

Meeting Minutes May 11, 2016

In attendance: Janet Coit, DEM, Council Chair
Allison Rogers, DOA
Nicholas Ucci, OER
Michelle Burnett, EMA
Julia Gold, HEALTH
Parag Agrawal, Division of Planning
Meredith Brady, DOT
Jeff Willis, CRMC
Darin Early, Commerce RI

Director Coit (DEM) opened the meeting at approximately 9:40 AM. She briefly reviewed the agenda, and noted that Vice-Chair Gold was unavailable for today's meeting. Nicholas Ucci (OER) is attending in her place.

Director Coit (DEM) asked Parag Agrawal, recently appointed Associate Director for the Division of Planning to introduce himself and offer some remarks on his time in Bridgeport, CT as Director of Planning. He discussed his sustainability background in Bridgeport, his experiences in Ohio and Maryland, and Bridgeport's 'Rebuild by Design' \$10 million grant.

The first order of business was the minutes from the March 9, 2016 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and unanimously approved (note: one amendment was proposed & approved on page 2 regarding 'charging stations'). Parag Agrawal (Planning) recused himself from the vote on the minutes.

Director Coit (DEM) offered some short introductory remarks about how she aspires to make the council more available to members of the public and was considering having some of the meetings (either full council meetings or presentations on specific issues) in the evenings. She offered some remarks on the Michael Oppenheimer talk at the last Beach SAMP meeting in early May, and how sea level rise projections have changed a lot in the past 10 years. Galvanizing action at the local level and bringing legislators into the conversation is critical. Director Coit (DEM) then briefly discussed the 'Keeping History Above Water' conference that was hosted in April in Newport, RI and the final report from Representative Lauren Carson's commission (which is expected to be released any day now). She addressed the continued need to focus on adaptation priorities (one of RI's biggest challenges) and how she would like to share the work of the EC4 STAB widely including the possibility of some outside workshops (possibly in the evening). Lastly, briefed the council on the climate change performance metrics meetings DEM/CRMC/RIIB/OER have commenced with OMB. Other agencies are expected to be brought into those conversations in coming months.

Director Coit (DEM) turned the attention of the council to the draft EC4 Annual Report that was circulated the previous Friday for review. Staff from the various agencies/offices provided a great deal of the material in the draft report, so it should reflect each agency/offices critical material. Comments included: moving the Lead by Example material up to the "highlights" section, clarifying why the Lincoln Woods new beach pavilion is highlighted on the cover, clarifying that not all members of EC4 are full agencies (some are councils, offices, divisions, etc.) clarifying the role of Planning in the approval of the State Energy Plan, including infographics, and involvement of DCAMM in various projects. Alli Rogers (DOA) said she would send additional edits in writing, and that she would love to have Carole Cornelison (from DCAMM) come present at a future EC4 meeting. Director Coit noted that the Advisory Board and Science & Technical Advisory Board's annual reports were completed and would be attached to the final EC4 report prior to being transmitted to the Governor/House/Senate. Council members were asked to have all additional amendments to Liz Stone by next Wednesday the 18th, and Director Coit

would transmit under a short, separate cover letter. The council unanimously approved this approach to completing the final EC4 Annual Report.

Director Coit (DEM) and Parag Agrawal (Planning) recused themselves from the meeting due to material on the agenda concerning the; 1) Proposed Process for Collaboration between OER, DEM and EC4 on OER Advisory Opinion Pursuant to Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) Preliminary Decision & Order 86 in the matter of SB 2015-06; and 2) the Emissions Accounting Methodology for EC4 GHG Emissions Reduction Study. Terry Gray (Associate Director, RIDEM) and Jared Rhode (Chief, Statewide Planning Program) stepped in as their respective, officially approved designees.

Danny Musher (OER) presented the differences between the two options for measuring GHG's in the electric sector: "Generation-Based" Accounting (which addresses emissions from in-state power plants) and "Consumption-Based" Accounting (which addresses emissions associated with electricity used in-state). He explained what our regional partners are doing (MA and CT) on this issue and pointed out the challenges RI may experience if it uses a generated based methodology. Regional consistency is very important. The members of the council raised questions about the differences about the two approaches, including the pros/cons of using both approaches. Jared Rhodes (Statewide Planning Program) spoke out in support of OER's recommendation to utilize the consumption methodology. Terry Gray (RIDEM) asked for a motion to endorse the consumption based accounting methodology as proposed by OER. The council gave its unanimous endorsement, with no members abstaining and no votes in opposition.

Nicholas Ucci (OER) presented to the council the Office of Energy Resources' proposed process for collaboration between OER, DEM and EC4 on its Advisory Opinion pursuant to EFSB preliminary decision & order 86 in the matter of SB 2015-06. He detailed what was asked of OER in the EFSB decision & order, highlighting the language which discussed the issue of collaboration between OER, DEM and the EC4 prior to their opinion being completed in early September 2016. He addressed OER's desire to host an open, public workshop sometime in July at which point public comments will be received. OER will work with the EC4 & DEM in planning for that public workshop. Lastly, Nicholas Ucci (OER) explained that his office will be back before the EC4 prior to September with a further update on their Advisory Opinion. He stressed that additional information the public may want to review in this matter (including the EFSB's order) can be found on the EFSB/PUC website at <http://www.ripuc.org/efsb/>. The members of the council engaged in dialogue about OER's proposed approach, including the timing of completing a draft of their opinion, the expert consultant OER hopes to bring on board to assist with the completion of the opinion, and the structure of the workshop in July. It was suggested that some level of coordination among the separate agencies preparing advisory opinions be thought through to minimize overlap/encourage consistency. A motion was made to endorse the process for collaboration as outlined by Nicholas Ucci (OER) between the EC4 and OER. The council gave its unanimous endorsement, with no members abstaining and no votes in opposition.

There were no additional announcements or business by the council, so the public was invited to present their comments. During the public comment portion of the agenda: Pam Rubinoff (URI/CRC/Sea Grant) announced that Dr. Oppenheimer's presentation from the Keeping History Above Water conference are available online (Liz Stone, RIDEM, will circulate via email); James Boyd (CRMC) spoke about legislation introduced by Rep. Lauren Carson and work CRMC is undertaking in collaboration with URI's EDC on studying structures (using the E-911 database) that will be impacted by sea level rise (at the 1,3,5,7 ft. levels); Alli Rogers announced an upcoming cleanup event in Providence and a free upcoming seminar being hosted by RISD (Liz Stone, RIDEM, will circulate via email); Rep. Art Handy offered remarks about Rep. Carson's commission and encouraged the various EC4 agencies/offices to work together on their advisory opinions; Jen West (NBNERR) commented that it's important we be sure the public is understanding what climate change is (and is not); and Jim Celenza (RICOSH) announced the upcoming TAC meeting in late May (Jared Rhodes will circulate specifics).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 AM.