



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

### **Meeting of April 20, 2011**

**2-4 PM**

Narragansett Bay Commission  
1 Ernest Street  
Providence, RI

### **Minutes**

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

BRWCT Staff: Ames Colt, Melissa Deciantis

Guests: Richard Ribb, Jane Austin, Don Pryor, Carolyn Karp

#### **Administration**

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

Meeting minutes for the February 17, 2011 meeting were approved with one modification.

#### **Port Opportunities Development Study**

Willis reported positive feedback on the study from CRMC's Dan Goulet and praised the quality and the depth of the report.

The BRWCT members, led by Walker, expressed the need to capitalize on the momentum built by the study, possibly by working with the Providence River waterfront community. Colt was urged to develop a good press strategy for the report roll-out at the end of April.

Lefebvre requested a more complete executive summary that clarifies recommendations coming out of the study. Colt agreed to produce such an executive summary.

The BRWCT formally accepted the study as complete and requested that Colt work with the General Assembly and the Governor's Office to rollout the study at the appropriate time and to ensure proper distribution of pre-release copies.

## **FY 2012 Work Plan and Project Budget**

The BRWCT reviewed the draft FY 2012 Work Plan circulated previous to the meeting by Colt. Colt briefly reviewed the FY 2011 Work Plan and noted that the only item not substantially achieved was the development of performance measures for agency activities relevant to BRW SLP implementation.

A key difference between the FY 2011 and FY 2012 Work Plans is that the FY 2012 Plan is divided into two main sections: “core responsibilities” and “policy support”. “Core Responsibilities” covers BRWCT administration, including fiscal management, meetings, and standing committees.

“Policy Support” refers to particular water resource policy areas that will receive priority attention in the coming fiscal year. Colt highlighted three areas: 1) nutrients management in Narragansett Bay, 2) stormwater management, and 3) Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning pursued under the authorities of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council. If the RI Climate Change Commission is launched in 2011, that will also become a “Policy Support” item in the FY 2012 Work Plan.

Walker requested that an item be added to the “Policy Support” section of the plan focusing on continued facilitation and support for future development of Rhode Island’s ports, upon completion of the Port Development Opportunities Study and future consultations with RI EDC.

The BRWCT also requested additional specificity on project deadlines and products and noted the possible need for some proposed items to be de-prioritized given the scope and magnitude of items proposed in the Work Plan.

The BRWCT reviewed a revised FY 2011 budget for the BRWCT Septage Fee Revenue Account, and a proposed FY 2012 budget for same account. The FY 2011 budget was revised to account for increases in total personnel costs, and some travel and equipment costs incurred by the Chair in the spring of 2011. The septage fee revenues as of April 14 were accumulating at a rate equivalent to \$440,000/year.

Two additional projects were proposed for funding under FY 2011: \$25,000 in support for the Coastal Hypoxia Research Program; and \$15,000 in support for stormwater management technical assistance to be led by DEM Office of Water Resources. After discussion, the BRWCT approved unanimously both project proposals for funding with FY 2011 allocated funds, with DEM abstaining from voting on the stormwater management technical assistance grant.

A draft FY 2012 budget was circulated to the BRWCT. It proposes \$9,000 in support for standing committees, funding for the USGS baseline monitoring contracts totaling \$70,000, funding for continuing the municipal stormwater technical assistance grant totaling \$40,000, and funding for the second phase of the Coastal Hypoxia Research project totaling \$25,000. The BRWCT discussed this draft budget but deferred on final approval until its next meeting.

*At 4:00 PM, motion was made and approved to adjourn BRWCT quarterly meeting.*

## **Chair Progress Report for period of February to April, 2011**

### Port Development Opportunities Study

- Review and finalization of first version of report in February and March
- Presentation of initial findings to General Assembly Port Facilities Commission March 24. Media coverage of report in ProJo and Ch. 12 the following Saturday.
- Release of final draft for BRWCT review and approval.

### Aquatic Habitat Restoration Coordination

- Informed by DEM Management Services that employee services contracts currently not an available option.
- Additional work pending designation of a DEM habitat restoration coordinator.

### RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative:

- Participated in Narragansett Bay Indicator Workgroup for Watershed Counts presentation at State House on April 27

### RI Coastal Hypoxia Research Project

- Discussions and meetings with DEM OWR, GSO's Dr. Dan Codiga, and NOAA's Dr. Libby Jewett on possible BRWCT match funding for next phase of the Coastal Hypoxia Research Project. Jewett confirmed NOS's intent to partially fund the 2009 CHRP proposal.
- Proposal developed for BRWCT match support of CHRP II.

### NBEP CCMP Revision

- Continued participation in the planning workgroup.

### Northeast Great Waters Initiative

- Updated executive summary and 5 year needs estimate issued to NWF and Save the Bay in support of national announcements of new Great Waters designations, coordinated and led in this region by Save the Bay.
- Designation of RI Coastal Waters and Watersheds Great Water announced publicly in March 2011 by Save the Bay.

### Northeast Regional Ocean Council

- Participating in NROC's CMSP strategy team. Invitation forthcoming to attend as a northeast state representative National Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning to be convened by the National Ocean Council in Washington, DC, June 21-23, 2011.
- Served as the NROC representative on the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium's pre-proposal review panel at CT Sea Grant, March 1.

### RI Ocean SAMP

- Reviewed and summarized for Director Coit and DEM Legal Services the Public Notice issued March 10 by CRMC on proposed changes to the Ocean SAMP, with support from Director Fugate and NOAA's David Kaiser.

### Rhode Island Climate Change Commission

- Still awaiting legislative co-chair appointments by Senate President and House Speaker.

### Winter/Spring Intern: Kelsey Thetonia

- Kelsey has performed admirably in collecting program information for SLP Implementation Strategy and developing background information for article on Upper Narragansett Bay outdoor recreation perceptions and opportunities scheduled for summer issue of Narragansett Bay Journal.
- Colt is seeking a summer intern through RI Government Intern Program.