

RI Forest Conservation Commission

IN PERSON MEETING

March 2, 2023

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

RI Department of Environmental Management

235 Promenade Street, Room 330C Office of Air Resources (3rd Floor)

Providence RI, 02908

Please note that members of the Commission are required to attend in person per RI's Open Meeting Act Requirement.

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84945694585?pwd=TW02UkNBeUt3NjVVMUs0VIFsM-UQwQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 4569 4585 | Passcode: 594445

Dial-in: 1-929-205-6099

AGENDA

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome

Members Present: T. Boudreau, S. Millar, K. Sayles, C. Riely, P. De La Cruz, M. Tremblay,

D. Gregg

Not Present: B. Thurber, C. Tharringer, D. Caldwell

2. Approval of February 2022 Meeting Minutes

P. De La Cruz motioned to approved, K. Sayles Seconded, all in favor.

3. FCC DEM-hosted Page Discussion and Possible Action

An update was given by T. Boudreau on the status of this page, and all were in favor of DEM hosting an FCC dedicated page to hold minutes, agendas, and meeting-related media.

4. Most Important Forest Criteria Discussion and Possible Action

a. RI DEM GIS Update

P. Jordan from RI DEM presented on forest soil information. This focused on soil ordination numbers, and looking at the most productive forest soils, for their inclusion in the larger most important forests definition. The ordination number reviewed was #3 (most productive forest soil)

This focus was on forested block of 10 acres or larger with at least 50% forested acreage.

This presentation highlighted possible urban priority parcels to be included in the overall forested landscape, creating a possible urban priority list to include with the rural forested landscape.

P. Jordan commented that this soil ordination data can be made available to FCC members to review.

Discussion was had on including this soil ordination as 1 of a larger group of metrics that help the FCC narrow down the most important forest definition.

A possible action for the FCC was to ask J. Turenne to further discuss this soil data to gain better knowledge of the strength of this mapping and validity of the soil production.

The Group determined the most important forest criteria it wanted to take a closer look at is:

Core forests, the blue soil ordination layer presented at the meeting, the GAA wellhead areas, the Oak/Holly forest, the scrub oak/pitch pine forest, flood plains, and old growth characteristic areas.

5. Proposed Forest Parity Bill Discussion

B. Verrier presented to the FCC the synopsis of the Parity Bill, and that it was still looking for a senate sponsor.

He asked the FCC if it would give comment on the Bill.

M. Tremblay motioned to approve making comment as it supported the FCC's mission,

K. Sayles Seconded, all in favor.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Adjourn

S. Millar made a motion, K. Sayles seconded, all in favor.

Questions/Need Assistance? Please contact Tee Jay Boudreau (RIDEM) at teejay.boudreau@dem.ri.gov

Posted February 28, 2023