

**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Monday, January 3, 2022 | 5 PM – 6:30 PM | Virtual on Zoom**

**ECRI Office Contact:** [**environmentcouncil@earthlink.net**](mailto:environmentcouncil@earthlink.net)*Next ECRI Board Meeting: February 7, 2022, 5:00 pm*

**Attendees**

Katherine Gibson, James Rhodes, Kate Sayles, Mal Skowron, Nicole DiPaolo, Noreen Inglesi, Bina Gehres, Susan Korte, Greg Gerritt, Johnathan Berard, Eugenia Marks, Ken Filarski, Priscilla De La Cruz, Caroly Shumway, Peter Trafton, Jim Kingston, Barbara Watts, Paige Therien, Meg Curran, Hank Webster, Dana Goodman, Emily Koo, Everett Pope, Kai Salem, Barry Schiller

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions 5:00 – 5:20 PM
   1. Land Acknowledgement
   2. Approval of December meeting minutes
   3. Office Report
2. Policy Committee and Climate Crisis Campaign: 5:20 - 5:40 PM
   1. Vote to approve PolComm legislation process change
3. President’s Report and Strategic Planning update 5:40 – 6:00 PM
4. Announcements

Adjourn before 6:30 PM

**Minutes**

1. Welcome and Introductions 5:00 – 5:20 PM
   1. Land Acknowledgement
      1. Members are welcome to volunteer to give land acknowledgements at ECRI board meetings in the future.
      2. Recommendation: “We Are Still Here” film on Narragansett Language
   2. Approval of December meeting minutes
      1. **Eugenia Marks makes a motion to approve. Peter Trafton Seconds. All vote in favor with no abstention or opposition. December meeting minutes approved.**
   3. Office Report
      1. Finances
         1. Ed fund operations has $45,765.45; Strategic plan has $4,179 ; Operations has $41,586 - This is a surplus of $1900, and it's the first year of surplus in last 5. For comparison, these are balances for 12/31/20: $39,680.82 and 12/31/19: $4,1607
         2. ECRI Balance as of 12/31/21: $40,067.69; 12/31/20: $35526 (Surplus of $4500 compared to last year); 12/31/19: $32838
      2. Nature Video Festival
         1. Registrations for Nature Video Festival will start soon. Free event, Donations welcome. We have 17 videos covering all kinds of creatures and types of videos. Festival will be Sunday afternoon February 13.
      3. Greg drafted a letter to DPUC on the sale of National Grid to PPL. It has been further revised. ECRI Executive Committee (ExComm) will have the final word what is submitted.
2. Policy Committee and Climate Crisis Campaign: 5:20 - 5:40 PM
   1. Vote to approve ECRI Political Committee (PolComm) legislation process change
      1. Review of current process and reasons for proposed change (i.e. ECRI’s current process doesn’t always allow us to take a formal stance on a bill in time for said bill(s) hearings). Looking to employ a more a democratic process that allows for idea sharing, discussion, etc.
      2. Motion to allow ECRI’s President and/or VP of Policy to bypass a full board vote in order to take a public position on legislation that ECRI has taken a position on in the past. This bypass should be limited to cases when a hearing or other opportunity for public comment comes up with not enough time to go through the usual PolComm process. ECRI’s position should be the same as in prior year(s), and the legislation should not be substantially changed from prior year(s). **First motion made by Hank Webster and seconded by Johnathan Berard. All vote in favor with no abstention or opposition. Measure approved.**
   2. General Updates
      1. Legislative session is in person – starts 1/4/22
      2. No committee hearings in house will be scheduled in January – possible in the senate
         1. Possible that bills from previous years may be introduced in January
      3. Friday, January 7, 2022 at 12 pm is deadline to get legislation introduced THIS WEEK into ECRI PolComm Tricider portal for vote on January 10th meeting. Instructions to come.
      4. Next PolComm meeting is Monday, January 10, 2022 at 4:30 pm. Agenda:
         1. Bills introduced so far
         2. Coffee Hour (still working with Senate President and Speakers offices for dates that work for them)
         3. Reviewing ECRI Interim Report
      5. ECRI will be submitting public comment on National Grid/PPL sale
      6. ECRI submitted recommendations for ARPA spending in December – [view the letter](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AgRPZ1rKoKayqsLr1AFtYjT5WIJ0l2_i/view)
      7. Act On Climate implementation group: Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) workshops and sharing session events upcoming for Act On Climate plan – [see page 6 for timeline on this document](http://www.climatechange.ri.gov/documents/AOC%20and%20Scope%20of%202022%20Update%20Memo%20to%20the%20EC4.pdf)
      8. Climate Crisis Campaign
         1. How To Be a Climate Advocate – upcoming workshops on administrative aspect such as submitting public comments
3. President’s Report and Strategic Planning update
   1. Strategic Plan (<https://www.environmentcouncilri.org/content/strategic-planning)>
      1. Resolve is working on strategic plan, final report, set of recommendations, along with data they have collected over the past year
         1. Presented at next ECRI board meeting (February 7, 2022, 5:00 pm)
         2. ExComm will discuss how members can share their thoughts and get involved with implementation (working/implementation groups, timelines, etc.)
   2. ECRI Administrator Transition
      1. Thank you to Greg Gerritt for 20 years in RI’s environmental community!
         1. Follow his blog Prosperity for RI: <https://prosperityforri.com/>
         2. [Read Greg’s EPA Lifetime Achievement Award bio](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-recognizes-ten-rhode-island-citizens-and-organizations-regional-environmental)
      2. New ECRI Administrator: Jamie Rhodes (james@jrhodeslegal.com , 401-225-3441)
         1. Currently solo law practitioner
         2. former ECRI president
4. Announcements
   1. ECRI was a fiscal sponsor for the Behavior Change for Climate Action Challenge – the three grantees are:
      1. Habits of Waste - helps people change habits and eat more plant-based
      2. A personal energy coach at NY-based Bedford 2030
      3. Augmented reality project at UC Davis which focuses on snowpack changes in Lake Tahoe as the climate changes - Instagram filter accessible to visitors
   2. 2022 RI Land and Water Summit will be July 14-16 with updated format: <https://www.landandwaterpartnership.org/>
   3. Youth Climate Summit will be hosted by City of Providence Office of Sustainability – more info to come.

Adjourn at 6:11 pm