

Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2016
(RIDEM, Room 300)

In attendance: Janet Coit, DEM, Council Chair
Marion Gold, OER, Vice Chair
Michelle Burnett, EMA
Jared Rhodes, Statewide Planning
Meredith Brady, DOT
Mike Walker, Commerce RI
Michael DiBiase, DOA
Jeff Willis, CRMC

Director Coit (DEM) opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM. She briefly reviewed the agenda and the 2013 meeting schedule (2nd Wed of the month at 9:30AM).

The first order of business was the minutes from the November 19, 2015 meeting (at the State House). A motion to accept the minutes was made and unanimously approved.

Director Coit (DEM) offered some short introductory remarks: 1) thanking everyone for making the last meeting at the State House (the Governor was in attendance) such a success; 2) providing some comments on the COP 21 Paris agreement in December 2015 (making connections to RI's ongoing efforts, RGGI, the Clean Power Plan); 3) acknowledging that Diane Williamson (Bristol) was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the EC4 Advisory Board; and 4) offering some comments on the GHG Reduction Technical Committee which convened for a kick-off meeting in December. Technical Committee meetings will continue throughout 2016.

Marion Gold (OER) announced that RI's own electric vehicle incentive program would be rolled out on January 29th at the beginning of the RI International Auto Show at the RI Convention Center. Additional specifics will be announced as the date nears.

Jared Rhodes (Statewide Planning) offered an update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He offered insight into how the program will incorporate consideration of both mitigation options (e.g. public transportation) and adaptation (e.g. incorporating sea level rise analyses) for all proposals. Director Coit offered some comments about an upcoming RIPTA improvement project in Newport at the Gateway and how DEM & CRMC will be coordinating with RIPTA to ensure SLR, stormwater improvements, etc. will be prioritized.

Director Coit (DEM) turned the attention of the Council to the Governor's December Executive Order on Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy. Marion Gold presented about the specifics included in the Executive Order and the "bold goal" of having state facilities be 100% renewable by 2025. She explained how her Office will further coordinate with other state agencies/offices in 2016 and utilize existing programs within OER (e.g. RI Public Energy Partnership, RI PEP) to move the needle on LBE progress across the board. Commissioner Gold highlighted barriers to progress that have been identified (e.g. capital, motivation and capacity) as well as solutions that have been implemented (e.g. long-term financing via the RI Infrastructure Bank). She provided information about the Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF), progress on new MPA's for retrofits/renewable installations, ongoing energy efficiency and renewable projects across the state (including numerous DEM facilities), DOT's LED Streetlight pilot project, and the recently adopted biodiesel MPA. Meredith Brady (DOT) provided further specifics about DOT's LED installations across the state (RI on track to be the first state to use 100% LED highway lights) and addressed the issue impacts to wildlife. Total cost of the project is projected

to be about \$7 million. Lastly, Marion Gold introduced George Sfinarolakis from OER who will continue to work on many elements of implementing the LBE Executive Order throughout 2016 and beyond.

Members of the Council offered comments/questions on the presentation. Jared Rhodes (Statewide Planning) commented that the Comprehensive Planning guidance process spearheaded out of his office can help push-out to municipalities many of the priorities/goals identified in the Governor's Executive Order. Janet Coit emphasized the larger benefits of using kiosks (and similar displays) to showcase many of the efficiency and renewable energy projects undertaken across the state (e.g. the Veteran's Home and the DOA building). Jeff Willis (CRMC) asked about the challenges of managing/tracking electricity use and utilizing incentives in building that are not owner-occupied (CRMC's facility in Wakefield is owned by DOA) and the possibility of installing EV charging stations at CRMC's office.

Michelle Burnett (RIEMA) discussed EMA's efforts to upgrade lighting within its facility (which is owned by the National Guard), undertake a comprehensive energy audit of their Scituate facility, and replacement of vehicles with EV's. Michael DiBiase (DOA) commented that his Department continues to explore ways to expand charging station locations. The council went on to discuss progress by some municipalities to "buy back" their street lights so as to implement efficiency upgrades, Commerce RI's Renewable Energy Fund program, growth in the solar sector in RI, and sustainability measures utilized/tracked at the 2015 Volvo Ocean Race event.

Brigid Ryan (Secretary, EC4 Advisory Board – Emerald Cities) and Hal Walker (Vice-Chair, EC4 STAB – EPA) provided updates on the work being performed by their respective Advisory Boards.

During the public comment portion of the agenda:

- Greg Schultz (RIAG Office) said he was excited about the recently announced Executive Order and asked if the Governor might be open to executing a MOU with non-executive bodies (e.g. RIAG's Office or the Airport Corporation) to encourage additional use of energy efficiency/renewables. He also commented on the complaint EPA recently filed against VW for emission standard violations and RIAG's involvement in the EV rebate announcement. Marion Gold (OER) commented that the EV rebate program being rolled out wouldn't have become a reality if it wasn't for the work of the RIAG's Office on the AEP consent decree.
- Meg Kerr (Audubon) commented on the progress being made by the member agencies/offices of EC4, the need for similar EO or "Lead by Example" efforts across the state on stormwater, and the need to expand the Green Buildings Act to incorporate stormwater.
- Greg Gerritt commented on the recent hearing before the RI EFSB and expressed his displeasure at the disconnect between the EFSB and the goals of the recent EO issued by the Governor. Janet Coit (DEM) dismissed herself from the room due to her role as a member of the EFSB prior to Mr. Gerritt's comments.
- Allison Callahan (RIDEM) commented on the number of EV's RIDEM has already invested in and the # of charging stations available at the Foundry Complex for public use and state vehicles.
- Jim Celenza (RICOSH) commented on the lack of focus on transportation issues amongst EC4 members. (Note: Janet Coit (DEM) commented that she would like to see a future EC4 meeting dedicated solely to transportation priorities/issues).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM.