

EC4 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2016

(RIDEM, Conf. Room A)

In attendance:

Sheila Dormody (Chairwoman)

Fred Presley (Vice-Chair)

Tina Shepard

Diane Williamson

Al Dahlberg

Barbara Cardiff

Christopher McNally

Sheila Dormody (Chair) opened the meeting at approximately 9:10AM. She briefly reviewed the proposed agenda.

Fred Presley (Vice-Chair) provided an update on the progress of the municipal working group on the survey it has been developing. It is intended to be very targeted and designed “by municipal leaders for municipal leaders.” He discussed the possibility of testing it with a focus group (and described potential individuals to bring into the focus groups), with an aim to roll it out in the spring. Targeted audiences would include local DPW, Planning, EMA and building officials. The question arose about which specific “areas” municipalities might need the greatest degree of assistance with moving forward – response to more intense/frequent storms, equipment needs, and long-term planning were cited as examples. Fred Presley would like to keep open the option of in-person meetings with municipal officials “on an as needed basis” to complete the survey. Currently, no specific sample size is being targeted.

Liz Stone (RIDEM), with assistance from Al Dahlberg (Brown), Caitlin Greeley (Planning) and Meg Kerr (Audubon), provided a brief update on the progress of the communications working group. The update touched up website development, communication strategies and identifying key targeted audiences. The board engaged in a discussion of the climate change trainings/workshops Jen West (NBNERR) can offer and the benefits of “personalizing” conversations about climate change so individuals can relate to potential impacts. Sheila Dormody (Chair) said she would reach out to Jen West to see if Jen would be willing to present to the board in the spring.

Barbara Cardiff (with the business working group) talked about the possibility of connecting with Commerce RI – focusing on green jobs and economic opportunities, agronomy (e.g., vertical farms in urban locations), and organic branding. She suggested bringing in URI/Brown economists to be part of the discussion.

The members of the board then discussed the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) vulnerability assessment study being undertaken by RIDEM. Liz Stone (RIDEM) provided some specifics about the project and questions arose about whether or not the report would go so far as to make formal recommendations/suggestions

regarding each WWTF. The board then engaged in a discussion about stormwater challenges in numerous RI cities/towns.

Caitlin Greeley (Planning) briefly discussed a collaboration between EPA and the RI Division of Planning to develop a framework to help communities assess their economic vulnerability to climate change and explore ways to build economic resilience and take advantage of new opportunities.

A vote to approve the Dec. 18, 2015 meeting minutes was made by Chairwoman Dormody. The minutes were unanimously approved (with one minor typo suggested for correction on page 2), followed by a discussion of the meeting schedule for the board in 2016.

The Advisory Board will meet again on February 19th at 9:00 AM. It was noted that February 19th is during the winter school vacation week, so a quorum may be challenging to bring together on that date.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 AM.

(Notes prepared by Liz Stone, RIDEM)