

US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL ~ RI ORGANIZING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting

September 25, 2008

New England Institute of Technology
Warwick, Rhode Island

Leadership Team **Present:**

Connie McGreavy	Tony Dematteo	Steve Kitchen
Dan Paquette	Mark Winslow	Holly Grosvenor
Laurie Drucker	Paul DePace	Mark DiPetrillo
Norman Cook	Justin C. Bownds	James Lehouiller
Stephen L Hughes	Stephen Turner	
Caroline Karp	Kenneth Filarski	Absent:
Gaytha Langlois	Joseph DaSilva	Jack Leyden *vacation

Other members present included various Organizing Group members, the chair of the Technology Committee (David Johnson), chair of the Finance Committee (Patti Young) and Paul Caton who will be assisting Tony Dematteo, Chair of the Emerging Green Builders Committee.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order by Connie McGreavy.
2. **MEETING MINUTES.** A motion was made by K. Filarski to accept the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by C. Karp. On a voice vote, the motion passed.
3. **USGBC LEED REGIONALIZATION PROCESS.** M. Winslow and C. Armstrong presented an update on a national effort launched this summer to update the USGBC LEED-NC standard (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for New Construction) to be completed in time for the Greenbuild conference in November. The purpose is to define regional environmental zones and develop criteria for bonus points. Five different zones were identified for New England. Three of those zones—small towns, small urban, and coastal—apply to Rhode Island. The zones are identified by zip codes. Staff at the RI Dept. of Administration, Division of Statewide Planning assisted in compiling map data taken from the state’s Land Use 2025 Plan (small town and small urban zone designations) and RI Coastal Resources Management Council staff for Special Area Management Plan zones. The RI Dept. of Environmental Management is working with CRMC to finalize coastal mapping.
4. **USGBC REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE.** C. McGreavy reported that Kathy Kanterman will serve as the chapter’s primary Regional Council representative. Earlier this month, the RC unanimously approved a proposal to grant the RI Organizing Group provisional chapter status.
5. **GREENBUILD UPDATE.** C. McGreavy presented an overview of the upcoming national convention in Boston. There will be an Upper Northeast Region host booth at Greenbuild, with all chapters and affiliates sharing responsibility for manning the booth at pre-designated times. K Kanterman will coordinate this effort. The possibility exists that a bus can be chartered for

Greenbuild and/or Nexus green resources center tour on the first day. We will attempt to use Greenbuild as an incentive to join the chapter during an initial 30-day membership drive. We expect to receive exhibition hall passes which can also be used as an incentive for membership. The green building tour in RI scheduled for the last day may be cancelled if there are not enough participants. The host booth will play a continuous loop of photos of LEED projects, chapter events, members, etc. K Kanterman will coordinate.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. FINANCE. M. Winslow reported that a draft budget has been prepared based on revenue projections for national and local memberships and sponsorship. The budget will be modified based on feedback and expanded to include three years of projections for the 501(c) application. The Finance Committee will be working with the Education/Outreach Committee to identify educational seminars, LEED workshops and other events to generate additional revenue. A target of \$35,000 from eight workshops was discussed. The New England Institute of Technology will donate space for the events. The Upper Northeast Region wishes to coordinate workshop dates. A volunteer will be sought to coordinate the LEED workshop series with the USGBC.
- B. PROGRAM. C. Karp reported that the Program Committee commented via email on the draft strategic plan which was accepted by the USGBC. The plan will be modified to incorporate the major goals outlined in the USGBC's 2009-2013 Strategic Plan unveiled in August, as appropriate. C. Karp referred to the "social justice issue" component with regard to affordable housing and whether the standards set forth in the USGBC plan should be the floor or the ceiling for the RI plan.
- C. MEMBERSHIP. L. Drucker reported that the Membership Committee will launch a membership drive starting in October and link it to the Greenbuild Conference in Boston this November. Compacts with other organizations to share member lists will be explored. The RI Green Building Council will proceed with the standard membership dues structure, but may consider creative memberships involving other organizations in the future. (Grow Smart RI and the Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living currently are not membership-based.) The USGBC will handle membership registration and billing.
- D. SPONSORSHIP. M. DiPetrillo reported that the Sponsorship Committee is a subset of the Board. A November fundraiser is planned, pending more investigation at a second meeting of the Sponsorship Committee. Note was made that every chapter has "founding memberships" for large funders. National Grid has offered to sponsor educational programs.
- E. RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. N. Cook reported that members of the Renewable Energy Committee plan to exhibit at various energy expos around the state from September through November and will display RIGBC literature in their booths. Organization of the Committee may differentiate around the residential and commercial sectors.
- F. GREEN BUILDING MARKETPLACE/GREEN RESOURCE CENTER. P. DePace related that the University of Rhode Island is constructing two green buildings; the Dining Commons

and the new residence hall could serve as instructional vehicles for the organization. It was noted that all new construction of public buildings must strive to be LEED Silver.

