



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

July 23, 2008

RI Economic Development Corporation

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

Coordination Team Members in Attendance: Kevin Flynn, Guy Lefebvre, Juan Mariscal, Sue Kiernan (for Michael Sullivan), Mike Walker (for Saul Kaplan), Jeff Willis (for Grover Fugate)

Other Meeting Participants: Jane Austen, Nancy Hess, Steve Insana, Richard Ribb, Chip Young

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 June 25, 2008 meeting.

*Motion passed unanimously to approve the 6/25/08 meeting minutes.*

#### **Budget Article 30 Implementation:**

Colt inquired as to whether there is any information on the Septage Volumes at this time. Kiernan answered that September 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline, but they have not received any new information yet.

The 7-22-08 CRMC meeting re-convened the February 12, 2008, public hearing on BA 30's trans-Atlantic cable fee. AT&T's attorney E. Pare spoke regarding the proposed cable fee schedule, citing what he saw as the ambiguities regarding which cables were to be assessed. CRMC members expressed concern about whether or not it is fair to charge AT&T for cables that were not being utilized.

CRMC decided to continue the hearing for 60 days and request guidance from the General Assembly's legal counsel as to the legislative intent of Budget Article 30.

**FY 2009 OSPAR BRWCT Allocation:**

Kiernan requested that the CT endorse the contracts DEM's OWR has drawn up with USGS to continue the large river monitoring and stream gauge monitoring programs. and make sure that everyone is satisfied with them. The CT endorsed spending \$33,900 for streamflow gauge monitoring and \$156,600 for large river water quality monitoring from its FY 2009 OSPAR allocation

Covering the costs of the USGS contracts, a total of \$190,500, will leave a balance of \$59,470 in the OSPAR FY09 BRWCT allocation.

Colt suggested that there are three options as to how these funds could be utilized:

1. Reserve the funds for the Economic Monitoring Collaborative and have them review the FY08 Monitoring Report.
2. Wait and hold the funds in reserve for other fiscal & environmental projects.
3. Check with the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative for additional recommendations on environmental monitoring needs.

The BRWCT decided to hold off making any decisions regarding the remaining balance of OSPAR funds for FY 2009.

**Subcommittees:**

Colt reported that the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative held a conference call on July 15. There are wholesale changes taking place at URI; their Geology Department may be eliminated. The assistantships supported by URI that are dedicated to shoreline erosion mapping, a critical need for RI, may be threatened by URI's cutbacks. No alternative state support seems available.

For the most part re-affirmed Collaboratives env. monitoring priorities.

Authors of individual initiatives (see FY 08 annual report) were asked to update their respective sections.

Discussed the eroding support for beach erosion surveys at URI and the critical importance of keeping the erosion mapping efforts going. The Geology assistantship under Boothroyd is essentially not going to be funded by URI. The GSO assistantship for same is barely surviving according the Dr. J. King.

Discussed as well the importance of expanded funding for LIDAR surveys

Will be adding to priority list erosion mapping and SAV surveying and possibly a summary of fisheries monitoring needs.

Will discuss electronically recommendations for spending the remaining balance of OSPAR FY09 funds and forward to BRWCT.

Will seek linkages with Ocean SAMP effort in terms of expanded ocean resources monitoring to be undertaken.

Discussed briefly what the CHIRP October meeting (Coastal Hypoxia Research Program) should entail.

Also reviewed need to update the AIS monitoring and response planning initiative which to date has not been funded.

**SLP Update:**

Colt summarized the completed SLP and highlighted key issues going forward with implementation.

Who will print the plan for broader dissemination remains unresolved. Colt cannot obtain funds to do it and DEM does not have the capability to print it. He plans to make some inquiries at the Governor's office.

Mariscal asked how many copies is he thinking of. Colt answered probably about fifty. Mariscal advised that he should figure out exactly how many and it might be coordinated between the seven agencies.

Flynn suggested distribution by executive summary, which is how the Planning Division distributed *Land Use 2025*. They also refer people to the web page, where they can find in online in PDF form, but they do not give copies out.

Colt asked if they know how effective this method is. Hess answered no, they do not have that capacity, but there are very few requests from the general public. Marsical recommended that they focus on making it available to significant people, such as the house speaker.

Colt wondered if the SLP should be incorporated into the State Guide Plan. He would like to schedule a meeting with Kevin Flynn and Jared Rhodes to discuss this.

Guy Lefebvre asked if Colt plans to do annual revisions. His answer was no, because he would like to stick with the 170 pages that they have now. In time, it may be worth it to reexamine the tables, but not a major revision.

Lefebvre asked when they could expect the Executive Summary. Colt said before the third week of August. The top 10 Actions List is what really needs to be focused on.

Colt also mentioned that they need to provide implementation cost estimates. While it was decided not to try to provide them in the SLP, cost estimates are mandated under the the CT statute.

In closing, Colt reiterated that Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> is the final day for the submission of comments and alterations to the plan. He then asked if there were any other comments.

Flynn suggested that they compile all of the tables at the end so that people don't have to search for them section by section. Also, there should be a statement somewhere in the beginning about why this is important.

Colt agreed but felt that it should not be placed before the vision statement. Also, wants to emphasize that the CT does not exist primarily because of the fish kill. The plan to create the CT was gestating for a long time before the fish kill happened.

Colt asked that the BRWCT endorse the SLP as completed and ready for dissemination, with the proviso that any recommended changes that the BRWCT members submit by Friday, along with the edits that Mike Walker intends to submit for EDC, will be incorporated into the final version.

*The BRWCT accepted the recommendation and endorsed the BRW SLP as completed and ready for release with the above proviso.*

*Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.*