



# **RHODE ISLAND BAYS, RIVERS, & WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM**

**Meeting of July 13, 2011**

**2-4 PM**

Narragansett Bay Commission  
1 Ernest Street  
Providence, RI

## **DRAFT Minutes**

Coordination Team Members in Attendance: Guy Lefebvre, Sue Kiernan, Mike Walker, Nancy Hess, Jeff Willis, Tom Uva

BRWCT Staff: Ames Colt, Alanna Ferri

Guests: Richard Ribb

### **Administration**

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

*Minutes for 20 April 2011 Approved Unanimously without Amendment.*

### **BRWCT Chair Report**

#### Collaborations on Stormwater Management

A meeting of interested parties was organized by J. West and Scott Millar on May 20. BRWCT's focus for stormwater focus remains the exploration and promotion of SW management financing mechanisms. Workshops on SW financing via Utility Districts are planned for later in 2011.

#### New England Great Waters Initiative

Congressional Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME 1<sup>st</sup> District) has drafted a bill to create a "New England Coasts Program Office" that would be charged with "implementing the Gulf of Maine and Rhode Island habitat restoration plans, and supplementing the Long Island Sound Study." The hope is that such a bill would be introduced to Congress this fall. Comments on draft bill language have been invited and will be submitted by BRWCT Chair.

#### CMSP/CRMC

Chair attended as a RI delegate the National Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning Workshop, Washington DC, June 21-23, 2011. The NROC's work on a regional coastal

and marine spatial plan will commence in earnest in late summer, 2011. Efforts are already underway via NROC's CMSP Workgroup with Colt's participation.

Colt suggested a need for a "RI Ocean Policy Statement" that would coalesce and summarize RI's ocean resources management and development priorities and address how the state would utilize regional planning initiatives such as the Northeast Regional Ocean Council to pursue those priorities.

The BRWCT requested that Colt develop a draft of such a statement for review and discussion at the next BRWCT meeting.

#### RI Climate Change Commission

An initial, informal meeting is scheduled for August 15. It will focus on completion of Commission roster, development of an agenda for the first formal Commission meeting, discussion of staff support needs, and funding. The RI CCC has a grant, to be administered by Brown University, from the RI Foundation for staff support totaling about \$25,000.

#### **Report on BRWCT Revenue Account for FY 2011**

Colt reported on the current, nearly final numbers for the BRWCT Revenue Account. (Account Report appended to the minutes.) In FY 2011, the BRWCT committed approximately \$116,365 to discretionary projects. (Some of these funds will be expended over the course of FY 2012.) Total net revenues for FY 2011 were about \$383,000, with a rollover into FY 2012 of about \$254,000. (Some of these funds have already been committed.)

#### **BRWCT FY 2012 Work Plan, Ver. 2: July 2011**

Colt reviewed the second version of the FY 12 BRWCT work plan. Revisions included addition of sections in the "policy support" component related to the RI Climate Change Commission, and Port Development work. Also added were information on expected Outputs and deadlines.

Colt circulated a draft FY 2012 Budget (appended to the minutes). It includes spending of about \$308,000 on discretionary projects, which will give the BRWCT the opportunity to commit an additional \$164,000 to discretionary projects (remaining balance already committed.). This level of spending would lead to a rollover from FY 2012 to FY 2013 of about \$83,000, assuming total net revenue of about \$390,000.

Colt noted that one of the BRWCT's most important objectives for FY 2012 is to allocate about \$164,000 to discretionary projects.

*Motion: BRWCT voted unanimously to endorse the 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the BRWCT FY 2012 Work Plan, agreeing that modifications and additions to the Plan will be made as discretionary projects take shape across FY 2012.*

Additionally, Colt stated that this was in his view a good time to revisit two issues that could alter the BRWCT's annual budget:

- 1) Promulgation by CRMC of the trans-Atlantic cable fee established by the General Assembly in 2007; Colt noted that the fee could generate up to \$120,000 annually for Rhode Island; Colt proposed meeting with new CRMC Chair Janet Livingston to discuss the fee.
- 2) Request that DEM fund 50% of Melissa Deciantis's personnel costs.

*BRWCT endorsed Colt's proposal to investigate both options with DEM and CRMC.*

### RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative

The RI EMC will meet sometime in September. Topics for the agenda should include:

- Possible review of RI's current environmental monitoring priorities and programs.
- Funding needs and stable state funding sources.
- DEM OWR's ongoing working on a revised Water Quality Monitoring Strategy
- Overview of the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative being developed by Colt and summer intern A. Calise.
- Need for a detailed proposal on a comprehensive and coordinated environmental monitoring system per mandate of RI's 2004 Comprehensive Watershed and Marine Monitoring Act.

### **SLP Implementation Overview**

Colt reviewed a 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the SLP Implementation Overview with the BRWCT. He underscored the purpose of the Overview as follows:

Ideally, strategic planning is a cycle:

plan -> budget -> evaluate -> revise plan

Tracking implementation sheds light on the budgeting and evaluating stages of this cycle. The Overview is not a statement of RI's conservation, management and development priorities (that's the purpose of the BRW SLP); instead it is an overview of key efforts and programs that are helping to achieve RI's aquatic resource management goals. The Overview should help the BRWCT track and evaluate overall progress towards these goals, as well as serving as an important basis for the BRWCT's annual work plans.

The Overview should also be of value to legislators, other state and federal agencies, local governments, and NGO's. Broadly, the Overview should unify consideration of multiple strategic plans and priorities through better tracking of how key programs are implemented.

Better implementation planning and review could help to improve the current state budgeting process. The General Assembly needs more information on how agencies actually work and how and where public funds are spent by state agencies, information that could inform future state budgeting choices. The Overview should be tailored to provide such information in usable form for the General Assembly and other stakeholders.

Next steps for completion of the Overview including adding program information for FY 2012, with FY 2013 program information added as it becomes available. Colt committed to rolling out of the initial complete version of the Overview by October 2011.

*Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.*

Next scheduled BRWCT Meeting: September, 28, 2011, 2-4 PM, Narragansett Bay Commission