



Environment Council of RI (ECRI) Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 1st, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Attendees

Priscilla De La Cruz, Greg Gerritt, Peter Trafton, Barbara Sullivan-Watts, Bart Lloyd, Bina Gehres, Dana Goodman, James Crowley, Meg Curran, Serena Russel, Susan Korte, Paige Therien, Barry Schiller, Katherine Gibson, Noreen Inglesi, James Rhodes, Barbara Walsh

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Office and Administrative Report**
- 3. President's Report**
- 4. Policy Committee Report**
- 5. Other Announcements**

Adjourn by 6:30 PM

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Land Acknowledgments
- [April Meeting Minutes](#)
 - ***Greg Gerritt moves to approve the April 2023 Minutes. Peter Trafton seconds. All vote in favor with no abstentions or opposition. April Meeting Minutes approved.***

2. Office and Administrative Report

- Financial report and fiscal agency updates
 - Full financial report will be given at our Executive Committee meeting – as always, please contact us if you would like to see the latest!
 - We have renewed our fiscal agency agreement with the Racial Environmental Justice Committee (REJC) for this year, so we will continue to be working with them through at least 2023.
 - As the REJC and other ECRI fiscal agency projects explore federal grant opportunities, ECRI is working to finalize revisions to its financial policies including fiscal agency agreement policy and procurement policy. This will allow us to properly administer federal grants.
 - Green Infrastructure coalition has received a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation.

- ECRI has agreed to be the lead Sponsor of National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) "Actualizing Environmental Justice in Conservation" Resolution. As the ECRI NWF Delegate, Priscilla De La Cruz will be the lead advocate at the NWF Annual Meeting in California in June! This policy would be in effect for not only NWF, but all its affiliates (such as ECRI) too.
- Bylaws committee
 - Meetings will begin soon
 - Considering a retreat facilitated by EJ groups as well as an ECRI operations and "civics"-focused learning events with youth groups

3. President's Report

- Implementation of Equity-Based Strategic Plan (updates on funding & trainings)
 - Fall in-person workshop with Resolve Conservation to 1) help operationalize ECRI's strategic plan and bylaws committee work as well as 2) racial equity work
- Providence Sustainability Commission (ECRI seat) – CCA
 - At recent meeting the composition of the Commission was analyzed including the seats that needed to be filled. Environmental Justice legislation was discussed as a priority.
 - Sheila Dormody is the new Chief of Policy and Resiliency for the City of Providence
 - Transition to Community Choice Aggregation is happening now
- June board meeting planning
 - Monday June 5, 5 pm
 - There will be business items so it needs to be online or hybrid so that it is accessible for all. Perhaps we could have it at Audubon's Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge (hybrid.)
- Executive Committee & nominations
 - Will be setting up a timeline for the Resolve Conservation workshops and Bylaws Committee work.
 - June 5th Board Meeting will include the official slate of officers to be voted on. Nominations welcome. Priscilla will be stepping down as President

4. Policy Committee Report

- Voting of legislative agenda bills (support, oppose, and watch lists) as recommended by PolComm and priority bills as recommended by ECRI membership
 - **Peter Trafton makes a motion for ECRI board to approve the new batch of legislation on the ECRI support list as recommended by PolComm. James Crowley seconds. All ECRI members vote in favor with no abstentions or opposition.**
 - **Peter Trafton makes a motion for ECRI board to approve the new batch of legislation on the ECRI opposition list as recommended by PolComm. James Crowley seconds. All ECRI members vote in favor with no opposition.**
 - **Peter Trafton makes a motion for ECRI board to approve the new batch of legislation on the ECRI watch list as recommended by PolComm. James Crowley seconds. All ECRI members vote in favor with no opposition.**

- After discussion on Building Energy Emissions package, Solar Siting Reform, and Beverage Bottle Recycling Act, **James Crowley makes a motion for ECRI board to approve the slate of bills as recommended by ECRI membership as ECRI's Priority bills. Greg Gerritt seconds. All ECRI members vote in favor with no opposition.**
- Recap from ECRI Lobby Day – Earth Day at the State House
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5. Other Announcements

- May 12, 8:30 pm is the next ECRI Executive Committee Meeting
- May 8, 4:30 pm is the next ECRI Political Committee Meeting
- Greg Gerritt is leading walks this spring – contact him for info.
- Greg Gerritt is hosting a fundraiser (dance party!) for ECRI in the afternoon of October 7
- CRMC will be holding their rescheduled vote on the Revolution Wind Project May 9
- Barry Schiller is leading Janes Walks

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.