



Monday, March 1, 2021 Board Meeting | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM | Virtual

Attendance

Donna Personeus, Priscilla De La Cruz, Beth Worthley, Greg Gerritt, Brianna Jordan, Christine Martone, Peter Trafton, Jessie Kingston, Everett Pope, Kevin Budris, Barry Schiller, Malwina Skowron, Paul Beaudette, Kenneth Filarski, Angie Koziara, John Berard, Rupert Friday, Peter Trafton, Lola Herrera-Ximenez, Meg Kerr, Katherine Gibson, Sue Anderbois, Susan Korte, Paul Beaudette, Justin Boyan, Timmons Roberts, Hank Webster, Eugenia Marks, Dana Goodman, Christopher Reily, Barbara Walsh, Jim Kingston, Kai Salem, Paige Therien, Victoria Leytin, Nicole DiPaolo

Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Office Report 5:30 - 5:40 PM

- Share introductions via chat (name, pronouns, affiliation, & location)
- Land Acknowledgement
- Approval of [February 1, 2021 minutes](#)
- Office Report

2. Med Recycler | Kevin Budris, Conservation Law Foundation 5:40 - 5:55 PM

3. President's Report 5:55 - 6:00 PM

- Vote - RI upcoming special election March 2nd
- Updates from the Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force
- [Process & bylaws](#) and strategic planning process
- Executive Committee on Tues., March 9th, 5 - 6 PM
- Officer nominations for 2021 – 2022

4. Policy Committee 6:00 – 6:35 PM

- Climate Crisis Campaign & recent advocate training
- Coffee Hour tentative date(s) & time
- Legislative agenda discussion & voting on bills - [ongoing legislative tracker with bill numbers, links to bills, and sponsors](#)
- PolComm on Mon., March 8th, 4:30- 6 PM

5. Equity-Based Strategic Planning 6:35 - 6:45 PM

6. Reports from ECRI fiscal agency projects 6:45 – 6:55 PM

- Green Infrastructure Coalition & School Recycling Club

7. Announcements 6:55 PM

8. Adjourn 7:00 PM

Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Office Report

- a. Share introductions via chat (name, pronouns, affiliation, & location)
- b. Land Acknowledgement
- c. Approval of [February 1, 2021 minutes](#)
 - i. **Motion to approve February 2021 Minutes: First motion by Eugenia Marks. Motion seconded by John Berard. All vote in favor with no objections or abstentions.**
- d. Office Report – Contact
 - i. ECRI: \$36,000; Ed Fund: \$36,000; NWF Grant for strategic planning \$10,000; Bond Issue \$8,950, spent \$8,000 = \$890 contribution to ECRI.
 - ii. Video festival was a huge success. 270 registered, 140 attended. Voting is still underway for People’s Choice Awards.
 - iii. Tisdale Awards Auction – still seeking auction items
 - iv. Are you a member of ECRI? Memberships are renewed on a yearly basis. Check with Greg to see your status!

2. Med Recycler | Kevin Budris, Conservation Law Foundation

- a. CLF is working with West Warwick and East Greenwich residents to oppose Med Recycler looking to construct & operate a med recycler
- b. 70 tons of medical waste (collected from all over the region) each day using pyrolysis (similar to incineration)
 - i. They will treat the waste at high temperatures without the presence of oxygen – create energy but also many toxic compounds. They then will burn what is left.
- c. Misinformation: “Renewable Energy” – Rhode Island does not consider incineration renewable energy due to the toxic pollutants and the 20,000 tons of carbon dioxide created each year.
- d. Public hearing on March 15th; written comments are due to RI DEM by April 14.
 - i. Pro-facility bill numbers: H5446/S254 (CLF urges opposition to these bills)
 - ii. ECRI is currently drafting a letter in opposition because the resident’s letter wasn’t quite right for us to sign-on to.
 1. PolComm & ExComm will go through the process to formally note our stance.
 - iii. MedRecycler has already gotten a minor source permit for this facility and now have to apply for a medical waste treatment facility permit.
- e. To get their permit granted, DEM needs to find that the proposed technology is protective with respect to total impact on the environment, including the need for a suitable buffer zone (what is proposed is not sufficient)
- f. Providence residents are concerned – is the call to action that we don’t want this facility in this specific location – or that we don’t want it in RI at all?
 - i. Providence passed an ordinance that prohibits all high-heat processing facilities there.
 - ii. House bill has been introduced to also ban these facilities throughout Rhode Island Senate bill has not yet been introduced.
 - iii. We’re seeing a push nationwide on these types of facilities – these facilities are the petrochemical industry’s “solution” to <https://www.no-burn.org/https-www-no-burn-org-legislativealert/>
- g. How many jobs would be created by this plant? That might be an argument for it.
 - i. Company has been pretty vague.
 - ii. Due to the self-functioning nature of these facilities, the number of jobs are typically very low. The construction process would be the only potential job-creator,
- h. Rhode Island have two places that treat medical waste – there are no longer any facilities that incinerate waste in Rhode Island.

