

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**RI Economic Monitoring Collaborative**  
**March 21, 2007**  
**3:00 to 5:00 pm**  
**RI Economic Policy Council**  
**17 Gordon Avenue, Providence, RI**

Attendees: Austin Becker, Kip Bergstrom, David DePetrillo, Elizabeth Kordowski, Beth Laney, Ariana McBride, Tom Rich, Curt Spalding, Bruce Vild and Chip Young.

**1. Review/approve meeting summary**

Kip Bergstrom presented the meeting summary from February for the Collaborative's approval. All members present voted to approve the summary.

**2. Review monitoring report**

Mr. Bergstrom reported on how the economic monitoring presentation to the Coordination Team (on 3/16) went and discussed the next steps to finalizing the monitoring report. He noted that comments from the Collaborative and the Coordination Team are due by March 30 and the final report is due to the Coordination Team on April 16. Those present then provided feedback on the report and the larger monitoring effort:

- The Collaborative discussed the value in putting together a joint economic and environmental monitoring Scorecard, potentially building of this and previous monitoring/scorecard-like activities. They discussed the challenges in doing this including the differences in determining how measures would be interpreted and presented. Mr. Bergstrom emphasized the way in which business leaders make judgments based on economic data and the need to infuse this approach into the environmental side. He suggested the possibility of hosting a joint economic and environmental Collaborative meeting. Mr. Spalding added that the Environmental Collaborative does not have any staff support to further this effort and the potential for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program to play this role.
- Mr. Spalding asked whether the calculation of total bay-related manufacturing had been done. Mr. Bergstrom answered that only the watershed-dependent piece had been pulled out, which is 25% of the state's total manufacturing.
- Mr. Becker suggested that the final report include more of a description on the industries within the water cluster, noting the 2003 Senate Marine Cluster Report as a model. He also questioned whether we could indicate that we intend to work on identifying which industries are expected to grow as an area for future research.
- As many of the FY08 monitoring activities need to begin in the summer, Mr. Bergstrom noted the need for the Collaborative to be ready to proceed immediately funding is finalized.
- Mr. Bergstrom raised the possibility of Statewide Planning taking a role in matching up sites for future water-intensive industries with appropriate sites as part of their economic development work.

**3. Other Business**

Ames Colt will be presenting the FY08 Coordination Team plan to the House Finance Committee on March 22. The Collaborative will provide him with a short handout on the monitoring work done to date for this purpose. Mr. Bergstrom also proposed that the Collaborative send a letter of support to the House Finance Committee members and that he would send a draft letter around for Collaborative review and approval.