



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

WATER RESOURCES BOARD
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**Minutes of Board Meeting #429
August 10, 2004 12PM**

Members Present:

Daniel W. Varin, Chairman
Frank Perry*
William Penn
William Parsons*
John Milano
June Swallow*
Jon Schock
Timothy Brown
William Stamp, III
Elizabeth Scott*

*Member designee

Members Absent:

Rep. William Murphy
Sen. Leonidas Raptakis
Fred Vincent
Robert Griffith*

Staff Present:

M. Paul Sams
Kathleen Crawley
Elaine Maguire
William Rivero
Tracy Shields
Beverly O'Keefe

Connie McGreavy
Brian Riggs
Thomas Walker

Guests

Jeffrey Hershberger, ESS
Peter Thibodeau, ESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chairman Varin called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Mr. Schock, second by Mr. Parsons the board unanimously approved the minutes of July 13, 2004, Board Meeting #428. On discussion of the motion Chairman Varin offered a comment noting that it was not a correction. On page two the minutes reflect that Chairman Varin stated in response to a question by Mr. Penn that there is no staff for the Rivers Council. He clarified that it is true that there is no state position established with the Rivers Council, but there is a person that is functioning as the Executive Director and is paid by foundation grants.

3. REPORTS

- A. On a motion by Mr. Penn, second by Mr. Schock the board unanimously approved the Chief Business Officer's Report, July 2004. Mr. Penn stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the report and recommended approval.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Varin stated that later on the agenda the Board will need to add a person to the personnel committee, a committee that will be very busy over the next eight weeks.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

As reflected in today's Board and Board Corporate agendas, it has been a productive month and as reflected in our included staff reports a busy month for everyone.

The Water Allocation Program had their fourth meeting of the Implementation Team this past Wednesday, August 4th. The meeting was again very productive and again maintains the forward momentum to more clearly define the water management system for the state.

Will Rivero's Groundwater Protection/Acquisition program will be drilling and testing a new well adjacent to Well #336. If we are successful and the water quality tests out, he will be ready to begin acquisition negotiations. The FY2005 Budget provides for an \$8 million dollar referendum for watershed land acquisition. Will will be working with the DEM staff to promote the open space referendum of which our \$8 million is a part.

Tom Walker's Emergency Interconnection program is again moving forward with the South Kingstown – United Water emergency interconnection which is scheduled to start later this month and to be completed by January 2005. There was a substantial amount of and permit work which had to be completed with the State Department of Transportation. In addition, Tom's Supplemental Water Study Phase II is off to a good start and the Maquire staff is working closely with the water suppliers within the Phase II study area.

The Corporate Watershed Protection Bond Program under Will Rivero has 2 water quality projects for your eligibility consideration. Next month he will have 2 land acquisitions for your consideration.

Connie McGreavey as part of today's agenda is working with ESS, will be presenting our water supply system management plan data as part of the New England Water-Use Data System (NEWUDS). This is an incremental step forward for the Board and for the State's water suppliers and other state agencies.

In preparation for today's meeting, the Public Drinking Water Protection Committee and the Finance Committee met to consider the action items in today's agenda.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, this will be my last report with you. I want to extend my deepest appreciation for the past 11 years. You have made my time with you professionally challenging, a time to feel accomplishment, and a time of deeply rewarding enjoyment. I came here to be the demise of the Board. However, together we along with excellent staff avoided this calamity. Not only to avoid, but we grew as a professional water organization recognized as being a part of the overall water community. This could not have been done without a strong, hardworking Board who ran the interference and made the intelligent decisions while empowering the staff to accomplish our many missions. It has been a time of enjoyment because of the many friendships I have made with all of the Board members and staff. But like all good things, these 11 years have passed by like it was yesterday. But I know there will be many more good tomorrows for all of you as you set the mark high for the water community that will benefit all the people of Rhode Island. Let me again say thank you with the deepest appreciation for making the past 11 years together one of successful accomplishment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my final report, are there any questions?