- G. GRAPHICS & COMMUNICATIONS. H. Grosvenor explained how the Communications Committee has been interfacing with the Technology, Membership and eventually, the PR Committee. The Communications Committee assists in preparing graphics for the website (newly launched) and distributing communications. In speaking for the Technology Chair, the main objective for the website is to make it the “go to” site for chapter business and related green issues in RI. There will be a members’ page, events calendar, and a “base camp” portal to coordinate chapter activity in an organized manner.
- H. RESIDENTIAL ADVOCATE. D. Paquette stated the committee focus would be on single family buildings, affordable development, and commercial condominium development. Modular construction was also mentioned. In this topic/issue area, there are competing interests among other local and national organizations such as the RI Builder’s Association which has over 1400 members. D. Paquette, a longtime member of RIBA and the National Association of Homebuilders, has asked three RIBA members to be on his committee.
- I. ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE. S. Hughes reported that the committee has 13 members. The committee met in September and is charged with preparing a legislative advocacy agenda. The committee will review bills, programs and strategic initiatives in other states with the objective of drafting an appropriate green development bill for Rhode Island, which may address renewable energy and green building standards.
- J. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. S. Kitchen presented an overview of this issue from his perspective in corporate education and training at the New England Institute of Technology and in light of the RIGBC. A perfect storm is developing in this state given its needs and deficit of resources to address those needs. Infrastructure is the key, and the opportunity in this state. Demographics argue that in ten years, we will be scrambling to find workers unless we address the issue. Creating green jobs is an important goal. The committee will be meeting in the near future.
- K. AFFORDABLE GREEN BUILDINGS. J. Bownds reported that the committee was recently formed and will likely interface with the work of the Residential Advocate. It was reported that the Bank of America has a number of green incentives for neighborhoods that may bode well for a demonstration project in Rhode Island. The bank has budgeted \$20 billion in grants over the next 10 years.
- L. EXPORTING GREEN INTERNATIONALLY. J. Lehouiller reported that the committee will be defining its role. Currently the United States is the leader in green capabilities, both for knowledge and technology. Three areas of focus may be in exporting green services; forming an international compact; and supporting the development and export of green products.
- M. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE. S. Turner reported that the committee will take on a trouble shooting role, pitching in where help is needed. He will keep tabs on committee activities, interaction, and 501(c) (3) lobbying parameters. He will work with each committee chair, look

to eliminate overlap, duplicating work, and identify gaps in the chapter's work efforts.

- N. GREEN SCHOOLS. J. da Silva reported that the committee will blend its work with the New England Comprehensive High Performance Schools (NE-CHPS) group which meets 6-7 times per year. The RI Dept. of Education has adopted CHPS building standards and has presented a number of workshops on sustainable education facilities and educating the occupants of those buildings.
- O. SUSTAINABLE CITIES. K. Filarski reported. Those who expressed an interest in this committee have all been contacted by phone and by email. The members received an introduction to the committee and the recently issued USGBC Strategic Plan 2001-2013 which includes a section on sustainable cities. The national organization appears to be growing beyond neighborhoods to that of the larger environment/ecology. Email discussions have been productive and a meeting will be convened soon.
- P. EMERGING GREEN BUILDERS. T. Dematteo reported that the committee will be working with the Green Building Marketplace Committee. The committee's role is outreach, formulation, and facilitation in terms of working with student groups and young professionals.
- Q. EDUCATION. C. McGreavy reported for G. Langlois who arrived shortly after the reports were given. The committee is large and in the formative stage. The committee will be responsible for keeping a calendar of outreach events, addressing green high school and college curricula and assisting in coordinating LEED workshops.

7. VOTE FOR FUTURE SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- A. The slate of directors and officers was presented by C. McGreavy. A motion to accept was made by J. Greenwood, seconded by K. Kanterman. On a voice vote of the Leadership Team and other Organizing Group members present, the motion passed unanimously.

8. VOTE FOR SLATE OF OFFICERS.

- A. Slate presented: Connie McGreavy, Chair; Stephen Turner, Vice Chair; Mark Winslow, Treasurer; Kenneth Filarski, Secretary. A motion to accept the slate of officers was made by P. DePace and seconded by M. DiPetrillo. On a voice vote of the Leadership Team and other Organizing Group members present, the motion passed unanimously.

- 9. LEED ACCREDITATION COURSE. M. Winslow reported that the chapter is planning on offering a LEED AP examination preparation course. The course will be capped at 30; four of the seats are reserved for NEIT faculty as they will provide the facility. The course will be taught by M. Winslow and the fee will be \$125, which is deeply discounted as compared to typical USGBC fees. This course is NOT for beginners.

- 10. BROWN UNIVERSITY STUDENT REQUEST. J. Morrison and R. Donalds reported on the Emerging Green Leaders student club. They will be looking for Green Mentors for a semester long commitment, and for Green Shadows which is a commitment of a few hours during the day for

students to get hands-on experiences from RIGBC members and other practitioners. Caroline Karp and Kurt Teichert, Brown faculty members, are working with the students to facilitate and devise the faculty/student/mentor relationships.

11. OTHER. C. McGreavy reported that the Rhode Island Chapter will continue to work closely with the USGBC. Board members will have access to the national Extranet and login instructions will be forwarded by email. All board members who have not submitted signed conflict-of-interest statements must do so by the next meeting.
12. NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 6, 2008 at the New England Institute of Technology, 4:30-6:30 Room 317. All committees should be organized and ideally have met by that time.
13. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted on October 31, 2008

Kenneth J. Filarski
Secretary