

## EC4 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**May 20, 2016**  
(RIDEM – 340C)

### In attendance:

*Fred Presley (Vice Chair)*  
*Tina Shepard*  
*Chris McNally*  
*Andy Andrade*  
*Barbara Cardiff*  
*Al Dahlberg*  
*David Caldwell*  
*Amy Rainone*  
*Brigid Ryan (Secretary)*

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Fred Presley (Vice Chair) opened the meeting at approximately 9:10AM. He briefly reviewed the proposed agenda. The first order of business was the minutes from the March 18, 2016 Advisory Board (AB) meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and unanimously approved.

The working groups provided updates on progress. Amy Rainone and Liz Stone (RIDEM) provided an update on the work of the communications working group. They provided updates on the climate change video project the group was working in coordination with Julia Gold from HEALTH (who is funding the development of the video through HEALTH's climate change program).

Brigid Ryan (Secretary) offered some brief remarks on the AB's annual report as submitted to the full EC4 in early May. She commented on the AB's commitment to meet much more frequently than called for by statute; the broad range of responsibilities tasked to the AB in the Resilient RI act; the need for additional assistance to get projects moving forward; importance of ongoing communication with the Governor's Office; challenges in tracking progress of the AB and the full EC4; coordination with state agency staff; and need to engage RIDOT and Commerce RI.

The AB members addressed the following topics:

- The meeting a few AB members attended in early May with staff from DEM, OER, Planning, Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), and Health about continued coordination and areas for future cross-cutting projects.
- Vice Chair Presley offered some remarks on his desire to meet with staff from the Governor's Office on the work of the AB and its statutory responsibilities.
- Various pieces of legislation pending before the RI General Assembly, including HB-7695, Rep. Carson's sea level rise proposals (HB 8101), and the Governor's budget proposal to provide \$100,000 to URI to facilitate assistance for coastal resiliency guidance.
- The needs and challenges of providing comprehensive training for local zoning and planning officials on issues like climate change, especially sea level rise.

- Challenges in North Kingstown (Wickford) and Westerly in preparing for sea level rise, including a state commitment to address major infrastructure assets in our local communities. Implementation of projects at the local level is imperative to move the needle.
- How can we frame climate change as an infrastructure issue? From a policy/planning/budget perspective, there needs to be a “climate lens” applied to all projects (drinking water and wastewater used as examples.)
- Discussion of municipal cuts in recent years and federal funding coming into RI for specific projects. How can the federal government and the state help incentivize much needed local improvements? It was suggested that Parag Agrawal, the new Director of the Division of Planning attend a future AB meeting to discuss this issue?
- It was suggested the AB should develop a 2-page white paper connecting all the priorities issues touched upon during the meeting (can use elements of the EC4 annual report as a base for such a white paper).
- The need to ensure local comprehensive plans are completed on time and appropriately address climate adaptation issues; leadership at the state level to hold municipalities accountable for progress on resiliency is key.
- Lastly, Liz Stone provided a brief update on progress of AB replacements (for Sheila Dormody and a new AB Chair), Commissioner Marion Gold’s move over to the PUC, progress on completing the full EC4 annual report, Lauren Carson’s SLR Commission report, and other legislative matters.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30.

*(Notes prepared by Liz Stone, RIDEM)*