

**PEOPLE IN PLACES CONFERENCE 2011**

**Workshop: Helping Coastal Communities Anticipate and Plan for Future Climates**

**Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 11:00-12:25**

**Presenters:**

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## WORKSHOP: Helping Coastal Communities Anticipate and Plan for Future Climates

↳ Anne Worburton and Kyle McKenzie

Whiteboard  
Question

What strategies should be in the ICSP to address Climate Change impacts and ~~bolts~~ bolster Mayberry's resiliency?

- round of introductions:

- ACZISC, NRCan, SMBSA, Academia, Environment Canada, NSDNB, NB Env., U.K.

- many involved with community-based climate change adaptation projects

↳ SMB, Gulf of St. Lawrence, Bras d'Or, N.S.

### Presentations: Climate Change

↳ important to understand impact of changes and how to adapt

↳ 2 reports represents governments' official statements on climate change

### Possible Temp. Changes by season

↳ warming will vary by location/season  
precipitation

### SLR

- estimate + contributing factors

- 2007 #s starting to look conservative

- speculation 1m or even 2m

Coastal Sensitivity to SLR

- Maritime Reg. Mod. to High
- isostatically sinking - subsidence
- complicating issue

Natural Resources - challenges

- water - precipitation patterns changing
- water mgmt. critical

Generalizing the Future

- socio-economic systems largely based on a stable environment

C.C. Adaptation

proactive rather than reactive.

- not always practical or possible - esp. in coastal communities (SLR, Storms)

↳ coastal squeeze

Coastal Communities Adaptation examples

- Amnapolis Royal - well known NS. example from 90s - early
- led to changes in town planning
- foresight has led to many follow-up studies + modelling
- Le Goulet example
- built seawall to protect from flooding
- realized it was not practical in long-term (NB. SLR study)
- decided to retreat in vulnerable zones

Halifax NS

- \$ and resources = "Cadillac Approach"
- guidelines to developers at first
- now detailed studies and modelling in Harbour - development and LUP

Adaptation Resources

- Climate Change Adaptation Community of Practice - virtual community/network

Driving C.C. adaptation process

- examples of proactive + reactive
- Amnapolis Royal - proactive
- focus on NS context

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- politicians more time on politics than adaptation + mitigation
- NS - SNMR - responsible for LVP
  - ICSP -
  - all municipalities were required to submit plan
- intended for local govt to plan better
- Money - from gas tax revenue (Fed - Prov. - Mun)
  - option for spending limited (at 1st, but growing)
  - either stand alone or infused into existing MPS + LVB
- 2011 - 5 communities piloting implementation of ICSP
- final report 2014 due
- ICSP more community engagement
- CC Action Plan more prescriptive with more requirements (no public engagement required)

### Municipal Climate Change Action Plans in NS

- ICSP requirements and implementation differed for each province
  - NS one of the most aggressive
  - slides: words from province
  - historical experiences - what infrastructure is most vulnerable / at risk
    - ↳ but things are changing...
  - allowed cooperation with ICSP - some collaboration
  - action plan similar but each municipality must submit individual plan
  - spectrum of interest in C.C. action plans varies between municipalities
  - std. risk analysis approach in traditional strategic planning approach not the best
- ### The Traditional Approach
- things changing faster now - traditional approach can't keep up.
  - old tools in different or better way - current way of thinking

- here to propose trad. approach inappropriate and unwieldy
  - ↳ instead scenario planning (SP)
- SP different ways of implementing
- scenarios = stories of future (plausible)
- Story of Mayberry
- SP is a creative process - space to ask the right questions

\*Key WB Question (see beginning of notes)

- one question - everyone had different (good)
- see trends in questions → see trends
- identified 5 "Chapter headings" in story
- next step: identify driving forces (eg. behind governance capacity)
- identified 100s - then plotted them - impact of forces <sup>uncertainty</sup>
- 25% or less in high/high category
  - ↳ used to develop storylines
- Next: most difficult step - 2 key logics
  - to summarise: Env. Stress + Financial Capacity
  - plotted against each other
  - titles of stories (eg. environmental refugees)
- Comparison table
  - ↳ stories / scenarios
- Skip exercise - rehearsal time
- \*process to evaluate effectiveness of existing strategy in the context of the different scenarios
  - ↳ ICSP handout
  - ↳ identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps
  - ↳ then brainstorm strategies and write ICSPs
  - ↳ was there a strategy that works ~~across~~ across all scenarios - best strategy
- the evaluate best strategy
  - ↳ how easily can it be implemented?

Monitoring Program - SP is a "watch and respond system"

SP-upfront - takes time

"The Scenario Planning Handbook"

- fosters change-oriented mgmt. culture
- functions in uncertain world
- responds
- best hope for not being overwhelmed by climate change impacts and forces that enable us to address these impacts

Comments

- ↳ must make sure planners are well versed in S.P.
- ↳ sustainability like S.P. → misinterpreted
- ↳ needs education and proper facilitation
- Q: What actors are involved in S.P. process?
- S.P. used by Shell & Microsoft
- have to involve those who will implement critical strategy
- adaptation strategies often dictated by gov't → funds tied to following their strategy
- spend: those using S.P.
- competence: many municipalities don't even have basic LUP
- participants can take handouts and complete or their own
- Mexico - working on climate change plans
  - many interested in buying book...