

**R.I. BAYS, RIVERS AND WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY: APRIL 20, 2005**

Chaired by Richard C. Ribb, *Chair Designate*

Agenda Items

1. Nomination of Coordination Team Chair

R. Ribb announced to Team members that he had been nominated for the Coordination Team Chair position by Governor Carcieri.

2. Briefing on Ad Hoc Group Progress; proposed directions and organizational issues

R. Ribb presented information on the progress of the Ad Hoc Group in its work on components of the Systems Level Plan Scope of Work. The Group agreed that, if resources allow, it continue as an official BRW Team technical support group and that it should meet on a monthly basis scheduled two weeks before each of the BRW Team meetings. Other entities mentioned for possible inclusion on the AHG include DOH, TNC, private sector, and URI Main Campus programs. This led to discussion on resources needed for the AHG to continue. R. Ribb noted that the Chair could request that member agencies assign staff to assist with BRW Team tasks. Other issues discussed included: determining whether the Ad Hoc Group subject to the Open Meetings Law; how information flows through the BRW Team process; and involvement of municipalities.

Meg Kerr noted that there was a need for good status and trends data to increase understanding of core element issues; this data was needed in order to effectively shape strategies. She suggested that any such data developed under the Marine Resources Development Plan process be shared with the BRW Team. Grover Fugate stated that some trend data may be available from the MRDP process.

3. Sequence of next set of tasks as identified in the Systems Level Plan Scope of Work and Implementation Framework

R. Ribb presented the next set of prioritized Scope of Work tasks for Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Team (BRW Team) approval. The priority tasks identified were development of the synthesized goals and objectives document, core element strategies development, drafting the first annual workplan for October submission, development of a BRW Team communications strategy (a draft strategy was distributed), and development of a mechanism to address interstate coordination (it was suggested that the draft bi-state agreement developed under the Partnership for Narragansett Bay should be examined as a starting point). It was noted that work on the interstate issue is timely in light of the current Blackstone River Fishable/Swimmable Campaign.

Michael Walker stated that we needed information on the cost of strategies to determine priorities and set out what we can afford to do. There was some discussion of existing resources; DanVarin mentioned staff losses at the Water Resources Board. Michael Walker said we needed an estimate of the cost of the communication strategy; Meg Kerr stated that we needed to determine specific action steps before detailed costs could be produced. R. Ribb stated that he was looking at how the Narragansett Bay Program resources could best support BRW Team work while addressing NBEP workplan tasks and meeting federal requirements. In general, there was agreement that a more detailed analysis of available resources was needed; R. Ribb noted that the systems level plan legislation requires identification of funding sources.

Action: The BRW Team approved of the presented activities as priority actions.

4. Update on progress of the Systems Dynamics Exercise

Ariana Johnson gave an update on the progress of the SDE noting that the final workshop for the process would take place on April 26, 2005. This process is to result in, among other products, a set of “catalytic projects which will inform the development of the Systems Level Plan and the development of the Team’s first annual workplan and budget”.

5. Report on results of SAC and PAC meetings by Committee Chairs

Donald Pryor reported on the initial meeting of the SAC on April 11, 2005. Donald Pryor was elected Chair; Christopher Deacutis was elected Vice-Chair. The SAC discussed issues including: whether additional members should be included; the need for administrative resources for committee work and organization; and conflict of interest issues. Environmental Monitoring Chair Peter August described the process the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative was using to prioritize monitoring actions; the analysis was not yet complete. He noted that the actions listed in the RIDEM monitoring strategy were included in the process. The SAC had a discussion on identifying specific monitoring actions that could be recommended to the Governor for funding in the FY2006 budget.

Action: R. Ribb indicated that when he receives the prioritization report, he would distribute to the BRW Team.

Chip Young reported on the first and second PAC meetings. Chip Young had been elected Chair; Jane Austen, of Save The Bay, had been elected Vice-Chair. The PAC recognized that it was the committee that could provide broad-based stakeholder review and comment on BRW Team actions and plans. Because the PAC includes many members with expertise in communications, the PAC could take a lead role in developing the BRW Team communications strategy. Chip Young noted that discussion items included: ability to add members to the PAC; how products are reviewed and commented on by the PAC; what the initial workplan for the PAC should be. Meg Kerr suggested that, because the PAC is diverse, we should use it as an information network to transfer information about the work of individual agencies and organizations.

6. Other Business

R. Ribb proposed that the BRW Team process develop a suitable role for representatives of federal agencies, e.g., EPA, NRCS, NOAA. One option would be to ask them to serve on committees as ex-officio, non-voting members.

Action: As part of developing such an option, R.Ribb will initiate discussions with federal representatives on this topic.

Meg Kerr moved that approval of previous meeting minutes be part of each BRW agenda.

Action: Agreement was unanimous.

Next Coordination Team Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 2005, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Narragansett Bay Commission Board Room. The meeting agenda and review materials will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

April 20, 2005 Meeting Attendees

Coordination Team

Robert Ballou	R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management
Michael Walker	Economic Development Corporation
Dan Varin	R.I. Water Resources Board
John O'Brien	R.I. Dept. of Administration – Statewide Planning Program
Meg Kerr	R.I. Rivers Council
Paul Pinault	Narragansett Bay Commission
Grover Fugate	RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Richard Ribb	Chair Designate, Coordination Team

Other Attendees

Mark Adelman	R. I. Governor's Office
Bruce Vild	R.I. Dept. of Administration – Statewide Planning Program
Ariana Johnson	R.I. Economic Policy Council
Sue Kiernan	R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management
Janet Keller	R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management
Don Pryor	Brown University
Chip Young	URI Coastal Resources Center
Peter August	URI Coastal Institute
Margherita Pryor	U.S. EPA Region 1
Tom Ardito	Narragansett Bay Estuary Program