

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 2014

(RIDEM, Room 300)

**In attendance:** Janet Coit, DEM, Council Chair  
Michelle Burnett (for Jamia McDonald - Vice-Chair), EMA  
Grover Fugate, CRMC  
Julia Gold (for Dr. Michael Fine), DOH  
Steven Hartford, DOA  
Michael Lewis, DOT  
Shauna Beland (for Marcel Valois), Commerce RI  
Marion Gold, OER

Director Coit opened the meeting at approximately 2:10 PM. In her opening remarks she explained the meeting would focus on progress made since the Council's report was issued at the beginning of the summer. She introduced Jane Horton, Public Health Analyst visiting from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to offer a few words to the Council about the CDC's work with the RI Department of Health and the "Building Resilience Against Climate Effects Program." Director Coit then reminded the Council and attendees that the Council's December meeting date was changed to the 17<sup>th</sup> because of the Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium occurring on December 10<sup>th</sup>. She explained that seating at the Symposium will be limited and the target audience is the business community, and again asked for assistance in encouraging business people to attend. Lastly, Director Coit updated the Council on the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) proposal submitted by Rhode Island to HUD at the end of October. RI is awaiting feedback from HUD sometime in late November.

The first order of business was the minutes from the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and unanimously approved.

Director Coit then turned the conversation to Progress Updates (**see attached table**). Jan Reitsma (Governor's Office) provided in-depth updates to the Council on issues such as "Lead by Example", "Assistance to Cities and Towns", "Economic Sector", "Mitigation", "Adaptation", "Science & Technical Information", "Communications", and the "Advisory Board."

Grover Fugate (CRMC) gave a short presentation to the Council about how CRMC, Governor's Office, DEM, EMA, Health and Division of Planning coordinated with each other and with URI and NOAA/NWS on evaluating data sets and mapping options, and completed joint interim guidance for municipal planners, including criteria, sets of maps and detailed guidance. Statewide Planning is including this in its new Guidance for cities and towns that have to update their local comprehensive plans. He also commented on the "Fortified Program" and how funding was raised to assist with sending numerous local building officials. It was noted that other state entities should also take advantage of this training opportunity.

Marion Gold (OER) presented on the State Energy Plan that is currently being developed and discussed Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs). Director Coit noted that RI should give itself a big pat on the back for being named the 3<sup>rd</sup> most energy-efficient state in the nation in the 2014 edition of the American

Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) State Scorecard. During her presentation, Commissioner Gold suggested that DEM's Office of Air Resources and OER begin coordinating now on the GHG reduction plan that is due in December 2016. (Governor's Office offered to help coordinate).

Director Coit noted that the December meeting would be focusing on adaptation (with presentations), and her upcoming senior staff leadership retreat would focus on climate change. She then opened up the floor for public comment.

Peter Galvin commented that he didn't hear the word "jobs" as part of today's discussion, inquired about purchase plans for solar, and offered his opinions on the GHG reduction goals in state law (suggesting they were too low).

Lauren Carson (RI Representative-Elect – Newport) offered comments on a recent meeting on sea-level rise mapping and asked that the Council bring its meetings on the road in 2015, offering to host the Council in Newport.

Representative Art Handy commented on the use of LEAN and climate change, his willingness to push for additional resources at Statewide Planning so that office can better communicate/coordinate with cities and towns on resiliency issues, how the conversation needs to re-focus on preventing disasters as a cost-saving approach, and regulatory reform efforts (at local level) as a way to improve resiliency.

Ken Filarski applauded the work of the Council and indicated that RI is far ahead of many other states in its resiliency planning efforts/progress.

Ken Payne indicated that this was a good "moment of reflection" on the success of the Council. He indicated that it all shows how progress can be made quickly.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.

ATTACHED TABLE REFERENCED ABOVE AVAILABLE FROM  
RI DEM BY EMAILING:  
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