



Rhode Island Rivers Council

c/o RI Water Resources Board
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2009

RI Department of Administration
Conference Room B
Providence, RI 02908

ATTENDANCE:

A. Members Present

Guy Lefebvre (Co-Chair)
Lisa McGreavy
Jane Sherman (Co-Chair)
Claudia Staniszewski
Charlie Vandemoer

B. Members Absent

Ted Callender
Paul Gonsalves
Will Riverso
Mike Walker

C. Guests in Attendance

Ames Colt, RI Bays, Rivers and Watershed Coordination Team
Jim McGwin, Hunt River Watershed Association
Ann Morrill, Kickemuit River Council

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm by Co-Chair Mr. Lefebvre, who welcomed Ms. Lisa McGreavy, new RI DEM representative to the Council. Ms. McGreavy is the coordinator of the Water Quality and Wetland Restoration Team at RI DEM, working to facilitate permitting for restoration projects. In the past, she managed the Aquafund Grant program and worked as public liaison in the wetland permitting section. Her expertise will bring valuable knowledge and skills to the RIRC and the designated watershed councils.

2. Discussion and vote on minutes for the November 2009 meeting

The minutes were distributed to the board prior to the meeting. With a motion made by Ms. Staniszewski, seconded by Mr. Vandemoer, the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting were approved.

3. Discussion of Annual Report for 2008

Ms. Staniszewski streamlined the annual report, deleting the workplan pages and extraneous material relating to the watershed council grants. Mr. Lefebvre secured the annual financial report from the WRWC, our fiscal agent, which has been included in the report. Ms. Sherman moved to adopt the report, seconded by Ms. Staniszewski, and it was unanimously adopted. Copies will be sent to the Governor and Legislative leaders, and will be made available to the members of the RIRC. Ms. Staniszewski will

deliver a copy to the Water Resources Board for printing. Mr. Lefebvre thanked Ms. Staniszewski for her hard work in compiling an excellent report.

4. Kickemuit River Council allocation of 2009 grant funds

Ms. Morrill reported that the KRC wants to use the funds to camera sewer lines, leaving open the determination of which lines pending discussions about potential grants from RI DEM. Ms. Sherman moved approval of the proposed use of the funds for camering the sewer lines with the understanding that the KRC will notify the RIRC of their location selection and use the funds by June 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Ms. Staniszewski and approved.

5. Workplan 2010

The proposed workplan was distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. The following changes were proposed.

1. Page 1, item 2, second sentence under "What" - to read as follows: "Provide representation to the RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team including coordination of the BRWCT workplan."
2. Page 1, item 3 under "What" to read as follows: "Update section 162-04 (watershed management) of the Rivers Policy and Classification Plan and coordinate its content into the Integrated Plan as proposed by the BRWCT."
3. Page 2, item 8 under "What": Delete first sentence regarding stewardship program.
4. Page 2, item 10 under "What" to read as follows: "Conduct Executive committee and active committees as needed in the domains of legislation, policy, nominating, watershed council grant awards, and watershed council designations and re-designations."
5. Page 2, item 12 under "What": Delete sentence 1 and 2 under this heading.

Ms. Staniszewski asked about the status of our website. The RIRC made an annual payment of \$41.88 for domain hosting and \$8.91 for the domain name reservation for the 2010 year. Last year, Mr. Gonsalves began to maintain the site. Mr. Lefebvre said he would discuss further maintenance of the website this year with Mr. Gonsalves as well as with the Water Resources Board. This dialogue will include procedures and protocol with how the state maintains the ri.gov website in relation to various state agencies, boards and councils. Discussion followed about whether the RIRC can tie into the State's website, RI.gov, and if the RC should do this through the WRB, Statewide Planning or independently.

Ms. Sherman moved to adopt the workplan as amended, seconded by Ms. McGreavy, and the motion was passed unanimously.

6. Co-Chairs Report

Mr. Lefebvre reported that BRWCT, Statewide Planning and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program entered into a memorandum of agreement to draft a new "Integrated Plan" to guide watershed and aquatic resource planning as an element of the State Guide Plan. Since RI shares watersheds with MA, MA representatives will be included. Mr. Colt reported that a drafting committee was established to prepare this Integrated Plan consisting of Bill Napolitano (MA), Jane Austin (STB), Jared Rhodes (SPP), Ernie Panciera (DEM), Richard Ribb (NBEP) and himself. He said neither the RIRC nor the WRB will be represented to which Mr. Burke of WRB stated reservations. Ms. Sherman noted that by statute the RIRC is charged with preparing a rivers policy for the state and continues to fulfill this task. According to the MOA, these policies will be included in the Integrated Plan. She noted that the preliminary outline of the *Integrated Plan* was a bay and estuary focused document which initially only had minimal discussion of river and freshwater issues and attributes. The RIRC, its members, and other reviewers spent extensive hours supplementing the document to address omissions of freshwater issues. Ms. Sherman said that river and freshwater issues should be included during the drafting process of the Integrated

Plan ensuring that these issues are sufficiently addressed. Mr. Colt suggested that Mr. Rhodes be contacted about these concerns and council members agreed to contact him.

Ms. Sherman reported that all of the grant contracts have been signed and the necessary council paperwork completed for processing checks to the watershed council grant recipients. She will check with the WRB to find out the status of forwarding this information to the state treasurer's office.

7. Committee Reports

The nominating committee has met and Mr. Vandemoer reported that the committee discussed the potential for filling slots on the RIRC as well as officers. There was discussion about the position designated for members of a chamber of commerce – whether the nominee must be a chamber staff member or if they can be a representative of a business who is a chamber member. The committee will seek clarification of this issue.

The designation committee, chaired by Ted Callendar, has not met since the November meeting. Ms. Staniszewski will contact Mr. Callendar about scheduling a meeting.

Ms. McGreavy announced that there is a round of grants available for greenways and blueways. Information about the Recreational Trail grant round will be sent to the watershed councils. She also discussed the upcoming round of the US Clean Water Act element 319 grants administered by RIDEM. This round will give priority to projects that implement TMDLs (watershed restoration plans.)

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm.