



RHODE ISLAND BAYS, RIVERS, & WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM

June 25, 2008

RI Economic Development Corporation

Approved Meeting Minutes

Coordination Team Members in Attendance: Nancy Hess (for Kevin Flynn), Guy Lefebvre, Juan Mariscal, Robert Ballou (for Michael Sullivan), Tom Uva (for Ray Marshall), Jeff Willis (for Grover Fugate)

Other Meeting Participants: Jane Austen, Meg Kerr, Chris Deacutis

Coordination Team Staff: Ames Colt, Melissa Stanziale

CT Administration:

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Colt requested approval of draft minutes for May 28, 2008 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously to approve the 5/28/08 meeting minutes.

Budget Article 30 Implementation:

Colt reported that there has been no word from DEM on the BA 30 Implementation. AT & T, which is the only entity that owns transatlantic cables, has submitted comments to CRMC. CRMC has asked Colt to respond to these comments. Colt intends to place the response on the agenda for the July CT Meeting.

Also, some cables are not functioning properly and have been disconnected from the land station. Colt emphasized that the fee should not be set on linear space, if the cable is there, the fee applies. The fee amount is not set yet, but the FY 09 bills will go out soon.

The RRA is in the red due to unfunded personnel until FY009. There is no money to play with before that time. However, they do have \$250,000 from the OSPAR account.

Kiernan has been working on contract renewal with USGS. She has established \$170-180,000 for FY09 stream gages, which is a 15% increase from FY08. Kiernan promised to provide better numbers at the July meeting.

\$114,000 – Stream Gages
 \$32,000 - ?
 \$75,000 – Economic Analysis

Balance = OSPAR Fund

Colt suggested that they spend roughly half on economic analysis.

Subcommittees:

Colt would like to reconvene the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative by July 23rd. There is a strong need to continue with these monitoring programs such as River & Stream Gage monitoring. The Fixed –Site Network must also continue. Fresh water beach monitoring should also receive monitoring funds, but probably will not. Colt urged that they make a decision by the next meeting. DEM has a heavy agenda within the collaborative and Colt acknowledged this.

There is a mandate needed for the Science Advisory Committee. Colt is looking to incorporate some specific guidance, or a mandate into the SLP under CT responsibilities. Comments and feedback are welcome. He wanted to emerge from the meeting with a specific order to re-establish the SAC. Colt made the following motion:

The BRWCT requests that the SAC Chair and membership work with the BRWCT Chair to develop a written response to the BRWCT Chair's June 16 memo regarding setting an agenda for the SAC.

This response should include:

- 1) A brief description of how the SAC will address one or more of the 3 tasks delineated in the June 16 memo; and*
- 2) An updated roster.*

The BRWCT respectfully requests the SAC's response be submitted to BRWCT by September 17, one week before the September meeting of the BRWCT.

The motion was passed unanimously.

SLP Update:

The PAC requires a second round of public review. Colt announced that he would accept comments for the next 24-36 hours and post the plan by mid-day on Friday. He expects the first final draft to be ready on July 23rd. He plans to put together an executive summary in August.

Colt's Revisions:

- Revised and expanded the major issues section and made the introduction more concise.

- There is a brand new water supply section, and Mariscal would supply comments on it before Friday.
- Shifted to 2009-13 in order to better reflect a good time frame.
- Also mentioned that the law requires cost estimates for implementation. Colt deferred because it is not clear how useful that will be. Those numbers will probably appear in the annual work plan.
- Removed the action column from the strategy tables

General Comments:

- Nancy Hess asked why the actions and agencies were combined. Was it because there are not enough agencies?
- Colt responded that he did not want to add all six columns, but he does think it's a good idea to describe the action and the responsible party.
- Jeff Willis commented that one more column is probably a good idea because other agencies will see it and they will see how they can participate.
- Hess cautioned that sometimes, if you don't put an agency down they will claim to have no responsibility. It is important to be very specific.
- Colt said that he would add agencies in and they could decide next meeting.
- Willis suggested that maybe they should indicate the major agency, and then less responsible agencies underneath.
- Colt asked if they wanted to keep the responsibilities that solely belong to one agency.
- Willis answered yes, in order to educate other agencies and make them remember it.
- Tom Uva asked if all of these strategies are important for 2009-13. If so, then they should fill in the blanks.
- Colt answered that he could not fill in the agency actions, it's really up to them. This is not easy because they're constantly changing. He hopes that they can be filled in over the next month.
- Uva said that he thought the real question is whether or not it is up to the CT to delegate responsibilities?
- Colt answered yes, it can be with an inter-agency commission.

Watershed Section:

- Hess advised that technical support could be provided by the Division of Planning, but most likely not financial. She recommended that that section be struck.
- Colt mentioned Scott Millar's idea (?) They should work out what is meant by Community Asset Map with Nancy, Kevin, Jared & Scott. The idea is to get the towns to make the maps.

Water-Reliant Economy:

- Colt added some information about water-based transportation and commuters, as well as dredging recommendations/regulations (?)
- Meg Kerr suggested that this section should celebrate freshwater & inland sources as well.
- Hess said that they should focus on industrial/marine uses (water-based transportation) and move away from the passenger, thus making the guide plan (?) a stronger element.

Natural Hazards:

- More consideration of Riverine Flooding (I'm not sure who said this).
- Kerr mentioned that although CRMC has taken the lead on *****, is there some way to draw other agencies into it besides?
- Jane Austen suggested some changes to Table 1.
- Colt asked her (Austen) to propose the language and send it to him. If there is more on river flooding, he would like to know more about it, & dams as well.

Water Quality Strategy:

- All about pollution-control – point/non-point. (I think you said this)
- All about Clean-Water Act & where we need to go to follow its mandate. (I think you also said this)
- Uva observed on page 3, the second strategy down – charge DEM to look at other point sources and not to gear toward wastewater treatment plants.

Living Resources:

- Colt mentioned that it is difficult to work through the fisheries policies because they're tied to regional management.
- There are no actions for this section; he would like to sit down with Mark Gibson and possibly Bob Ballou.

Aquatic Habitats & Invasive:

- The specific action here is to try to find funding for a state strategy habitat coordinator.
- Tom Ardito is doing work on this and he will have more to report in a month.
- Chris Deacutis suggested that Colt should look at Plymouth, MA because they have an environmental planner instead of a town planner.

Conclusion:

- Colt reiterated that he will have the final draft for public review on the website by midday on Friday.
- He also urged the team to address the six questions (?)
- It was also decided that if people want to have their comments included in the draft to be looked at on the 23rd, then they must be due on a certain date.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.