- i. **With the input from PolComm, Executive Committee will review draft letter on this issue, make any amendments, and submit finalized letter and submit to RIDEM.**
 - i. **First motion made by Paul Beaudette, seconded by Peter Trafton. All vote in favor with no objections or abstentions.**

3. President's Report

- a. Vote - RI upcoming special election March 2nd
 - i. Turnout has been quite low – expected as it is the fourth election in a year.
- b. Updates from the Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force
 - i. Monthly meetings are on Mondays (next: March 22nd)
 - ii. Councilwoman Anthony introduced ordinances for building energy labels and the climate justice plan; Community choice aggregation program will be heard at March meeting.
 - iii. Priscilla De La Cruz is now a task force member (she is providing ECRI updates to the group)
 - iv. Webinar on updates regarding Community Choice Aggregation:
<https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/event/greenelectricityricommunities>
- c. [Process & bylaws](#) and strategic planning process
 - i. Brief summary on ECRI's legislative process: PolComm reviews proposed legislation, makes a recommendation to full ECRI membership, who then approves the recommended stance
 - ii. Process for accelerating process for bills that we have supported in the past will be considered during strategic planning process.
- d. March Executive Committee meeting on Tues., March 9th, 5 - 6 PM
- e. Officer nominations for 2021 – 2022
 - i. Meeting next week.

4. Policy Committee

- a. Climate Crisis Campaign & recent advocate training
 - i. At the last meeting, prepared for climate advocate training. Also discussed relevancy between campaign and ECRI/framework messaging.
 - ii. Priority bill – Act on Climate – is up for a vote in the Senate Committee. Once it moves to the floor, it's all hands on deck!
 - 1. Contact your legislators!
 - iii. 65 people in attendance at Climate Advocate Training
 - iv. Press release to come!
- b. Coffee Hour tentative date(s) & time
 - i. March 11th at 8:30 am
 - ii. Senate and House leadership will both be speaking
 - iii. Kai is still in the process of reaching out to potential priority issue presenters.
- c. Legislative agenda discussion & voting on bills - [ongoing legislative tracker with bill numbers, links to bills, and sponsors](#)
 - i. Thank you, Donna Personcus for organizing this document.
 - ii. At the last meeting we voted on many bills – see the above listed document to see ECRI's stance on bills we are watching.
 - iii. This coming meeting will also have many bills to vote on – please try to get bill numbers to Kai ahead of time to be considered at our monthly meetings
 - iv. **Kai moves for ECRI board to approve the slate of bills which were voted upon at the last PolComm meeting, Paul Beaudette seconds. All vote in favor.**
- d. PolComm on Monday, March 8th, 4:30- 6 PM

- i. PolComm email list could be reserved for just the most important emails – details/further discussion to come.

5. Equity-Based Strategic Planning

- a. Review of the timeline of strategic planning process (which was included in the RFP for consultations) – currently in-between the “grounding sessions” and “stakeholder outreach”
- b. Strategic planning committee: January grounding session. Meeting more frequently due to onboarding consultant. Two additional consultant proposals were reviewed this month.
- c. Consultants have shown a great appreciation for ECRI’s work and our
- d. Racial equity resources & more information about our equity based strategic planning process

6. Reports from ECRI fiscal agency projects

- a. Green Infrastructure Coalition
 - i. Providence Stormwater Innovation Center trainings and events:
 - 1. Maintaining Green Infrastructure– March 5th
 - 2. Construction Oversight – March 26
 - 3. 2nd Rain Harvest Festival – June 12th
- b. School Recycling Club
 - i. Nothing to report
- c. Save the Bay/Vote Yes on 2 Special Election
 - i. See 3a

7. Announcements

- a. Keep tagging @EnvCouncil_RI on Twitter so we can amplify your advocacy efforts.
- b. All are welcome at [CARI’s March Community Meeting](#) on food waste & climate change

8. Adjourn

- a. **Paul Beaudette makes a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm**