

R.I. BAYS, RIVERS AND WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY: MARCH 16, 2005

Chaired by Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy, *Interim Chair*

Agenda Items

1. Ad Hoc Group revisions to the Coordination Team Rules of Operation for approval

Action: Rules of Business were conditionally approved pending DEM legal review and rewording of Section 10 regarding the Team decision-making process (F. Vincent moved, seconded by M. Kerr, unanimous vote). Mike Walker of EDC raised the issue of consensus versus a voting system decision-making process. Janet Keller and Dan Varin will revise Section 10 to address this issue. The issue of inclusion of minority opinion in the process was raised; the revision will address this. When revised, the Rules will be sent to the Coordination Team for review and approval.

2. Review Ad Hoc Group draft prioritization process for Environmental Monitoring Collaborative report proposals

Action: The Coordination Team requested that the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative prioritize the recommended actions in the EMC report based on scientific and cost effectiveness as well as ability to address management needs – the latter issue was strongly emphasized. The Team indicated that EMC should complete the prioritization work by July 1, 2005. Tom Uva explained that, due to the compressed timeframe in which the EMC was given to work as well as limited resources, prioritization was not part of the initial monitoring strategy.

3. Discussion of System Dynamics Exercise for use in Coordination Team planning

Action: The Coordination Team was briefed on the upcoming Systems Dynamics exercise that the R.I. Economic Policy Council is organizing. Dates and times for the sessions have been established; an exercise description and a list of participants were distributed. Scott Millar of DEM will be added to the invited list.

Economic Monitoring Collaborative Chair Kip Bergstrom noted that the economic monitoring strategy will track outcomes and also create a set of real-time “listening posts” providing information that allows immediate adjustments to changes in conditions; involves complex, non-linear planning.

4. Review draft Public Advisory Committee role

Action: The PAC work document was reviewed and discussed by the Coordination Team. Once revised by the PAC, the document will be provided to Team members. An EPA representative will be added to the PAC.

5. Review proposed Coordination Team process for oversight of Narragansett Bay Estuary Program workplan

Action: Discussion of this proposal resulted in F. Vincent seeking changes that clarify the decision-making process regarding NBEP workplan approval. R. Ribb will coordinate with Team members, rework the proposal and re-submit to the Coordination Team.

6. Review example of coordinated agencies workplan – Puget Sound, R.I. Watershed Action Plan example (Woonasquatucket)

Action: The Coordination Team reviewed the examples and agreed that these were useful models for the Ad Hoc Group to work off of in developing a draft CT annual workplan for Fall 2005.

7. Review and discuss comparative action timeline sheet for Coordination Team work products and related products/deadlines; timeline illustrates sequencing of deadlines

Action: The timeline was reviewed by the Coordination Team; any corrections/additions should be forwarded to R. Ribb in order to update the timeline.

Other Issues:

The Coordination Team requested that the Ad Hoc Group seek feedback from the R.I. Legislature and the Governor's Office on the submitted Systems Level Plan.

The Coordination Team requested more information on the development of the Marine Resources Development Plan in order to determine the relationship of the MRDP to the Systems Level Plan and to ensure coordination of the planning processes. Jeff Willis of RI CRMC will provide information on this effort for distribution to the Team. Meg Kerr noted that other plans need to be nested under the Systems Level Plan (SAMP, MRDP, etc.); that we need to bring the planning processes together.

Meg Kerr suggested the Team consider how federal funds get addressed in the plan and the role of federal agencies. As one way to address this, R. Ribb suggested that the Coordination Team consider adding a role for ex-officio members from federal agencies; this has worked successfully for the Puget Sound Action Team which uses a management structure similar to that of the Coordination Team.

Next Coordination Team Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2005, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Narragansett Bay Commission Board Room. The Ad Hoc Group will develop and distribute the agenda and review materials prior to the meeting.

March 16, 2005 Meeting Attendees

Coordination Team

Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy	Interim Chair, Coordination Team
Fred Vincent	R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management
Mike Walker	Economic Development Corporation
Dan Varin	R.I. Water Resources Board
Bruce Vild	R.I. Dept. of Administration
Meg Kerr	R.I. Rivers Council
Paul Pinault	Narragansett Bay Commission
Jeff Willis	RI Coastal Resources Management Council

Other Attendees

Mark Adelman	R. I. Governor's Office
Bob Ballou	R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management
Kip Bergstrom	R.I. Economic Policy Council
Kathleen Crawley	Water Resources Board
Ariana Johnson	R.I. Economic Policy Council
Janet Keller	R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management
Don Pryor	Brown University
Richard Ribb	Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
Thomas Uva	Narragansett Bay Commission
Chip Young	URI Coastal Resources Center
Margherita Pryor	U.S. EPA Region 1
Tom Ardito	Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

RIBRWCT 2005 Meeting Schedule

(3rd Wednesday of each month)

April 20
May 18
June 15
July 20
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16
December 21