

**Rhode Island State Planning Council
Draft Minutes of June 14, 2012 Meeting
*** AMENDED *****

Thursday, June 14, 2012
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Mr. Richard Licht, Chair	Director, RI DOA
Ms. Kelly Mahoney, Vice Chair	Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Mr. Robert Azar	Providence Department of Planning & Development
Ms. Lisa Bourbonnais	Representing Mr. William Sequino, Public Member
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	RI LOCAT, President's Designee
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Bill Parsons	Managing Director Business Development, RI EDC
Mr. Scott Millar	Representing Ms. Janet Coit, Director, RI DEM
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI DOA, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Anna Novais	Representing Mr. Michael Fine, Director, RI DOH
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Dan Beardsley, Executive Director, RI LOCAT
Mr. Sam Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis Director, RIDOT
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Representing Mr. Stephen Cardi, Cardi Corporation
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

Members Absent

Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

Guests

Mr. Michael Hogan	RI House Policy Office
Mr. Alan Mendelsohn	RI Department of Administration
Mr. Paul McGreevy	RIEDC
Mr. John Riendeau	RI Economic Development Corporation
Ms. Allison Rogers	Policy Director, RI DOA

Staff – Division of Planning

Mr. Paul Capotosto	Principal Accountant, Division of Planning
Mr. Robert Griffith	Chief, Strategic Planning
Ms. Nancy Hess	Supervising Planner, Division of Planning
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II	Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Licht called the meeting to order on May 10, 2012 at 9:06 a.m. He then took a moment to introduce new members, Ms. Janet Coit represented by Scott Millar, Mr. Michael Lewis represented by Bob Shawver, Ms. Anna Novais representing Mr. Michael Fine, Mr. Bill Parsons representing Mr. Paul McGreevy, Ms. Kelly Mahoney, Mr. Sam Shamoon and Ms. Bonnie Nickerson.

2. **Approval of the May 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes** – *for vote*

Mr. Trevor moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parsons. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There were none.

4. **Rhode Island Water 2030: State Guide Plan Consolidation** – *for action*

Ms. Hess overviewed the input received through the public comment and hearing process and requested action as documented in the agenda supplement.

Mr. Licht then initiated Council discussion by asking what the next steps would be following adoption. In response, Mr. Flynn referred to the associated brochure (see attachment 1) which will be distributed to municipalities and then said an executive summary will also be produced and distributed. Ms. Hess also noted that the brochure will be shared through the Division’s monthly newsletter, and it will be mailed to individuals requesting to receive the division’s public notices. She then noted that the Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association

(ASRWVA) and Rhode Island American Planning Association (RIAPA) will host a session on Thursday, June 21, 2012 (see attachment 2) at the Quonset "O" Club in North Kingstown, RI to announce the adopted Plan. She explained that ASRWVA works with the Department of Health to provide free educational seminars for Water Suppliers. Mr. Rhodes asked if the brochure could also be distributed to the Public Works Association. Ms. Hess indicated that she will pursue that avenue.

Mr. Licht took a moment to compliment Ms. Hess for the quality of the finished product. Ms. Prager also praised Ms. Hess and then moved to approve the RI Water 2030 State Guide Plan 721 as submitted. Ms. Conard-Wells seconded the motion and then encouraged Ms. Hess to seek ways to reach out to the housing community and to school-age populations. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **CEDS Annual Report** – *for action*

Mr. Griffith provided an overview of the significant revisions that had been made to the document since the Council's last review. Highlights of those items in which the State Planning Council engaged in discussion are as follows:

Mr. Licht began the discussion by asking Mr. Griffith to clarify the language referencing "RI as leading the nation in per capita energy consumption." In response Mr. Griffith explained that RI uses the least energy per capita in the nation and that he would revisit the text to ensure clarity on this point.

Mr. Shamoan referred to the Historic Tax Credits in Rhode Island on page 51 and said that text was misleading and should be revised. Mr. Wolf agreed and said that the language should be rephrased so that individuals are not left with the impression that the tax credits are still available. He then added that the commercial credits should be separated from the housing tax credits. After a short discussion, Mr. Shamoan and Mr. Wolf agreed to edit the language within this section and submit it to Mr. Griffith for further consideration.

