

**R.I. Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team
Public Advisory Committee
*Minutes – April 6, 2005***

Members attending: Jack Schempp (ECRI); Gail Mastrati (DEM); Michele Musselman (DEM); Christine Zarcadoolas (Brown U.); Jamie Samons (NBC); Stephen Medeiros (RISAA); Mike McGiveney RI Shellfishermen’s Assn.); Christopher D’Ovidio (CLF); Jenny Pereira Woonasquatucket Watershed Council); Richard Ribb (NBEP)); Rupert Friday (RILTC); Linda Jzyk (RIDE); Jane Austin (Save the Bay); Denise Leone (Audubon). Chaired by Chip Young, URI Coastal Institute. Also attending: Kip Bergstrom (EPC – chair of Economic Monitoring Collaborative); Peter August (Coastal Institute – chair of Environmental Monitoring Collaborative)

1. Kip Bergstrom began with an overview of the work of the Coordination Team’s Economic Monitoring Collaborative
 - Work started in December 2004; working with Tim Tyrell of URI. Members include water-related industries and other stakeholder organizations. Key gaps are fishermen and Navy membership. Also have boat builders and ship builders (who should not be considered the same when analyzing economic impacts).
 - He mentioned a NOAA project (Cogan) that was trying to get better economic data on water-related business nationally. Also some local work done by House economic/policy analysts Gary Ciminiero and Ken Payne (RI Marine Cluster report), and other independent analysts).
 - He gave a recap of work being done with Australian systems-level plan consultant; need to look at environmental issues such as water quality, land use, recreation and habitat their relationship to economic and social issues.
 - He stressed the need for a 2nd iteration of analysis for issues like fisheries and bay-related tourism which is being projected for fall of 2005.
 - There is a need for adaptive management using what he called ‘listening posts’ to keep a proactive look at changing conditions.
 - Stressed a need to look at waterfront placemaking, with more creative thinking about development. Many projects are going on now, from Quonset, West Side of Aquidneck Island, the tidewater area of the Blackstone and Seekonk Rivers, and CRMC’s review of the Metro Bay SAM plan. Also the need for marinas to think more “green” and pay attention to public access issues. And links to different industry areas (“exotics”) like acoustics, pharmaceuticals from ocean harvest, remote sensing and how they might tie to other key issues like homeland security.

2. Rich Ribb then gave a recap of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Key areas were:

- The Scope of Work as required by the CT statute
- Goals and objectives

- Eventual systems-level plan

Vice chair Jane Austin mentioned the need for input from the Public Advisory Committee on all of those items. Discussion followed on the need to build public support, and get the message “up-river”

3. Peter August then reviewed the work of the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative, with a brief history and referring people to their web site and noted their use of a LISTSERV. Other information included:
 - Monitoring Collaborative has been working with DEM on their monitoring strategy, offering a great deal of input
 - They have addressed the group’s monitoring protocols as stated in legislation
 - Working to help update the state land use manual
 - Need to get data out to public, especially Through use of the Internet
 - Bay Assessment and Response Team (BART) is now in place
 - Communications outreach vehicles include Narragansett Bay Journal, 41 Degrees North and an annual conference, and the need for information dissemination is paramount.

Further discussion of monitoring included the Collaborative’s important role in assuring for accountability and the ability to use adaptive management; the need for both terrestrial and municipal monitoring; need for information exchange among groups; and issues of funding, from federal and state grants to bond issues, citing financial needs to move forward and be successful.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Chip Young, Chair, Public Advisory Committee