

RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative  
16 August 2005, 10:00 AM  
Room 117, Coastal Institute Building  
URI MAIN CAMPUS in Kingston

Meeting Minutes

Present: P. August (URI), John King (URI), Sue Kiernan (DEM), Deb Pelton (DEM/NEIWPPC), David Gregg (RINHS), Sandra Whitehouse (RI House), David Burnett (DOH), Tom Uva (NBC), Norm Rubinstein (EPA), Linda Green (URI CE Watershed Watch), Chuck LaBash (URI EDC), Marci Cole (Save the Bay), Chris Deacutis (NBEP), John Stachelhaus (RIGIS)

1) Reviewed progress of land cover mapping subgroup -- a copy of the report filed by the land cover team is available under the on-line resources for the RIEMC web site. The RIEMC urges to the land cover mapping team and RIGIS to continue its deliberations.

2) Reviewed progress of biodiversity monitoring subgroup -- a copy of the report filed by the habitat monitoring team will be available under the on-line resources for the RIEMC web site. The RIEMC urges to the habitat mapping team to continue its deliberations.

3) Implications and consequences of FY2006 Legislative Session and Budget -- spirited discussion occurred over the following issues.

- a. DEM monitoring budget
- b. RIEMC funding request
- c. Ribb confirmation
- d. How can we be more effective?

The RIEMC decided to send a letter to the Coordination Team urging them to (a) use the supplemental budget process to secure funds to reestablish mission-critical monitoring that has been dropped because of the loss of the DEM monitoring budget, (b) take a proactive role in coordinating agency-specific budget requests to the Governor to ensure that "systems-level" needs are adequately covered among the agencies, and (c) urge the CT PAC to develop a communications plan to ensure that our leadership the State House is effectively informed of monitoring needs and activities. A copy of the letter is under the online resource page of the RIEMC web site.

4) Discussion of SAC review of January RIEMC report – each RIEMC member will carefully read the SAC review of our January report and email Pete August the following three things:

- (a) What recommendations in the SAC review are most important to immediately address.
- (b) What elements of our January report are most essential to continue to plan and advocate for.
- (c) What monitoring activities that are essential for the Bay and watershed have not been addressed so far and must be developed ASAP by the RIEMC

August will consolidate everyone's response and redistribute to the RIEMC. We will meet in September/October to begin working on them

5) Other items of business – brief reports were given on the following topics:

- Bay Commission annual report, 18 August 9:00 AM
- Macroalgae monitoring underway
- Eelgrass monitoring imagery did not occur
- Status of DEM wetland monitoring plan
- Status of DEM water monitoring plan
- Results of summer 2005 rotating basin monitoring of Wood River Basin