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS RESULTING

A. Public Drinking Water Protection Committee— Acting Chair Frank Perry

(1) Water Supply Systems Management Plans (WSSMP):

(a) Greenville Water District—WSSMP 30-Month Interim Report

Mr. Perry stated that the original plan was approved with three "subject to" items to be addressed in the 30-month update. They have addressed those items and the PDWP unanimously recommended approval. On a motion by Mr. Perry, second by Mr. Stamp the board unanimously approved the Greenville Water District-WSSMP 30-Month Interim Report. It was noted that the second page of the memorandum was missing from the Board package. Mr. Perry summarized the contents prior to a vote on the motion. On discussion of the motion Ms. Elizabeth Scott stated that she agreed that Greenville has met the WSSM and 30 month update requirements. She stated that she wanted to note the system's concerns about their ability to meet future demand. She questioned whether they should be submitting a revised plan. She stated that this is one of the reasons specified in the regulations for submitting a revised plan prior to the five year update. She stated that she did not wish to heap more onto a system that is struggling to meet their supply needs, but that there appear to be areas that require immediate attention to avoid serious problems. She felt that the Board should evaluate whether there is a need for Greenville to submit a revised plan. Chairman Varin asked whether this was due to growth in the system. Ms. Scott responded yes and recommended that staff review the issue and report back to the board. The Chairman concurred.

(b) Narragansett Water Department—WSSMP 30-Month Interim Report.

Mr. Perry stated that the Committee had reviewed the report and recommended that the interim report be approved subject to submission of education and water reuse documentation. On a motion by Mr. Perry, second by Mr. Stamp, with Mr. Schock abstaining, the Board unanimously approved the Narragansett Water Department WSSMP 30-Month Interim Report subject submission of education and water reuse documentation. On discussion of the motion Ms. Scott stated that she hoped that this would not be just a cursory view of what they are doing, but rather an honest evaluation of whether the steps that they are taking are effective. Chairman Varin stated that they would have to take a look at it in the September meeting to see if it measures up.

(2) Water Supply Systems Management Plan Database Presentation—ESS Group (Enclosure 5)

Ms. McGreavy introduced Jeffrey Hershberger and Peter Thibodeau of ESS Group who presented a report and slide show of the design and development of a user interface for the water supply plan database. Mr. Thibodeau explained that the Water Supply Systems Management Plans (“WSSMP”) framework was developed by the US Geological Survey using a database design compatible with the New England Water Use Data System (“NEWUDS”). The purpose of the project is to develop a menu of queries to collect and organize information contained in WSSMPs, create a user interface to allow easy access to data for users, and generate reports of the data. The tool allows for an improved understanding of water supply systems, future planning and emergency management. ESS populated the database with WSSMP data from the Cumberland Water Department, Narragansett Water Department, and the RI Economic Development Corp. The initial ten queries designed can generate nearly twenty-five different reports, based on the following data:

- Operational status of resources and facilities
- Service connections and populations served
- Monthly production and water withdrawals
- Annual production and water withdrawals
- Summer water use relative to annual water use
- Average daily demand data
- Water demands by water use category
- List of major water users
- Annual non-accounted water volumes
- Projected water needs for 5- and 20-years

After the presentation discussion ensued. Ms. Scott stated that the data forms have been around for a long time. Mr. Perry stated that in reviewing the plans some of the reasons for the discrepancies were that suppliers were not keeping the data in those formats with the goal of collecting it over time. A supplier may not have ten years worth of monthly pumping data in a consistent format. Having the ability to get the data and actually keeping it were two different issues. The goal is for the next round of plans to have better data. Ms. Scott reviewed the procedure and requirements of the program when it had been managed by RIDEM. She agreed with Mr. Perry and stated that the next set of plans should fulfill the reporting requirements noting that they have existed for a long time. Mr. Milano noted that most water utility rates are not on a monthly but rather on a quarterly basis so it doesn't dovetail with monthly reporting requirements. They can report their usage in terms of pumping or how much came into the system but how it went to the various users and what it was used for is a much more difficult thing to do. He questioned whether this could be used as a help to the water suppliers if they provide you more current information to help develop their water plans. The idea ultimately is to have a web based version so that suppliers can log on to the forms to enter the data one time and submit it electronically to the board. Mr. Stamp cautioned about security and the need to research this thoroughly. There was further discussion of the applications of the data including watershed analysis and management and GIS mapping.

