

Environment Council of Rhode Island



Membership Meeting, Dept. of Admin. Bldg., Conference Room B
March 2, 2020, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Laura Landen, Paige Therien, Peter Trafton, Susan Korte, Victoria Leytin, Paul Beaudette, Polly Barey, Katherine Gibson, Eugenia Marks, Kai Salem, Avi Shapiro, Judee Burr, Greg Gerritt, Everett Pope, Priscilla De La Cruz, Dana Goodman, Peter DiPippo

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Approval of February minutes
4. Office report (Greg Gerritt)
5. President's report (Priscilla De La Cruz)
6. Speakers
 - a) Peter DiPippo, RI Department of Health's Environmental Public Health Data
7. Reports
 - a) Pol Comm and Climate Crisis Campaign (Kai Salem)
 - b) Reports from ECRI fiscal agency projects
 - 1) Green Infrastructure Coalition
 - 2) Energize Coalition
 - 3) School Recycling
8. Announcements

Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Approval of February Minutes

Peter Grafton moves to approve the minutes, Sue seconds. All vote in favor. February minutes are approved.

4. Office Report (Greg Gerritt)

Current balances: ECR:I \$31,585.50 Ed Fund: \$40,806.16

Compost conference has currently brought in \$2,511 and will take place next week, 65 registrations and 11 exhibitors right now but lots come in right at the end.

Tisdale raffle starts now, Tickets are \$5 each. The drawing will be at the May Meeting.

The Video Festival was a great event, 135 attendance, and we netted \$185. The NWF Magazine interviewed Greg about the festival and that will be in the magazine.

We are working on the annual meeting for June 1. Working on food and tour. Fundraising will be after the compost conference. Tickets will be on sale at the end of April.

Greg represents ECRI on the Equity & Inclusion Committee.

5. President's Report (Priscilla De La Cruz)

Priscilla and NWF regional coordinator Zach applied to NWF for a capacity-building grant. We didn't receive the award, but the NWF created a special award for us and granted us \$10,000. They hope that we can use this as a matching grant and start to seek other funders. They also want to give us some staff time to assist with our planning efforts.

Priscilla engaged with the People's Institute about equity trainings in New England. She encourages ECRI members to go through this training. It is important for ECRI's work.

Court King will be presenting on behalf of the PVD Office of Sustainability at our next meeting

Priscilla will be away from March 10-20. See Kai with policy-related questions and Greg for office-related questions.

6. Speakers

a) Peter DiPippo, RI Department of Health's Environmental Public Health Data

Discussion of what environmental public health is.

RI Department of Health is working on "precision public health" – mapping environmental risk factors and doing targeted interventions.

Delivering the right health outcomes to the right populations at the right time, with data analysts, GIS specialists, epidemiologists, doctors and more (multi-disciplinary team).

Discussion of environmental public health tracking – using data to deliver health outcomes.

They have worked on the Burrillville power plant, the Port of Providence, a number of different cancer exposures.

The tracking network follows a number of different datasets, from the environment, population health data, and health effects – there is a secure data side and there is a public data side. When researchers need the data, they call DOH and DOH packages the data for use with security in mind.

RI Department of Environmental Public Health data has a Technical Advisory Group, they welcome members from groups like ECRI.

Examples: Study of nitrate levels in water, saw a spike in Middletown; Recent study of percent of expected rate of lung cancer in Warwick, thinking through causes including toxic waste sites and airport pollution; using remote sensing to analyze farms and overlay health impacts; high resolution environmental data related to tree cover and urban health; data on lead service lines.

Peter takes questions.

7. Reports

a) Pol Comm – Climate Crisis Campaign and Coffee Hour (Kai Salem)

ECRI's Policy Committee voted on almost 50 bills at the last meeting.

Voted to support Plastic Waste Reduction Act – statewide bag ban.

Selected only one bill as a priority this year to focus the environmental community – it is the Act on Climate 2020 bill, requiring mandatory emissions reductions (100% by 2050).

Kai reads the list of bills ECRI PolComm has voted to Support (bill numbers listed here): S2165; H7399; S2003; H7306; H7163; H7164; H7261; S2191; H7216; S2235; H7307; S2068; H7425; H7471; S2194; H7165; S2082; H7259; H7210; H7426; S2112; H7174; H7052; S2215; H7406; S2195; S2110; H7083; H7245; S2426; H7348; S2469; S2108; H7866; S2043; H7110; H7217; H7308; H7305.

Kai moves to approve ECRI's support for these bills listed and to make the Act on Climate 2020 bill ECRI's priority bill for 2020, Eugenia seconds the motion. 9 votes in favor, zero against, Peter Grafton and Paul Beaudette abstain. The motion is approved.

The next PolComm meeting is next week.

This Thursday is the House Environment Hearing, Climate Crisis Campaign is organizing people at the state-house.

Climate Crisis Campaign: had first day of action, had first climate advocate training with 60 people, second climate advocate training is coming up on March 16, 7pm followed by second monthly week of action.

In April – third climate advocate training and ECRI's Lobby Day.

To help, share the website widely, encourage people to sign onto the campaign, and encourage people to donate to the campaign: riclimatecrisis.org.

b) Providence Environmental Task Force

No report.

c) Reports from ECRI fiscal agency projects

1) Green Infrastructure Coalition

Grant from the RI Foundation - \$75,000.

2) Energize Coalition

No activity.

3) School Recycling

No activity.

8. Announcements

Paul moves to adjourn, Judée seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.