

## **Minutes of Meeting—July 27, 2005**

Richard Ribb, interim chair of the Coordination Team (CT) presided.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

A review of the Economic Policy Council-sponsored meetings with Larry Quick, a process consultant were discussed. Kip Bergstrom, chair of the Economic Monitoring Collaborative, proposed using the Metro Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) as a pilot for the CT Systems Level Plan (SLP).

The SLP and CT could bring people and agencies together for data collection and assessment. Peg Parker of the state House of Representatives policy office suggested that the House would like to see more implementation of the plan, and to integrate the Metro Bay SAMP with the mandated Marine Resource Development Plan, which is being created simultaneously.

There was identified a need to coordinate just not at the agency level, but politically within the General Assembly and governor's office. It involves facilitation with political leadership, shows the how investment in environmental issues pays off, and gets agency buy-in from all CT participants.

Meg Kerr of the RI Rivers Council questioned how the coordination between CT and the Metro Bay SAMP would occur. Would CT simply review suggestions? Richard Ribb suggested it would be worth it to go back to SAMP and review their work plan actions.

Jeff Willis of the Coastal Resources Management Council said the SAMP process would bring CT into the mix. But not use the SAMP as a "mechanical model" for all future work.

Concerns were raised by a number of CT members about the amount (or lack) of funds given to CT to proceed with its work within the amount of time allotted. (Pinault, Varin, Kerr.)

Richard Ribb indicated that without being confirmed by the state Senate, potential problems could arise with the Region I Environmental Protection Agency that has been funding him. Questions arose about recess confirmation of General Assembly, and the need for funds to support Ribb and other part-time CT staff. A meeting with legislative leaders was suggested.

Sandra Whitehouse, representing the House policy office, agreed that was a good idea, and said the governor's office should also be included to get over the confirmation process. She added that the approximately \$1M in funding for the CT monitoring program that was deleted from the final General Assembly budget would still be available in the future. The House Finance Committee had not been sold on the process and plan for use of the money.

Ribb gave a review of the Ad Hoc Working Group meeting. There is a need to engage municipalities; a geographic strategy vs. an issues strategy needed to be created; and there was a need to address changes in the legislation monitoring the CT.

Reports from the Environmental and Economic Collaboratives and the Scientific (SAC) and Public Advisory (PAC) Committees were also included, with little forward progress given the summer months, but with plans to move ahead as work picked up in the fall. Of main concern was the need for the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative and SAC to keep up progress on providing input into the Department of Environmental Management's monitoring plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Young  
Chair, Public Advisory Committee