



RHODE ISLAND BAYS, RIVERS, & WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM

February 20, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Economic Development Corporation
Providence, Rhode Island

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Coordination Team Members in Attendance:

Other Meeting Participants:

Coordination Team Staff: Ames Colt, Melissa Stanziale

CT Administration:

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Colt requested approval of draft minutes for December 19, 2007 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously to approve the 12/19/07 meeting minutes.

Budget Article 30 Implementation:

CRMC Trans-Atlantic Cable Fee Update:

CRMC had a public hearing on February 12th to consider input on the amount and related conditions of the fee to be implemented. Colt proposed a \$38,000 year per cable fee, which was accepted; but they also requested one more public hearing process. It will be approved on March 25th. Assuming that all goes well with CRMC fee, the CT should see \$136,000 in the RRA by June 1st, or the end of June. (\$152,000 minus the 10% deduction for deposit into the RI General Revenue account.).

DEM's Septage Disposal Fee Update:

DEM is in the final stage of promulgating the septage fee. It should go into effect on April 1st. Assuming that the fee will generate approximately \$500,000 annually, or \$125,000 per quarter, by 9/1/08 it is estimated that about \$112,000 will be available in the CT revenue account (125,000 minus the \$12,500 general revenue account deduction).

Billing for the period of April through June 2008 will be issued July 1 with payments due in 30-60 days.

Budgeting Update:

Generally, the CT is in good shape in terms of expenditure of OSPAR FY 08 funds. There is a small balance remaining to maintain the fixed station for bay monitoring buoy network through the 2008 field season. A decision still needs to be made as to how many OSPAR funds will be available in FY 09. DEM is going to begin renewing USGS contracts for the streamgages and river monitoring. FY09 proposals from the Economic Environmental Monitoring collaboratives are in the works. Until revenues from the septage disposal fee start arriving in the CT restricted receipt account in September 2008, funding available for economic and environmental monitoring will have to be capped at \$250,000 for FY09 programming..

Miscellaneous:

- Colt reported that the CT has a new contact in the Governor's office, Christopher Long.
- There will be a joint committee hearing (Senator Sosnowski's & Representative Malik's committees) on the CT scheduled for the third week of March.

**Economic Monitoring FY08 Research Update: Value Chain Analyses
(Bergstrom):**

Bergstrom reported that there was a meeting of the Economic Monitoring Collaborative on October 22nd during which they reviewed the FY08 monitoring program. There were some suggested revisions for FY09, but no big changes are anticipated.

Key Points:

Commercial fishing trends & Seafood Processing:

- While landings by weight have remained constant, change in mix has contributed to landed values increasing by approximately 9% per year.
- For some species such as squid, Rhode Island's landings determine market pricing.
- RI's commercial fishing and seafood sector employs at least 4,700 people and generates annual gross wages in excess of \$157 million.

Recreational Boating:

- Out-of-state boat owners are an important component to the state's recreational boating scene. At least 14% of the owners of RI-registered boats live primarily out-of-state. The percentage of out-of-state ownership increases significantly with increasing registered boat length.
- Boat owners and other customers who live primarily out-of-state are a major proportion of the RI marine customer base, particularly for marinas located along RI's south coast.

- Sailboats represent 23% of all registered boats over 20' in length.
- Estimated recreational boater spending in RI may total \$182 million annually. This is a conservative estimate because it does not include transient boaters, mega yachts and regatta participating boats.

Competitive Sailboat Racing:

- An estimated 30 to 40 Rhode Islanders work full-time for major professional racing organizations. Another 200-300 Rhode Islanders work as professional sailors on a part time basis.
- Several major RI companies are major, world-class suppliers to international yacht racing.
- RI in 2008 will host 7% (12 of 168) of the world's major yacht races.

Environmental Monitoring Collaborative Update (Uva):

Key Points:

NBC pathogen monitoring:

- NBC samples urban rivers (19 locations upstream and downstream of each CSO) two days each week.
- Results are used to promptly identify and correct CSO or dry weather discharges.

NBC nutrient monitoring: NBC samples water-borne nutrients from local rivers as well as rivers entering Narragansett Bay from Massachusetts.

- Stations in Narragansett Bay are sampled twice a month at the surface and once a month at the bottom.
- An instrument is also used to take a vertical profile of DO, temperature, salinity, density and PAR measurements at each bay nutrient station (PAR is a measurement of water clarity).

NBC nutrient river sampling locations:

- Nutrient samples taken twice monthly at the mouths of upper bay rivers located in the Rhode Island portion of the Bay watershed.
- Samples of TDN (total dissolved nitrogen) and DIN (dissolved inorganic nitrogen) were taken monthly from river discharge stations located at major rivers entering Rhode Island from the Massachusetts portion of the Bay watershed.
- Overall, loadings from rivers discharging into the Bay are comparable in size to TDN and DIN loadings from the Bucklin Point and Field's point wastewater treatment facilities with strong seasonal patterns.

Budget Article 30 Implementation (Colt):

DEM's Septage Disposal Fee Update:

Kiernan reported that the Department of Administration has approved enactment by DEM of the septage disposal fee. Public hearing to be scheduled in January. Administrative officials from various municipalities have also advised DEM that implementing this fee will not entail major administration costs for septage disposal system operators. The rules are intended to become effective in February 2008. The septage disposal fee will be implemented beginning on April 1st, 2008, with revenues becoming available in the CT Fund in September 2008.

Mariscal asked who would enforce the fee if payments for the responsible municipal authorities were not made or were delayed? Kiernan responded that collection of the fee is a shared responsibility between the municipalities and DEM. If the customer does not pay, then the septage receiving facility operator is responsible for remitting the fee to DEM. Enforcement would be shared between the local authority and DEM.

CRMC Trans-Atlantic Cable Fee

Willis reported that there will be a public hearing, regarding the transatlantic submarine cable fee, on February 12th. They hope to enact the fee and begin collecting it before the end of FY 2008. Colt will propose on behalf of the CT an annual fee of \$37,000.

Systems Level Plan Development:

Colt announced a February 12th deadline for the SLP draft to be issued to CT for review.

Key question is how implementation of SLP via annual work plans beginning with development of recommendations through FY-10 will proceed.