

**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 5, 2018**  
(RIDEM – Room 300)

Co-Chairs Dale Venturini (RI Hospitality Association) and Johnathan Berard (Clean Water Action) opened the meeting at approximately 1:00 PM.

Rosemary Powers, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Gina Raimondo, welcomed everyone to the Task Force on behalf of Governor Raimondo. The co-chairs also welcomed all Task Force members and other interested attendees to this first meeting. Each member in attendance introduced themselves.

**Presentation & Discussion – Background on RI’s Focus on Single Use Plastics and the Executive Order**

Terrence Gray, Deputy Director of Environmental Protection for the RI Department of Environmental Management, presented the recent history of RI’s attention on single use plastics. Early dialog in 2018 started during preparation for the North American stop for the Volvo Ocean Race at Fort Adams State Park. The environmental theme for this globe circling race and the Ocean Summit, which would be held during the Newport stopover, was “Turn the Tide on Plastics”. As the host for this event, RI developed the RI Zero Plastic Marina Partnership in partnership with the RI Marine Trades Association and the initiative was announced by DEM Director Janet Coit at the Ocean Summit. On July 16, 2018, Governor Raimondo signed the Executive Order on Tackling Plastics that authorized the formation of the Task Force and set the general schedule and objectives. Mr. Gray’s presentation summarized the contents of the order.

**Presentation & Discussion – Origin of Plastics and Life Cycle Impacts**

Jamie Rhodes from the organization Upstream gave a presentation on the formulation of plastics from petrochemical feedstocks and discussed the impacts of plastics throughout their life cycle. Impacts were presented from the petroleum refineries where the ingredients for plastics are created through the disposal of materials at the end of their useful life. In particular, Mr. Rhodes talked about the impacts to communities adjacent to the refineries and how it was important to remember these impacts when considering plastics. Mr. Rhodes provided two examples of alternatives to single use plastics; the Fryburg Cup, which is returnable and reusable, and a reusable take-out container system developed by an East Greenwich company named OZZI.

Following the presentations, representatives from the State agencies participating in the Task Force introduced themselves. Representatives from DEM, RI Resource Recovery Corporation, the RI Infrastructure Bank, the Coastal Resources Management Council, and the Narragansett Bay Commission were present.

The co-chairs articulated some general guiding principles for Task Force work, including the need to be accommodating and respectful, to be practical, to be impactful, and to be leaders on this effort.

The co-chairs introduced the five working groups which would support the Task Force work. Working groups were created for legislation, innovation, communication/education, inventory, and leading by example. Sign up sheets were circulated around the room to join these working groups.

The co-chairs noted that the Task Force effort will be aggressive and forward-looking and the group is operating under a tight timeline. The meeting concluded shortly before 2:30 PM.

*(Minutes Prepared by Terrence Gray, RIDEM)*