

**Meeting Minutes
For May 30th 2014
RI DEM • Room 300**

Report: Final Steps

In attendance: Janet Coit, DEM, Council Chair
Michelle Burnett (for Jamia McDonald) RI EMA
Robert Vanderslice, Julia Gold (for Dr. Michael Fine), DOH
Jared Rhodes (for Kevin Flynn), DOA/Planning
Grover Fugate, CRMC
Nicholas Ucci (for Dr. Marion Gold), DOA/OER
Melissa Long (for Michael Lewis), DOT
Richard Licht, DOA
Jack Leyden, State Building Code Commissioner
Hannah Morini (for Marcel Valois), CommerceRI
Vladimir Ibarra (for Elizabeth Roberts, Lt. Gov.)

Director Coit called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

The first order of business was approval of the minutes of April 15, 18, 21, 22, and 28.

Mr. Rhodes motioned to approve all minutes under consideration as drafted. Dr. Vanderslice seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

Director Coit summarized EC3/climate-change-related events since the last meeting. This included:

- The May 1 preliminary report to Governor Chafee.
- A May 8 press conference at Bristol Town Beach and the report being made available for public comment.
- May 19 & 20 regional conference in New Hampshire on climate change adaptation, attended by Directors Coit and Licht and other state agency staff. A presentation on the EC3 was met favorably by those from other states.
- The issuance by CommerceRI of a statewide economic plan, "[Actions for Economic Development in Rhode Island](#)."
- Ongoing efforts, including the [BeachSAMP](#), [Rhode Map RI](#), and Governor Chafee's announcement that [Rhode Island was one of eight states](#) that recently completed an Action Plan to develop infrastructure, coordinate policies, codes and standards, and encourage a consumer market primed to put 3.3 million zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the road by 2025.

Director Coit noted that the month of June would be likely be focused on legislative efforts and coordination with the General Assembly.

The next order of business was the draft final EC3 report. EC3 members reviewed the material provided and offered comments.

Dr. Vanderslice complimented Jan Reitsma for the report as it stands, noting that since this was a “living document” it was time to accept it as is and move toward taking action. Director Licht agreed.

Director Fugate called the current report version “a fantastic document,” noting that he did have a few minor changes that he would pass to Mr. Reitsma for correction/inclusion.

Mr. Rhodes made several points related to coordination with the Division of Planning, in particular with respect to action items 1.3.3 and 6.5.3. The comments focused on the timing of providing technical information to communities and on who should have primary responsibility for carrying out the action item, respectively. Mr. Rhodes said he would provide additional information directly to Mr. Reitsma.

Melissa Long noted timing and funding issues related to action item 4.1.4. Mr. Reitsma acknowledged these had been discussed and said he would make changes accordingly.

Director Licht suggested adding a glossary of terms and acronyms. He also noted that the practice of naming individual people in the report, etc, should be changed to name position titles, as people holding those titles/duties may change.

Reitsma noted that additional items could be added to the “executive action” section, and that “communications” did not get as much discussion as it deserved, although it is featured prominently under “key principles.”

Director Coit agreed. She noted that she appreciated the report’s cross-referencing of items, as it showed existing and necessary coordination among agencies. She noted that she plans to expand coordination at DEM.

Director Licht motioned to authorize Mr. Reitsma to revise the report and action plan as appropriate (given continued edits that have been or will be provided by EC3 members) and to authorize the Chair to approve the final edits and submit the final documents to Governor Chafee. Mr. Ucci seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except for Ms. Morini who abstained for CommerceRI, which requires Board approval of such decisions.

Director Coit discussed next steps, including her recommendation to hold a meeting in early July after the General Assembly session, and then monthly meetings, beginning in September. In the meantime, she expects smaller groups will be meeting to follow up on recommendations in the report and begin implementation after that.

Grover Fugate suggested that a listserv be established as a means for Council members to be kept, and keep each other, up to date. Jan Reitsma promised he will work on that.

Ms. Morini provided additional information on the CommerceRI report “Actions for Economic Development in Rhode Island.”

Director Coit opened the meeting to public comment.

Robert Malin of the Sierra Club RI noted that he was impressed with the report’s “architecture” (related to the consolidation of significant amounts of information and proposals) and agreed that a

communications section was critical for a final version. He also commented on the need for natural gas monitoring and questioned the meaning of “large-scale” hydroelectric in Rhode Island.

Meg Kerr of the Environment Council of Rhode Island suggested that cross referencing information on communities should be integrated within discussions on agency efforts as well.

Allison Rogers of DOA provided information on the [“Wild Gift”](#) fellowship and grant opportunities, which assist social entrepreneurs with startup funds and ecologically minded experiences to develop business ideas that encourage sustainable communities.

Director Licht motioned to adjourn the meeting, noting in his motion the leadership shown by Director Coit. Mr. Ucci seconded the motion. Motion passed with all members voting in favor.