'Riordan, Cambridge Public Works Department

Lisa Peterson, Cambridge Public Works Department

Susanne Rasmussen, Cambridge Community Development Department

Eric Roberts, Consensus Building Institute

Rich Rossi, Cambridge Deputy City Manager

John Struzziery, Kleinfelder

Others Attending

Kelsie Baker, Army Corps of Engineers

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Stuart Dash, Cambridge Community Development Department
Sharon Devos
George Fernandes, Cambridge Electrical Department
Ethan Feuer, MIT
Christy Foran, Army Corps of Engineers
Joe Gifun, MIT
John Hawkinson, Journalist
Sarah Hill, Resident
Jonna Kangasoja
Gerry Mahoney, Fire Department
Linda Malik, Sustainable Middlesex
Steven Miller, MassDOT
Lasse Peltonen, Tufts
Paul Ryder, Cambridge Human Services Department
Dan Vallee, DPW
Minka vanBeuzekom, Cambridge City Council
Barry Zevin, CRA