



## **RHODE ISLAND BAYS, RIVERS, & WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM**

December 18, 2008  
RI Economic Development Corporation

### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

Coordination Team Members in Attendance: Mike Walker (for Saul Kaplan), Tom Uva (for Ray Marshall), Sue Kiernan (for WM Sullivan), Guy Lefebvre, Jeff Willis (for Mike Tikoian), Kevin Flynn

Other Meeting Participants: Jane Austin, Save the Bay, Chris Deacutis, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

Coordination Team Staff: Ames Colt, Melissa Stanziale

#### **CT Administration:**

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

*Motion passed unanimously to approve the 11/19/08 meeting minutes.*

Colt proposed reducing the number of CT meetings in 2009 to six. At least one hour of the meetings would be dedicated to a single topic or issue with agency reps and guest speakers providing insights and facilitating dialogue. Colts hopes that this orientation will focus the BRWCT meetings more on broad-based policy discussions and attract more stakeholders.

*Motion passed unanimously to undertake the new meeting approach for 2009 as proposed in the distributed meeting schedule.*

#### **Budget Article 30 Implementation:**

BRWCT Restricted Receipt Account update: Net revenues from the septage disposal fee for July –September 2008 were about \$115,000, close to what was expected.

Trans-Atlantic cable fee: No additional developments with regard to promulgation by CRMC of the cable fee. Mike Tikoian reported to Colt on December 18 that CRMC has yet to receive written guidance from the General Assembly in response to the Council's Oct 2008 request for guidance on promulgating the fee.

OSPAR: Remaining balance of \$39,600 in OSPAR account will be directed to Economic Monitoring Collaborative activities.

**Environmental Monitoring Collaborative:**

The Environmental Monitoring Collaborative will meet in early 2009 to develop an agenda

They are committed to a 3-tier process: back-ground document, synthesis document, & four-pager.

Sue Kiernan and Peter August will be working on this.

**Science Advisory Committee:**

Set agenda in September – SAC submitted two 1-pagers on two topics to pursue over the next twelve months. Don Pryor is waiting for them to provide more guidance. He doesn't want to have scientists start working on these goals if there will be no response from the CT agencies.

Chris Deacutis reported that these two issues fit right into climate change. In Narragansett Bay, climate change is causing change in who-eats-who. The biggest issues are climate change and ecosystem-based management. The SAC suggested they could look at some focused aspects of ecosystem-based management. These issues are broad-based and difficult, but the SAC is interested in them.

*Motion passed to be part of reviewers for status and trends reports and partner with monitoring collaborative to identify and work with key indicators.*

**Public Advisory Committee:**

Next PAC meeting will be held January 27<sup>th</sup> 5-6:30. The purpose of the meeting will be to familiarize PAC with SLP so they can act to support implementation priorities established by the BRWCT in its forthcoming work plan.

The Providence Business News issue for the week of December 8, 2008 contained a write-up and editorial regarding the BRWCT and the SLP, the first significant coverage of the BRWCT in 2008.

**Narragansett Bay Estuary Program:**

Colt reported that he has been working with Richard Ribb to come up with Memorandum of Agreement on integrating the Narragansett Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and the BRW Systems-Level Plan.

They are committed to coming up with MOA by January 26<sup>th</sup>. After this it must be approved by the NBEP Management Committee and it will be brought to the BRWCT at February 25 meeting for consideration.

**BRWCT Annual Work Plan:**

Colt reported that no one from the agencies has been banging down his door on completing this work, but the plan must be prepared. Colt asked Willis if Jim Boyd's time and work goals should be included in BRWCT annual work plan as indicative of the staff resources CRMC devotes to the SAMP work identified in the BRW SLP. Willis answered yes; they can be laid out, and that Boyd's time represents the bulk of what CRMC staff is able to devote to SAMP implementation and development.

Colt stated that similar estimates of other agency resource allocations to SLP goals and priorities are needed to round out the BRWCT annual work plan.

The Governor would like Colt to continue to work with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and its Committee on Ocean Energy Planning and Management.

Finally, Colt will seek guidance from Representative Naughton and other General Assembly leaders on proceeding with SLP implementation during such a difficult state budget situation.

*Meeting adjourned at 4:30.*