



ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND

September 12, 2011

Ms. Anne Livingston, Chair
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
Attn: Grover Fugate, Executive Director
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3
Wakefield, R.I. 02879-1900

Re: Environment Council of Rhode Island Nominations to the Habitat Advisory Board

Dear Chair Livingston:

On behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island, I am pleased to forward to you for the CRMC's consideration, the names of four candidates who were nominated by the Environment Council of Rhode Island to serve on the Ocean SAMP's Habitat Advisory Board.

As you may already know, the Environment Council of Rhode Island ("ECRI") is a coalition of 60 organizations and individuals in Rhode Island, the mission of which is to serve as an effective voice for developing and advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance the environment. Grover Fugate, the Executive Director of the Coastal Resources Management Council ("CRMC") asked ECRI to submit names to CRMC for its consideration as it appoints a standing Habitat Advisory Board.

The Ocean SAMP, Chapter, 1160.1.12 requires the CRMC to appoint a standing Habitat Advisory Board, "which shall provide advice to the Council on the ecological function, restoration and protection of the marine resources and habitats in the Ocean SAMP area and on the siting, construction, and operation of offshore development in the Ocean SAMP study area." The HAB shall be comprised of nine members, four of whom shall represent environmental non-governmental organizations that maintain a focus on Rhode Island.

Last night, September 12, 2001, at ECRI's monthly meeting, the membership unanimously voted to submit the names of the following individuals to the CRMC:

Dr. Priscilla Brooks (Conservation Law Foundation). Dr. Brooks is Vice President and Director of CLF's Ocean Conservation program, focusing on protecting

marine habitat and wildlife and building healthy fishing communities in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine. She holds a BS from Cornell University as well as an MS and PhD in environmental and resource economics from the University of Rhode Island.

Conservation Law Foundation worked extensively on the Rhode Island Ocean SAMP – reviewing, commenting, and providing language on the data, chapters and policies of the SAMP. Together with the CLF RI Office and the Ocean SAMP team, Dr. Brooks helped craft the language in the SAMP that created the Habitat Advisory Board. Before joining CLF in 1994, she performed extensive research on seafood marketing and trade, as well as aquaculture economics. In addition, she has worked on recreational fishing boats and research vessels in waters from Labrador to the Caribbean. Dr. Brooks worked to develop the Massachusetts’ Ocean Plan and currently serves on the Massachusetts’ Science Advisory and Habitat Advisory Committees.

Sally McGee (The Nature Conservancy). Ms. McGee is the Northeast Marine Program Director for the Nature Conservancy. Ms. McGee leads the Conservancy’s effort to promote coastal and marine spatial planning throughout the region. She earned her bachelor’s degree in economics at Smith College and masters in marine affairs at the University of Rhode Island. The Nature Conservancy participated as a vital stakeholder in the development of the Ocean SAMP and provided valuable scientific information and data that informed the policies of the Ocean SAMP. Ms. McGee also serves as a voting member of the New England Fishery Management Council, which develops rules for commercial and recreational fishing in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore). Prior to working for TNC, Ms. McGee worked as New England Policy Director for Environmental Defense Fund’s Ocean Program. She also spent several years working in the U.S. House of Representatives for the chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans. Ms. McGee holds her 100 ton near-coastal merchant mariners license, having worked aboard oceanographic research and sail training vessels in the North Atlantic, Caribbean and the North and South Pacific Oceans.

Larry Taft (Audubon Society of RI). Since 2005, Lawrence Taft has served as the Executive Director of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, promoting environmental education, conservation and advocacy with a particular emphasis on birds, native wildlife and habitat. Mr. Taft holds a Masters of Science in Environmental Studies from the Antioch/New England Graduate School, Keene, NH, and a Bachelors of Science in Natural Resources from University of Rhode Island. Throughout the Ocean SAMP process, the Audubon Society of RI advocated for the protection of important bird foraging, nesting and habitat areas and provided comments that counseled for wise policies that considered and eliminated negative environmental impacts associated with development in the planning area. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director he served as the Director of Properties and Acquisitions for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island from 1999 to 2005, where he was in charge of the Society’s 9,000-acre wildlife refuge system. Before joining the Audubon Society he was the Executive Director of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, R.I., for thirteen years.

John Torgan (Save The Bay). John Torgan is the Save The Bay Narragansett Baykeeper. The Baykeeper program is a national network of specialists with a passion for defending the environment and a devotion to working in their communities. Mr. Torgan directed Save The Bay's advocacy efforts around the Ocean SAMP to ensure that habitat was properly protected, conserved, and managed appropriately in any future development of the SAMP area. Mr. Torgan was also vocal in supporting the formation of the Habitat Advisory Committee. He brings 18 years of experience at Save The Bay and extensive knowledge of Rhode Island's ocean environment to the committee. Mr. Torgan has been connected to the Bay and its watershed his entire life and brings considerable knowledge of key habitat areas in Rhode Island Sound.

ECRI is completely satisfied that these four individuals will represent the environmental community and their own organizations diligently, and will be of invaluable service in advising CRMC as members of the Habitat Advisory Board as it moves ahead with its own evaluation of offshore wind proposals in Rhode Island Sound.

Thank you for considering these nominations for appointment to the Habitat Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Tricia K. Jedele
In her capacity as President of ECRI

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cc: Grover Fugate, Executive Director, CRMC
Jonathan Stone, Executive Director, STB
Terry Sullivan, Executive Director, TNC
Larry Taft, Executive Director, Audubon RI
ECRI Members