

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM

The Nature Conservancy, 159 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906

With remote participation available via Zoom.



**Members in Attendance:** Sue AnderBois, Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert

**Others in Attendance:** Georgia Cheney, Steven Chybowski, Katie Critelli, Toby Ast, Rachel Sholly, Grant Dulgarian, Kate Venturini Hardesty (virtual), Kevin Drumm (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Kate Felder (virtual), Craig Johnson (virtual), Gary Reeves (virtual)

## 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

## 2. Vote on Meeting Minutes

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the February 7, 2025 Education Committee Meeting Minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. Council Members Teichert and AnderBois voted in favor. Vice Chair Gill Case abstained, and the meeting minutes were approved.

## 3. Energy Expo/Home Show Planning Updates

Ms. Sholly provided updates on the Home Show, including the change in the Office of Energy Resources' (OER) financial sponsorship. A theme for the Energy Expo this year is workforce development and RIBA will be producing a video to highlight pathways to the trades as a part of the clean energy workforce. Stretch fabric panel designs will line the entryway. A Ford electric cargo van will also be on display. OER will have the Council's annual report executive summary handouts available to attendees. There will be speakers presenting short seminars on topics including solar, heat pumps, and efficient building design.

## 4. 2025 Annual Report Approach

Ms. Sholly posed the question of changing the structure of the annual report and made suggestions of changes. The Committee discussed ways to have the report in the voice of the Council, as it currently includes a lot of features of the utility's programs.

## 5. URI Community of Practice

Ms. Venturini introduced Kevin Drumm with the URI Cooperative Extension. Regarding URI's contract, she secured a Dean's Pledge which allows work to continue with a signed contract/funding and is valid until May 3<sup>rd</sup>. They're currently working on the development of the 2025 Community of Practice. Mr. Drumm presented the framework which will assist with keeping programming on track and includes tracking the objectives and progress of the sessions. Ms. Venturini debriefed on the March 3<sup>rd</sup> event and discussed the intended scope of the 2025 events. Incentives will be offered to participants who attend 4 of the 6 sessions scheduled. Vice Chair Gill Case requested

the Framework document for the Committee to read through and provide commentary.

**6. Public Comment**

*Grant Dulgarian*

Mr. Dulgarian commented on the bridge project and the need for an environmental impact statement.

**7. Discussion of Education Contracts**

Council Member AnderBois motioned to move into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-4(a). The business to be discussed and the statutory purpose of an Executive Session is, as stated in RIGL § 42- 46-5(a)(7), "A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest."; Council Member Teichert seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the motion passed. The Committee entered Executive Session.

**8. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.