

Environment Council of Rhode Island



Membership Meeting, Dept. of Admin. Bldg., Conference Room B
February 3, 2020, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Peter Trafton, Meg Kerr, David Brunetti, Laura Landen, Polly Barey, Benny Smith, Jerry Elmer, Nicole DiPaolo, Paul Beaudette, Katherine Gibson, Angie Koziara, Laura Hastings, Mal Skowron, Susan Korte, Hank Webster, Seth Handy, Grant Dulgarrian, Greg Gerritt, Priscilla De La Cruz, Eugenia Marks, Victoria Leytin, Michael Roles, Kai Salem

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes
4. Office report (Greg Gerritt)
5. President's report (Priscilla De La Cruz)
6. Presentation: Real Jobs RI by Laura Hastings, Dept. of Labor & Training
7. Presentation: Jerry Elmer, Conservation Law Foundation, Act on Climate 2020
8. Reports
 - a. Pol Comm and Climate Crisis Campaign (Kai Salem)
 - b. Providence Environmental Task Force
9. Reports from ECRI fiscal agency projects
 - a. Green Infrastructure Coalition
 - b. Energize Coalition
 - c. School Recycling
10. Announcements (all)

Minutes

1. Welcome

President Priscilla De La Cruz opened the meeting with an agenda review and explanation of the rules.

2. Introductions

Introductions around the room.

3. Approval of Minutes

January minutes reviewed and approved.

4. Office report, Greg Gerritt
(copy what is in meeting packet)

5. President's Report, Priscilla De La Cruz
Priscilla is working a great deal on Climate Crisis Campaign.
Went to the NWF Affiliate Chiefs meeting. Working with our regional DCP to get funding for strategic planning around justice and equity and capacity building.

6. Presentation: Laura Hastings, Dept. of Labor & Training, Real Jobs RI
Program by the state in partnership with business to train workers for the jobs that exist now and that will exist in the future and pay well. Work with industry sectors and particular partners in each industry
Green jobs a big push, but only those sectors creating jobs in RI now.
Listed a variety of sectors worked in including Oyster farming and always work with what industry asks for.
Many questions.

7. Presentation: Jerry Elmer, Act on Climate 2020
House bill H-7399 Senate bill not yet numbered.
Modification of 2014 Resilient RI act in which it updates and makes mandatory the suggested emissions reductions in that act. Working for net zero in 2050.
Reductions are economy wide, not just electricity production.
Enforceable on state and can be enforced by citizen lawsuits.
Criticisms that it is not a perfect bill are valid, but it is still a major step forward.

8. Reports

a) Pol Comm and Climate Crisis Campaign, Kai Salem
Coffee hour was a success with about 50 state official attending.
Our response to speaker's comments on climate received a fair bit of media coverage.
Pol Comm will be working on legislative agenda, send in bill numbers and prepare to advocate to get your bills on the list.
Climate Crisis training will be February 12th. Register now!
Climate Crisis website should be live by Feb 12th.

a) Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force
Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force is working on Green Justice Zones and Climate Justice Zones.

9. Reports from ECRI Fiscal Agency Projects

a) Green Infrastructure Coalition, Meg Kerr

GIC is expanding to East Bay under leadership of Eastern RI Conservation District.

Providence Stormwater Innovation Center is working with DOT on trainings and expansion.

b) Energize Coalition

Energize is working less on carbon pricing this year, most on climate Crisis Campaign. Sponsoring Climate Communications training on February 12th.

c) School Recycling Club

School Recycling Club is looking for new funding.

10. Announcements

Adjourn 7:00pm