

## **Narragansett Bay And Watershed Planning Commission**

**Steering Committee Meeting** – November 3, 2003 – 9:00am

Large Conference Room, Coastal Institute, Narragansett Bay Campus

**Attendees:** Steering Committee members - Former Governor J. Joseph Garrahy, Commission Chair; Jan Rietsma, DEM; Michael Tikoian, CRMC Chair, Curt Spalding, Save The Bay Executive Director.

Others: Mark Adelman, Governor's Office; Topher Hamblett, STB; Townsend Goddard, EDC; Richard Ribb, NBEP; James Boyd, Coastal Institute

### Meeting Summary

1. Discussion of Steering Committee role and its own process.
  - All meetings of the Commission and Steering Committee will be open to the public.
  - Meeting summaries will be posted on the Coastal Institute website and forwarded to the Secretary of State's office.
  - The Steering Committee is not a decision-making body, rather it will coordinate the work of the Commission, which in turn will report findings and recommendations to the Governor, the House Speaker and the Senate President, pursuant to Executive Order 03-16.
2. Update on Commission membership from Governor's Office (Mark Adelman).
  - As of October 31, letters are in the process of being sent from the Governor's office to the proposed list of organizations and agencies requesting them to designate an individual for representation on the Commission. Provided nominations are returned in a timely manner, it is expected that the Governor's office could announce the Commission membership list during mid-November.
3. Discussion of agenda for first Commission meeting. Proposed agenda issues are:
  - Welcome by the Chair to Commission members.
  - Brief discussion of Chair's vision for Commission.
  - Commission process, how will decisions be made?
    - It was suggested that the Steering Committee should try to reach consensus on issues and if that were not possible, then a majority vote would be taken. This process will be recommended to the Commission.
  - The establishment of Commission panels and the surrounding issues such as membership, charges, and their internal workings. The following proposals will be recommended to the Commission:
    - Panels should be created by the Commission and charged to focus on specific issues and report back to the Commission as follows:
      - (1) Policy Subcommittee to review policy implications of the other panels findings;

- (2) Science to focus on nutrients, monitoring, stormwater, data management and habitat restoration;
  - (3) Bay Planning to focus on indicators, goals and multi-state agreement;
  - (4) Economics to focus on dredging, aquaculture and other economic issues;
  - (5) Finance to review potential bond issues and funding sources for bay and watershed projects;
  - (6) Beach Closures to further investigate why closures are happening, abatement tools and coordination with the Department of Health; and
  - (7) Communication/Education to further strategies to better communicate and educate the public on bay issues.
- The Commission Chair should appoint the Panel Chairs.
  - The Policy Subcommittee should be comprised of the Steering Committee, House and Senate designees and others as may be needed.
  - There should be a member of the Commission on each Panel.
  - Panel Chairs should meet regularly as a group with the Steering Committee to review panel work and keep issues on track.
  - Commission members should be advised that their representative organizations should be providing resources (i.e., funding and staffing, where possible) to assist the work of the Commission.
- Initial bay/watershed issues that need immediate attention of the Commission.
    - There should be a discussion of potential bonding issues for Narragansett Bay and the watershed.
  - Other issues?
    - It will be recommended to the Commission that they should request that the Partnership for Narragansett Bay, which has no official mandate, be dissolved and folded into the Commission. PNB members would be welcome to participate on the proposed panels. It was further recommended that the Commission should request from the Governor that the PNB work products from the Chafee/HUD project (completed as of October 31) be transferred to the Commission, as it is the logical place at this point for that work to continue.
4. Determine date of the first Commission meeting.
- The first meeting of the Governor's Narragansett Bay and Watershed Planning Commission will be held on December 1 at 9:00 am in the State Room located in the State House, Providence. (Note: meeting may be changed to Dec. 2)
5. Communication.
- Steering Committee members were asked to review and submit comments on the Coastal Institute website ([www.ci.uri.edu/GOVCOMM](http://www.ci.uri.edu/GOVCOMM)) developed for disseminating information to the public on activities of the Commission.
  - Should a LISTSERV be established? It was determined that a listserv should not be established, but rather a forum for discussion could be developed on the

Commission's webpage to obtain public feed-back and suggestions on the activities of the Commission.

6. Other business.

- It appears that Governor Romney has appointed Douglas Foy to represent Massachusetts' interests on the Commission. Mark Adelman will coordinate an invitation request to Mr. Foy for the next Steering Committee meeting.
- It was suggested that perhaps the Commission could have a follow-up to the Phase 1 and 2 fisheries legislation and regulations. Determine what is missing and what should be done to improve management.
- Advise the URI GSO press person (Lisa Cugini) of the Commission's activities. Coordinate with the Governor's press office.
- It was recommended that an editorial be prepared for the Providence Journal following the first Commission meeting.

The Steering Committee was adjourned at 11:50 am.

**The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on November 25 at 9:00am in Providence in Room 5A, 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the EDC office, Westin Hotel.**