

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS **MAKE IT EASIER TO DO BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE** **PUBLIC SESSION**

May 9, 2011

The Make It Easier to Do Business Subcommittee of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (the "Corporation") met on Monday, May 9, 2011, in Public Session, beginning at 2:00 p.m., at the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation located at 315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to notice of the meeting to all subcommittee members, and public notice of the meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by the By-Laws of the Corporation and applicable Rhode Island law.

The following individuals were present and participated throughout the meeting: Subcommittee Chairman Karl Wadensten; Mr. Jerauld Adams, Mr. Kevin Duggan, Mr. Bob Emiliani, Ms. Marie Ganim, Mr. Doug Hales, Mr. Charles Hindley, Mr. Henry Kates, Mr. Paul Martineau, Mr. Paul McGreevy, Mr. Michael Mulholland, Mr. John Pagliarini, Mr. David Quigley, Mr. Steve Soscia, Mr. John Surette, Ms. Leslie Taito, Mr. David Weisberg, Executive Director Keith Stokes, Ms. Sherri Carrera, Ms. Denise Javery, and Ms. Judy Chong.

Mr. Wadensten called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and opened up the meeting to a discussion on the Office of Regulatory Reform ("ORR"). Ms. Taito questioned whether there was any baseline data on any of the 39 cities and towns. Ms. Carrera explained that it is not mandatory for the cities and towns to provide baseline data. Ms. Taito stated that the process will not work if we can't baseline for all 39 cities and towns. Ms. Carrera further explained that the cities and towns are not part of Project Quick Start. Project Quick Start is for federal and state agencies. Ms. Carrera distributed the Quarterly Report and Overview to the subcommittee.

Mr. Kates questioned whether there was somebody at the top within these agencies leading the charge. He stated that this is what we need to be doing, communicating to the folks who are having the direct interface with the public. It was also stated that we have legislation but in some cases it is not mandatory, it is permissive. The members of the subcommittee discussed addressing these issues with leadership in the General Assembly and in the Governor's office as a priority, as well as the we need to make such communication mandatory and to change the way we approach these things.

Mr. McGreevy stated that even if the ORR was fully staffed and if it had all the right tools and funding that it needed, it still is missing the relationship with the regulatory agencies. There are businesses out there that want to get through the process, they want to do the right thing, they want to know how to do it and do it efficiently. He stated that before the subcommittee gears up for legislation this year, it

needs to put into place, hopefully from recommendations from this group and initiatives from myself and the Governor's office, the suggestions that the subcommittee pilots and get those relationships started so that the legislation becomes self evident.

Mr. Pagliarini stated that on the Secretary of State's website they have the Quick Start. You establish your business and basically they tell you what types of permitting issues you have to deal with. The members of the subcommittee discussed the effectiveness of this program and whether it addresses their mission statement.

Mr. Stokes discussed with the subcommittee the concept of establishing the ORR. He explained that the intent of the subcommittee was to get this level of input. Mr. Stokes stated that last year the General Assembly, led by the Senate, put together a historic piece of legislation to begin to create more of a full-fledged focus attention on regulatory issues. He noted that the legislation provided a variety of different opportunities for the Corporation to form the ORR and create an entire focus group, professional staffing and areas of resource expertise to focus on regulatory reform.

Mr. Stokes stated the 3 areas are: 1) ombudsman; 2) full-time Director of ORR and some level of quality management; and 3) ongoing oversight and evaluation (for which the Corporation is dedicating a full time research person to assist with this). He further explained that the goal with the subcommittee is to use its expertise and input to help build a very strong program. He stated as of July 1 we will have an ORR office at the Corporation. Mr. Stokes noted that regulatory reform is one Governor Chafee's five areas of his focus.

Mr. Stokes further explained that the final piece that will be looked at is the industrial sites. He explained that one of the challenges in the State is that statewide planning. He noted that there are approximately 44,000 acres of land that are zoned industrial, however, less than 16,000 of those acres are pad ready, which means they have roads and utilities. Most of the land that is zoned industrial, particularly the rural areas along the 95 corridors, the 295 corridors, Rte. 24, is woodland. Wetlands are not pad ready. Mr. Stokes stated that one of the great challenges that companies have that want to grow in this state or relocate to this state is that we do not have enough pad ready sites for them to make that decision. He stated that on a daily basis a company may call the Corporation that has an interest and we suggest that we have four or five sites that would meet their needs but it might take a year and few months to be pad ready. He mentioned that Quonset/Davisville is slowly coming off the table. Mr. Keith Stokes reiterated that Corporation needs the subcommittee's help to put the program together.

The members of the subcommittee agreed to get a baseline on 5 agencies: 1) Division of Taxation – Good Standing; 2) Department of Health – Community Well; 3) DEM/CRMC – Underground Injection Control; 4) Fire Marshall – Existing Building; and 5) the Corporation.

Mr. Wadensten suggested that a few members be assigned to each agency for on-line research.

Division of Taxation: Mr. Surrette (point person) and Mr. Pagliarini

Department of Health: Mr. Pagliarini (point person) and Ms. Javery

DEM/CRMC: Mr. Wadensten (point person), Mr. Hales and Mr. Soscia

Fire Marshall: Mr. Hindley (point person), Mr. Quigley and Mr. Adams

EDC: Mr. Kates (point person), Mr. Martineau, Mr. Mulholland and Mr. McGreevy

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

David M. Gilden, Secretary

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