

MEETING SUMMARY
RI Economic Monitoring Collaborative
March 22, 2005
2:00 to 4:00pm
RI Economic Policy Council

Attendees: Kip Bergstrom, Tim Tyrrell, Steve Medeiros, Michael McGiveney, Andy Dzykewicz, Curt Spalding, Eric Reid, Dick Nadolink, Geoff Grout, Howard McVay, Barry Costa-Pierce, Michael Slein, Peg Parker, and Ariana Johnson.

Following introductions, P. Parker detailed the purpose and structure of the RI Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team and its standing committees, which includes the Economic Monitoring Collaborative. K. Bergstrom concurred with Parker's overall description, adding that the Monitoring Collaborative's role can go beyond the basic baseline data measurement to monitoring of emerging conditions and advising the Coordination Team on real-time policy alignment.

K. Bergstrom discussed the work of the Ad Hoc Economic Monitoring Group, which formed to begin the preliminary research called for in the legislation. The formation of this group was necessary as the official Collaborative was not named until the end of January 2005 – the same month that the body's first report was due to the General Assembly. This group's efforts are detailed in the January 2005 report titled, "Rhode Island Economic Monitoring Collaborative, Report to the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team: The Development of an Economic Monitoring Strategy".

Based on the ad hoc group's previous work, including a strategic planning process with Larry Quick (an innovative strategy consultant based out of Australia), K. Bergstrom presented an economic monitoring proposal to the Collaborative for consideration. The proposal called for the creation of sector task teams composed of collaborative members and outside individuals knowledgeable in the particular sectors. The sectors and proposed task team membership (based on Collaborative input) are:

Marine Recreation, Marine Tourism, Marine Events and Marinas

Tim Tyrrell, Brad Read, Michael Keyworth, Ken Kubic, Steve Medeiros.

Fishing, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing

Tim Tyrrell, Mike Marchetti, Mike McGiveney, Steve Medeiros, Chris Brown, Andy Dzykewicz, Eric Reid, a representative from DEM Statistics – Licensing, a representative from NFMS, a representative from Fish & Wildlife, a representative from CRMC, D. Alves, and Bill Silks.

Boat Building, Ship Building and Boating-related Businesses

Tim Tyrrell, Gary Schuler, Mark Pearson, Andy Dzykewicz, a representative from Electric Boat, a representative from Blount.

Marine Transportation

Tim Tyrrell, Geoff Grout, Howard McVay, Andy, a representative from RIPTA, Dick Horn, Robert Loebecker/Paul White.

Defense, Homeland Security and Marine Technology

Tim Tyrrell, Mike Slein, Dick Nadolink, John Riendeau, Hugh Murphy, a representative from MOTN, a representative from SENEDIA, Scott Thurber, Kevin Hively.

Marine Research and Education

Tim Tyrrell, Barry Costa-Pierce, Tim Scott, Andy van Dam, Janet Trubatch, Mike McGiveney, David Farmer.

Water-related Real Estate

Geoff Grout, Eric Reid, Curt Spalding, Ken Kubic, Michael Keyworth, Tim Tyrrell, a representative from CRMC, a representative from CRC, a representative from SAMP towns, Tina Dolan.

Environmental Business (restoration, monitoring/management)

Curt, Dick, Ken Kubic, Michael Keyworth.

Each of these sector task teams would be responsible for the following:

April – June 2005

1. Examining existing data sources
2. Identifying gaps in data
3. Filling in gaps in data or developing a plan to do so
4. Proposing system for on-going data collection, including resources required in FY06

FY06

5. Analyzing conditions and capabilities
6. Identifying key sector findings and projects

Following the actions outlined above, the Collaborative would work to develop a Cross-sector Conditions Monitoring Group, which would focus on monitoring key emergent conditions on a real time basis and providing feedback to the Economic Monitoring Collaborative and Coordination Team.

Members discussed the need to look at the opportunities and constraints of the sectors to examine them at different geographic scales to understand their impact. K. Bergstrom replied that these issues would be part of the proposed conditions and capabilities analysis for FY06. This process would be similar to the one that the Ad Hoc Monitoring Group went through in January/February 2005, but it would be more focused on the particular sectors.

He added that an ad hoc group of agency staff and other stakeholders will be going through a similar process around the Coordination Team efforts. Also, another group of stakeholders and staff working on the Metro Bay Area SAMP will be going through the process. By having several different groups go through a similar strategic planning process, the aim is to create a critical mass of individuals who understand this new way of approaching the opportunities and challenges facing Rhode Island.

Members agreed to the proposed outline and that the full Collaborative would reconvene in May following the initial work by the sector task teams. They decided that quarterly meetings would likely be sufficient for the Collaborative, augmented by smaller task-oriented teams.

C. Spalding questioned how the environmental issues of the economic sectors would be brought into the monitoring process. K. Bergstrom replied that the Coordination Team's systems-level plan should address this matter and also that the conditions/capabilities analysis would also surface this issue.

A. Dzykewicz questioned why the Collaborative only focuses on the water cluster, given that Coordination Team must plan for all the state's watersheds. K. Bergstrom replied that this was

likely to give the Collaborative a focus, but that the Coordination Team will likely deal with other sectors in its work as well.

D. Nadolink asked whether a baseline map of shoreline uses existed. H. McVay noted that CRMC has a zoning map for the shoreline. Others commented that there is potential for a more robust map given the state's GIS capability.

Members discussed other efforts around the Bay, such as the Marine Resources Development Plan. They determined that the Collaborative's role is not just to promote growth areas in the water cluster but also to sustain existing areas. B. Costa-Pierce noted the need to not just consider monetary indicators for the sectors, but also to consider less tangible indicators, such as our capability to create marine ocean leaders.

M. Slein suggested that it would be helpful to create an explanatory diagram of the Coordination Team and sub-committee structure to explain its purpose to others.

Next Steps

A. Johnson will organize meetings for the sector task teams to occur during April. T. Tyrrell will be responsible for providing technical assistance to the teams in terms of designing a strategy to collect the necessary baseline data. He will provide the available employment/wages data for the April meetings and will work with A. Johnson to supplement it with other available data.