Mr. Parsons asked why the project priority lists included in the document were for 2009 and 2010 and not 2011. In response Mr. Griffith explained that the 2009 and 2010 project priority lists were found in the appendix but that 2011 projects could be found on page 64.

Mr. Trevor asked if the language for 38 Studios listed on page 16 should be revised. Mr. Parsons concurred noting that it should probably be removed from the report given the recent events.

Ms. Mahoney asked if it was essential that the document be approved at this meeting of the Council or if it could be delayed pending completion of the necessary revisions. Mr. Griffith said he didn't foresee an issue with postponing the vote until the report had been updated.

Ms. Boyle asked if the \$15M the state received in disaster relief funding was reflected in the report. Mr. Griffith indicated that it wasn't and Mr. Flynn stated that the specific EDA disaster projects that were funded could easily be added.

As there was no further discussion, the Council decided to table this agenda item until the July meeting. In closing, Mr. Licht asked Council members to submit any final comments that they may have on the draft to Mr. Griffith by July 3, 2012.

6. **Unified Work Program for Transportation Planning** – *for action*

Mr. Rhodes then presented the proposed FY 2013 Work Program as distributed with the Committee packets. The following items were discussed amongst the Committee and staff throughout Mr. Rhodes formal presentation.

Mr. Rhodes presented the proposed FY 2013 Work Program as distributed with the Council packets. He briefly summarized Sections 1, 2 and 4, as Section 3 had been discussed in detail at the last meeting. Section 1, he noted, provides an overview of the structure of the Statewide Planning Program and the context in which it works. Section 2 he explained reports on the progress that was made in implementing the work tasks for the current year.

At this point Mr. Rhodes paused to ask if there were any questions or concerns regarding Section 1 and 2. There being none, Mr. Rhodes discussed section 4, which identifies the staff that will be dedicated to implementing the proposed FY 13 work tasks from section 3, the funding sources that are projected to be available to pay for the work and the estimated cost per task. Mr. Rhodes then highlighted the following:

- The Program's proposed budget is in line with both state and federal resources that are projected to be available over the coming fiscal year;
- The total estimated personnel budget for FY 13 is \$3.2M, 56% of which is funded by FHWA, 23% by the state, 9% by FTA and 8% by HUD;
- The contractual section of Table 4-1 includes a million dollar entry reflecting the new HUD Sustainable Communities award; and that the
- Safe Routes to School and Planning Challenge Grant entries are a bit misleading as the funds included are not intended for a new grant round in the coming year but are rather included to allow for payment of grants made in previous years.

Mr. Shawver next briefly summarized some of the DOT components included in the Work Program.

With the formal presentation complete, Mr. Licht first asked how the funds listed in the Appendix relate to those shown in Table 4-1. Mr. Rhodes responded that the funds are unrelated. Those shown in Table 4-1 he explained are funds specifically dedicated to the Statewide Planning Program whereas those in and Appendix A-3 are dedicated to RIDOT and RIPTA respectively.

Mr. Wolf next asked if any trends in federal funding availability were becoming apparent. Mr. Rhodes stated that things had been relatively stable over the last two years, at least with regards to the funding made available for planning purposes.

As there was no further questions, Mr. Rhodes asked the Council to approve the proposed work program and to adopt the certifications required by the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Licht asked for a motion. Mr. Trevor moved to approve the proposed work program and to adopt the certifications required by the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Associate Director's Report**

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- GrowSmart Rhode Island, 2012 Power of Place Summit;
- Wind Siting Guidelines Development effort;

- HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative;
- CDBG Disaster Recovery funding;
- Quonset Development Corporation dredging;
- Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 13
- Census data bulletins;
- Water Resources Board Lawn Watering Program.

8. **Other Business**

Mr. Murray referred to the Transportation Improvement Program and asked about the schedule for prioritization of ADA projects by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. Mr. Shawver indicated that DOT will be working with the Commission to establish the schedule once the TIP is adopted.

Mr. Flynn reminded everyone of the July 12th meeting and said that attendance will be important as the Council will vote on the TIP.

9. **Adjourn**

Ms. Trevor moved to adjourn. Ms. Novais seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Flynn
Secretary

Attachment 1