



Environment Council of Rhode Island

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

Please consider sharing your feedback on our meetings: <https://bit.ly/3sVjqbz>

Office Contact: environmentcouncil@earthlink.net

Attendance

Mal Skowron, Alison Hoffman, Ana Mallozzi, Donna Personeus, Eugenia Marks, David Veliz, Barbara Walsh, Katherine Gibson, Meg Curran, Everett Pope, Timmons Roberts, Jessie Kingston, Jim Kingston, Kai Salem, Tom Freeman, Lola Herrera-Ximenez, Nicole DiPaolo, Kenneth Filarski, Peter Trafton, Rebecca Farnlof, Victoria Leytin, Paige Therien, Seth Handy, Peter Trafton, Susan Korte, Noreen Inglesi, Barry Schiller, Bina Gehres, Justin Boyan, Greg Gerritt, Topher Hamblett

Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Office Report 5:30 - 5:45 PM (Nicole & Greg)
 - Share introductions via chat (name, pronouns, affiliation, & location)
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - Approval of March 2021 meeting minutes
 - Office Report
2. President's Report and Equity-Based Strategic Planning 5:45 – 6:10 PM
 - Onboarding consultant: Resolve Conservation (Greg & Strategic Planning Committee members)
 - Officer nominations for 2021 – 2022 (Nicole & Everett)
 - Executive Committee meeting April 13th, 5 – 6 PM
3. Policy Committee 6:10 – 6:40 PM
 - Climate Crisis Campaign & Act On Climate
 - Legislative agenda discussion & voting on bills - ongoing legislative tracker with bill numbers, links to bills, and sponsors
 - PolComm on Mon., April 12th, 4:30 - 6 PM
4. Reports from ECRI fiscal agency projects 6:40 – 6:50 PM
 - Green Infrastructure Coalition & School Recycling Club
5. Announcements 6:50 PM
6. Adjourn 7:00 PM

4/5/21 Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Office Report (Nicole & Greg)

- a) Share introductions via chat (name, pronouns, affiliation, & location)
- b) Land Acknowledgement
- c) Approval of March 2021 meeting minutes
 - i) **Eugenia Marks makes first motion to approve minutes. Peter Trafton seconds. March 2021 minutes are approved with no abstention or opposition.**
- d) Office Report
 - i) Current Balances: ECRI \$37978.83; Ed Fund Operations \$42982.73
 - ii) Events and activities
 - (1) Online Auction to support the Tisdale Awards opens April 5 runs to late April. 20 items of interest including a personal video festival, and autographed copy of Rising, environmental books, fabulous pictures, gear from ECRI members, and a great science kit for kids. For the first time ever we have a sponsor for the Tisdale Awards, Clean Ocean Access. We hope you will find items of interest and bid on them via the online auction system, and that you will share the link to the auction with others who you think might be interested. View and bid at 32auctions.com/ECRI
 - (2) Very preliminary work is underway for the Annual Meeting which will be online the evening of June 7. Same times as the regular ECRI meetings. We shall be pondering 50 years of ECRI (and maybe a special history slide show if the research is fruitful, and speakers on the changing environmental movement and how ECRI fits in. We hope you can join us on June 7 and Support the Annual meeting financially. We will be looking for ads and sponsors.
 - iii) Are you paying attention to all the happenings at the legislature? If you are interested in doing and knowing more, sign up for the Pol Comm email list by emailing the office.
 - iv) After the next Pol Comm meeting on April 12 we should be able to tell you more about Earth Day at the State House. ECRI will also be featured in the Earth Day online event being put together by ECRI member Notable Works (see 5c for more information.)

2. President's Report and Equity-Based Strategic Planning

- a) Onboarding consultant: Resolve Conservation (Greg & Strategic Planning Committee members)
 - i) We have hired Resolve Conservation to help us with the Strategic Plan for ECRI. Now the real work begins.
 - ii) ECRI members are welcome to get involved with the strategic planning process – just contact us!
- b) Officer nominations for 2021 – 2022 (Nicole & Everett)
 - i) Nicole and Everett have done outreach to current board members - all are interested in continuing with ECRI
 - ii) ECRI members are welcome to get involved with the Nominations Committee. Contact Nicole DiPaolo (dipaolon@nwf.org) or Everett Pope (Epopeceo@gmail.com)
- c) Executive Committee meeting April 13th, 5 – 6 PM

3. Policy Committee (Kai Salem - kai@greenenergyconsumers.org)

- a) Climate Crisis Campaign & Act On Climate
 - i) Very successful coffee hour – thank you to everyone who attended and helped organize
 - ii) Act On Climate – a lot of continuing movement on these bills
 - (1) Passed out of both House and Senate committees, as well as the House and Senate Floor. The concurrent votes in the House and Senate are tomorrow, April 6, 2021
 - (2) Opposition – fossil fuel lobbyists have come out of the woodwork with a wave of misinformation:
 - (a) Contact your legislators before the votes on 4/6
 - (b) Contact the Governor
 - (c) Sign the CARI petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/act-on-climate>
 - (d) Retweet opt-eds
 - (3) ACT ON CLIMATE T-Shirts are still available!
 - (a) Donation-based (\$15 suggested) – can be picked up
 - (4) Climate rally organized by CARI (thank you!)

- b) Legislative agenda discussion & voting on bills - ongoing legislative tracker with bill numbers, links to bills, and sponsorship
 - i) Gubernatorial transition is complete – contacts in McKee’s cabinet regarding for environmental issues are Victoria Scott and Joe Polisena Jr. (contact Kai if you would like their contact info)
 - ii) PolComm is seeking ECRI’s support (vote) on a new round of bills including ban on pyrolysis, closing 10 MW loophole, amendments to green buildings act, climate literacy, green justice zones, extending energy efficiency program, and more
 - (1) Kai Salem makes a motion for ECRI to adopt the slate of bills recommended by Pol Comm to support. Donna Personeus seconds. All vote in favor with no abstention or opposition.**
- c) PolComm on Mon., April 12th, 4:30 – 6 PM
 - i) Planning for future legislative events and (hopefully) an Act On Climate passage celebration
 - ii) Will most likely have a new slate of bills to vote upon. Please email Kai this week with any introduced bills which we can vote on OR bills that have yet to be introduced to be discussed.

4. Reports from ECRI fiscal agency projects

- a) Green Infrastructure Coalition
 - i) Working on newsletters
 - ii) Applied for a Rhode Island Foundation Grant
- b) School Recycling Club
 - i) No updates

5. Announcements

- a) (Chat comment) RI Transit riders could us help on the Kennedy Plaza issue at a House Finance meeting 4/7 -if interested in more info, please e-mail [Barry Schiller] at bschillert358@gmail.com. Also, the RI Bike-backed VRU has a Senate hearing 4/8
- b) The Civic Alliance for a Cooler Rhode Island sponsors [Ours to Embrace: Climate Federalism](#). The hour-long symposium brings scholars, agency heads, advocates together to discuss what Rhode Island must do to take advantage of President Biden’s agenda. April 12, 2021 at 3pm
- c) Notable Works’ virtual [Earth Day celebration](#) will feature poetry from The Future of our Planet: Voices of the Earth and interviews with ECRI’s President Priscilla De La Cruz and Alicia Lehrer of Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
- d) City of Providence is having Earth Day events in relation to parks and gardens including the Billy Taylor Park Sharing garden – contact Eugenia Marks for more information.

6. Adjourn

- a) **Kenneth Filarski moves to adjourn at 6:18pm.**