B. Finance Committee—Chair William Penn

(1) FY 2005 Revised—FY 2006 Water Resources Board Operating Budget-

Mr. Penn stated that the Committee had reviewed the revised budget submission for this fiscal year and the submission for next fiscal year and recommended approval. On motion by Mr. Penn second by Mr. Schock the board unanimously approved the revised FY 2005 Water Resources Board Operating Budget and the FY 2006 Water Resources Board Operating Budget. On discussion of the motion, Mr. Penn stated that he had two important comments for the record. For the 2005 supplemental budget request, the Board is requesting an addition \$55,000 for this fiscal year to pay for the stream gaging the RIDEM previously funded. They had to cut that out of their budget. Unless the Board gets the \$55,000, the northern gages will no longer be funded a big concern of the Finance Committee and the Board. The second comment is that for the second year-FY 2006- we are one of the few agencies that have a flat line budget. Most large agencies have had to take a 10% cut. A 10% cut in the Board's budget would be devastating so the budget office has allowed a flat line budget. Chairman Varin stated that the stream gaging has been a point of contention for many years. He stated that he did not know why the value is not understood. Mr. Penn stated that the Finance Committee is looking at some alternate financing sources but at this juncture does not have anything definitive.

C. Construction, Engineering and Operations Committee-Chair June Swallow None

D. Property Committee—Chair Frank Perry -None

E. Legislative Committee—Chair Daniel W. Varin

(1) Shannock Water District—Senate Bill S-3203

Chairman Varin stated that some time ago the Board received a report on contamination of wells in Shannock. The bill; which is now law authorizes the creation of a water district. The district cannot go into operation until the Water Resources Board adopts a resolution concurring that there is a need for such a district. Mr. Sams has been in contact with the people who are organizing the district and advising them of various requirements that they must seek including basic requirements such as Health Department approval of the water source. This will come back to the board once progress has been made on all of those requirements.

(2) 2004 Legislation Session—Environmental Legislation and Resolution

Chairman Varin highlighted environmental legislation that passed and is of interest to the board. The first is the \$70M bond issue to be voted on in November which includes \$8M for land acquisition. Mr. Penn asked whether the items are separate or together. Chairman Varin and Mr. Sams affirmed that they are together. The new legislation creates a seven member watershed coordination team to implement recommendations of the Bay initiative. The Governor has appointed former Governor Garrahy as the Chair. The Water Resources Board is represented along with all the other agencies concerned. The Rivers Council transfer has already been discussed by the board. A fourth bill has been introduced year after year and finally passed. It prohibits solid waste facilities in groundwater protection areas delineated by zoning ordinances.

F. Strategic Committee—Chair Daniel W. Varin-None

G. Personnel Committee—Chair Jon Schock

(1) General Manager Position Posting

Chairman Varin stated that the position had been advertised in last Sunday's Providence Journal and that the deadline to apply is six days away, August 16. He stated that the board needs a personnel committee and that he would also like to ask the personnel division to have a staff member meet with the committee to advise on any requirements. Currently the committee consists of Mr. Schock as Chairman and Ms. Swallow as the only other member. The committee needs a third member. Chairman Varin suggested that since Mr. Schock represents the interests of one of the water suppliers and Ms. Swallow the interests of government, the third member should come from one of the three

public members of the board (John Milano, Bill Stamp and Bill Penn). Chairman Varin added that there is no limit to the size if more than one person would like to be on the committee. Mr. Penn and Mr. Stamp volunteered. The committee would consist of four members of the board and one non-voting member of the personnel division.

7. **NEW BUSINESS-** None

8. **OTHER BUSINESS-**None

9. **RECESS OF BOARD FOR BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

With no objection, Chairman Varin recessed the Board for Board Corporate Business at 1:14 pm

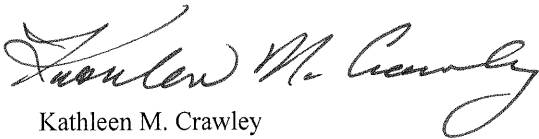
10. **RETURN FROM BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

At 1:34 the Board returned from Board Corporate business.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjourning the meeting Chairman Varin and the Board thanked Mr. Sams for his exemplary performance over the last eleven years and wished him well. On a motion by Mr. Stamp second by Mr. Penn the board unanimously voted to adjourn at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen M. Crawley
Staff Director

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