



---

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
INFORMATION • COMMUNICATION • COORDINATION

---

■ **MINUTES**

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**

*January 9, 2008*

Westerly  
*Chris Duhamel*  
Council President

**Present:**

---

Richmond  
*Henry Oppenheimer*  
Vice President

C. Duhamel, Westerly  
H. Oppenheimer, Richmond  
K. Waterman, Charlestown  
B. Kenney, Hopkinton  
C. Wilkens, Narragansett  
C. Ellis, Exeter  
S. Campo, North Kingstown  
B. Michael Rauh, Washington Trust Company

South Kingstown  
*James O'Neill*  
Treasurer

Charlestown  
*Katherine Waterman*  
Secretary

**Not Present:**

---

Hopkinton  
*Beverly Kenney*

J. O'Neill, South Kingstown,  
R. Torrey, New Shoreham

Exeter  
*Cal Ellis*

**Summary:**

Washington County Regional Planning Council will hold its annual Congress of Councils, where all Town Council members from all nine towns will meet and be joined by legislators, town managers, and other key individuals. The theme this year is Regional Actions for Economic Development. Tentative date is the evening of Thursday, March 13.

Narragansett  
*Chris Wilkins*

North Kingstown  
*Steve Campo*

**Call to Order** at 8:33 AM

New Shoreham  
*Ray Torrey*

**December Minutes:**

December's minutes are delayed until next month after we've received Joseph Larisa's comments on Jeff's report from last month on the issue of trust lands.

Management  
*Jeffrey A. Broadhead*  
Executive Director

**Meeting Schedule:**

Regular meetings will be continued on the second Wednesday or each month, at 8:30AM at Kettle Pond Visitor Center in Charlestown. Each month we will revisit the next month's meeting schedule. The Board recognized that this is a compromise schedule because at least two board members (H. Oppenheimer, Richmond, and B. Kenney, Hopkinton) will miss several meetings each.

### **Congress of Councils:**

The annual Congress of Councils is tentatively scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>, (March 13 is now the date because South Kingstown's Town Council is in budget meetings that night. The description of the event is attached to these minutes.

Two groups of invitees will be included—municipal and related organizations. On the municipal side, invitations will begin with the full Town Council from each town, and also include the Town Managers, Planners, and Assessors, as well as the Chairs of the Planning Boards, Zoning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Comprehensive Plan Committees, and Economic Development Committee of each town. Additionally, towns may have other municipal invitees. Jeff will send an email to each Board member asking for an invitation list.

Non-municipal Invitees will include the Governor; local State Legislators; President Carothers and Vice President Weygand of URI; leadership at the Coastal Resource Center at URI; the Rhode Island Foundation; CEO's, Board Chairs, and Economic Development Committee Chairs of each of the Chambers of Commerce; the CEO and Chair of South County Tourism; the CEO and critical staff at Grow Smart RI; Ariana McBride from the RI Economic Policy Council; and the Executive Director of the Job Corps facility in Exeter.

### **Other Business:**

All towns have not paid their memberships in full for the current year. Jeff will distribute a list for Board review. Town requests are being prepared now; some have been submitted and some are pending. All are for level funding at either \$3,000 for the smaller towns or \$6,000 for the larger towns.

Jeff has assessed the space needs of the Council, and determined that additional space will be needed as new projects ramp up. The current 8' x 11' office is too small for our future growth, and conference rooms are heavily utilized in the building so are only useful occasionally. The board recommended that Jeff explore URI for additional space before looking outside because URI support is probably linked to our tenancy.

Major Projects that are in the early stages of development include regional Transfer of Development Rights, an expanded and interactive web site to attract a constituency, school transportation cost sharing, Economic Development implementation, an Outreach plan, and Shared Savings for Municipal Services.

### **Town Reports:**

Washington County CDC: Applying for \$500,000 from RI Housing

Richmond: No porn shop; budget short about \$200,000.

Hopkinton: Trying to get Affordable Housing and Inclusionary Zoning on agenda; Grills property with 150 acres in Hopkinton and about 50 in Westerly; budget has to be cut \$100,000.

Exeter: Assessor's report due soon on new method of assessment; pension issues are being explored; first Dam Management district in state is now a reality; the Borderlands project is progressing.

North Kingstown: School budget is short \$2.7 million this year and projected to be short \$1.4 million next year; Superintendent's budget shows a 7.9% increase; town/school discussions are beginning.

**Research Questions:**

How does local government "work?"

How does gaming affect local/regional/state economies?

Can Regional IT departments work as a WC/RPC project?

Adjournment at 10:25