

**North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force**  
**October 15, 2021**  
**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

Purpose

Develop a set of Task Force operating agreements to help enable trust and maximize productivity of the task force.

Attendants

*Convenors - State Legislators and legislative aids/staff:* Bruce Tarr, Joan Lovely, Sally Kerans, Victoria Mori, Katherine McGee, Michelle Pacillo, Luis Morales, Hannah Mori, Johanna Wakelin, Liam Cahill

*Participants:* Jim Engel, Wayne Castonguay, Joe Domelowicz, Daniel Heiter, Bradley Perron, Kerry Mackin, Alan Taubert, Chuck Dam, John Fortin, Rebecca Weidman, Robert LaBossiere, Stephen King, Tim Olson, Vicki Halmen, Michael Collins, Kevin Harutunian, Steve Bartha, Ted Bettencourt, Andy Sheehan, Nathan Desrosiers

*Facilitators:* Leah Robins, Martin Pillsbury, Sara Cohen

Introduction

Senator Tarr welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of the group doing the hard up-front work of determining how to most productively work together. He recognized the good will and patience of group members in developing useful operating agreements and thanked everyone for their participation. He explained that while many of the discussions moving forward would welcome a wider range of participants, the goals of the current meeting required a focused discussion among the direct stakeholders/parties to any regional decisions of the task force moving forward.

Facilitators reviewed meeting logistics and ground rules.

Task Force Operating Agreements

Participants were asked to respond to the following question that had been shared in advance of the meeting: **In thinking about a regional collaboration to address water supply resilience and ecosystem health in the Ipswich River watershed, what circumstances would enable you to participate in good faith and trust the process to serve your interests?**

Through a structured and facilitated discussion, participants developed and agreed to the following actions and operating guidelines in response to the question:

- The task force will develop and utilize a charter that defines its mission, members, desired outcomes, measures of success, timeline, etc. The charter will emphasize that the task force will proactively pursue regional action.
- Decisions will be made by full consensus of task force members to the greatest extent possible. If full consensus cannot be reached, [placeholder] will be utilized to move the group forward.

- Task force members will be defined as communities and organizations whose missions will be directly impacted by the outcome of the discussions to be taken up by the task force (as defined at the 9/17/21 task force meeting). Task force members will designate an official representative and/or designees for decision/voting purposes.
- Additions to the list of discussion topics to be taken up by the task force may be made by consensus.
- Task force members will seek to develop a joint narrative of the region's status and desired future.
- As a matter of spirit and to the extent possible, task force members will agree to disagree about previous disputes, holding one another accountable instead for their current and future actions.
- Task force participants agree to keep decision makers in their respective communities/organizations apprised of potential agreements of the task force, advocate for any options agreed to in principle by the task force, and transparently and in a timely manner bring back to the taskforce any concerns or roadblocks posed by such decision makers.
- To the extent possible, agendas for all meetings will be shared at least 7 days in advance.
- Meeting summaries, including decisions made, will be shared with members in a timely manner.
- The task force as a whole will issue press releases related to its efforts, which will be reviewed by and approved by the members.
- Individuals speaking about task force matters to the press, social media, or other public outlets will clearly state their affiliation(s) and will not speak on behalf of, quote, or characterize the positions of any other task force members. Additionally, to the extent possible, task force members will refrain from making statements that harm or disparage other members or the task force itself.

#### Next Steps

- ➔ Develop and adopt a task force charter; incorporate the above agreements where applicable
- ➔ Seek consensus on the best use of the earmarked funds for the Task Force's efforts in the current fiscal year budget