

Islesboro Sea Level Rise Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

10:30 am 4/9/2026 @ Town Office & Via Zoom

1. Called to Order. Quorum Established. In attendance: Peter Rothschild, Donna Leone, Chloe Joule, Sue Stafford, Peter Willcox, Nancy Alexander, Shey Conover, Janet Anderson, Shri Verrill
2. Approved draft minutes from [2/13/26](#). Peter R. motioned, Donna seconded. Unanimous approval.
3. Narrows Project Update
 - a. Funding Status & Timeline:
 - i. [Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund](#) (MIAF). Deadline May 11.
 - ii. [FEMA BRIC](#), Deadline due to MEMA June 18.
 - b. Shri presented options for how to structure our applications to complement each other. Goal for today is to develop recommendations to guide her grant development work to meet these two deadlines. We can apply for MIAF as match for FEMA BRIC. We would be writing the grants side by side with the same budget. We will be working on a tight timeline to ensure we complete work needed to be eligible for the FEMA BRIC funding.
 - c. Discussion about whether to request funding for short- or long-term fix
 - i. Given the potential size of the funding available Shri would like the committee's blessing to focus on the long-term project rather than short-term.
 - ii. How likely is federal funding? It is a very point rubric-based scoring system. There are some categories where we know we won't be eligible for the maximum number of points (ex. We don't have building codes and are not considered an impoverished community). There are things that we can do before the application to improve how many points we receive. If we can fast track the long-term engineering to 90% before the deadline, we would be much more competitive. We have strong support at the state level, and Shri is continuing to coordinate with MEMA who have been very helpful. But it will be very competitive.
 - iii. What is the timing of decision? We will likely hear in June about the MIAF grant. The FEMA BRIC grant could be more like a year out for an award.

- iv. The short-term fix is estimated at around \$225k, middle and south engineering & repair. It doesn't make sense to spend this money if we can be successful in funding the long-term project.
 - v. If we apply for the long-term how much would it cost the town in cash match. Back of the envelope calculations. The long-term project is estimated at \$7 million. We can apply for 75% of this cost from FEMA BRIC, 25% Match would be \$1.8 million could be applied from MIAF. MIAF requires a 5% match, so the town cash match could be around \$90,000. Best case scenario.
 - vi. We would like to solve this problem for as long as we can. Our best plan is not for 100 years. It would be nice to take care of this for the long term, not have to revisit in 10 years.
 - vii. Discussion – If GZA can meet a shortened timeline. Should we spend money from capital reserves to complete 90% design before the FEMA BRIC deadline to be more competitive with our application?
 - viii. Motion: Approve Shri to talk with GZA to find out if they could meet our June deadline for 90% design to become more competitive for BRIC. If they can meet that, we approve spending capital reserve funds on the 90% engineering design. If GZA cannot deliver 90% engineering designs by the June deadline, we hold off until we know if we receive MIAF grant before proceeding with further engineering. Motion made by Peter. R., Seconded by Sue, Unanimous approval.
4. FY27 Town Budget Request Update. There is \$20,000 in the town budget to add to our capital reserves. Will go to town meeting for a vote. This is the only funds in the town budget to support this project.
 5. Other Business. None.
 6. Set Next Meeting Date. 4:30 May 14th.
 7. Motion to adjourn: Peter R, Donna seconded, unanimous approval. Adjourned at 11:30 am.