



The Rhode Island Rivers Council
c/o RI Water Resources Board
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held
November 18, 2009
Room 300
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI**

Attendance:

A. Member Present

Ken Burke
Ted Callender
Paul Gonsalves
Sue Kiernan
Guy Lefebvre, Co-Chair
Jane Sherman, Co-Chair
Charlie Vandemoer

B. Members Absent

Will Riverso
Claudia Staniszewski
Mike Walker

C. Guests in Attendance

Ann Morrill, Kickemuit River Coalition
Jim McGwin, Hunt River Watershed Association

1. Call to Order

Mr. Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and noted a quorum was present.

2. Review and Approval of September 2009 Minutes

The minutes of the September 9, 2009 meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. On a motion by Ms. Sherman to approve, seconded by Mr. Vandemoer, the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Review and approval of Watershed Council grant allocations

Mr. Vandemoer presented the report for the grant committee, noting that Ms. Staniszewski prepared the summary report for the committee. Ms. Staniszewski

distributed the grant applications, as well as a grant summary spread sheet to the Council members prior to this meeting.

Mr. Vandemoer reported that the committee received seven applications for funding, with one application requesting partial funding. The committee is recommending that the Council approve a \$20,200 allocation for grants, with the remainder of the funds to be transferred to the WRWC as our fiscal agent for RC program and operating costs or next year's grants program.

The following requests and committee recommendations were reported:

Friends of the Mosshasuck – Knotweed suppression
Request: \$500; Committee recommendation: \$500.

Narrow River Preservation Association – Outreach program expansion
Request: \$4000; Committee recommendation: \$4,000.

Salt Ponds Coalition – Sampling stations data collection and analysis
Request \$4,200; Committee recommendation: \$4,000.

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association – Student water quality data publication
Request: \$4000; Committee recommendation: \$4,000.

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Association – Recreation and monitoring programs
Request: \$4000; Committee recommendation: \$4,000.

Pawtuxet River Authority – Land survey for proposed Randall Pond Conservation Area
Request: \$3,700; Committee recommendation: \$3,700

Kickemuit River Coalition – Leak and contamination sewer investigations
Request: \$4000; Committee recommendation: \$0

Subtotal Requested: \$24,400.
Committee Recommendation: \$20,200.

FY10 Legislative Grant: \$22,444.
Balance if committee recommendation adopted: \$2,244.

Mr. Vandemoer commented that the KRC application was very late and can possibly be resubmitted next year. Several council members recommended that KRC should request realigning its 2009 grant award toward the project described in its application.

Mr. Vandemoer moved the committee recommendation for the use of the grant funds and to transfer the remainder (\$2,244) to WRWC as fiscal agent for RC programs and operations or next year's grant program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonsalves

and was unanimously approved. Mr. Callender and Ms. Sherman recused themselves from the vote.

Ms. Morrill of KRC noted that KRC has funds from their 2009 grant which need to be used and requested that the grant application for the 2010 funds be considered as their 2009 application at the January RC meeting. Council members said that request should be made in writing to the RC.

4. Adoption of Annual Report

Mr. Lefebvre reported that we had obtained financial reports from our fiscal agent and that these reports would be incorporated to the draft annual report and circulated for review prior to the next meeting when the report will be submitted for adoption.

5. Nominating Committee

Mr. Lefebvre asked for volunteers for the nominating committee. Mr. Vandemoer asked if the nominating committee was to nominate officers only or if it considered potential members for the Council. It was stated that the primary focus is on officers, but the committee could identify individuals who could be recommended to the Governor for appointment to the Council. The members of the committee are Mr. Callendar, Ms. Sherman and Mr. Vandemoer.

6. Adoption of 2010 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule was distributed prior to the meeting. All meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. Mr. Rivero arranged for all meetings to be held at the Department of Administration Building in Conference Room B. Ms. Sherman moved to adopt the schedule, seconded by Ms. Kiernan, and the schedule was unanimously approved.

7. Co-Chairs Reports

Mr. Lefebvre noted that Ms. Ellen Cousineau in the WRB office has offered to post RC agendas and minutes during Mr. Rivero's absence. At Ms. Sherman's request, Mr. Gonsalves agreed to add the 2010 meeting schedule to the RC website.

Mr. Lefebvre reported that the Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, and the Statewide Planning Program are coordinating efforts to affect an integrated watershed plan for the state. (Note: The RC is a member of the BRW Coordination Team). The "Integrated Plan" will incorporate several state guide plans into the draft document.

Regarding RIDEM, Ms. Kiernan reported that Mr. Robert Ballou is now acting chief of Marine Fisheries, and the Fish and Wildlife Division has been merged with the Forestry Division under the leadership of Ms. Katherine Sparks. She also reported that there will

be another round of US Clean Water Act 319 non-point grant funds available next year, and these grants will be weighted towards implementation of TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load plans).

8. Designation Committee

Mr. Callender reported that there has been extensive discussion on the part of the RC Committee for New Designations in regard to the two applications submitted for the Hunt River watershed. The committee is not inclined to designate two groups for the same watershed. Some discussion has occurred about potential logical subsets for designation that might be acceptable. It was suggested that perhaps Mr. Walt Galloway of the USEPA Narragansett Research Station might be helpful. Mr. Jim McGwin felt that there was a clear difference in emphasis between the two organizations noting that one group focused more on surface water and the other group more on groundwater. Mr. Lefebvre noted that there is often not a clear distinction between surface water and groundwater where they meet in the water table. Ms. Kiernan and Mr. Gonsalves said they thought dual designations could present potential conflicts, be confusing to the public and that delineation of only one group for any particular surface area is preferable. Mr. Callender said the committee will have further dialogue with each group.

9. Adjournment

Members agreed there will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting of RIRC will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 4:00 pm in Conference Room B at the DOA building. Mr. Gonsalves moved and Mr. Callender seconded a motion to adjourn which was unanimously approved at 5:20pm.