



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

WATER RESOURCES BOARD
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www.wrb.state.ri.us

PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 7, 2004

Members Present:

Robert Griffith
Frank Perry
June Swallow
William Stamp
Alicia Good

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Kathleen Crawley
William Rivero
Beverly O'Keefe

Guests:

Pasquale DeLise
Stan Knox
Brendan Ennis
Chris Collins
David Lamb

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Griffith noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 12:00 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** With a motion by Mr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Good the minutes of the August 3, 2004 Public Drinking Water Protection Committee meeting were approved subject to making a correction regarding the attendance listing of Ms. Good.

3. **ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

A. **SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLY STUDY PHASE II:**

(1) **Maguire Group Invoice #3 for \$26,850.00 - Request for Approval**

Mr. Griffith described the item. Ms. Crawley reported that staff recommends approval. A motion to approve was called by Mr. Perry and seconded by Ms. Good; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

B. **WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLANS (WSSMP):**

(1) **BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (BCWA) WSSMP - Request for Approval –**

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O'Keefe reported that BCWA submitted their Five-Year Update to the Board on March 5, 2002 and that it was reviewed and returned to BCWA for additional information specific to seven comments submitted by staff and

the Rhode Island Departments of Health and Environmental Management on July 10, 2002. She stated that BCWA responded to comments on March 19, 2004 and it was distributed for review to state agencies. She further related that staff and agency review was completed and recommendations returned to BCWA to address certain deficiencies identified during the staff review on June 11, 2004. She reported that BCWA submitted the second response to review comments on July 26, 2004; a 20-day agency review was requested on this date. Staff and agency review was completed on August 30, 2004. Ms. O'Keefe recommended that the original BCWA plan with two plan amendments be approved subject to two items identified by DEM in the 30-Month Interim Report. Mr. Griffith recognized Mr. Delise, Executive Director of the BCWA. Mr. Delise stated that he would like to see the plan approved and related that he has exhausted his ability to provide any additional information and clarification at this time. A motion to approve was called by Mr. Perry and seconded by Ms. Good; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

(2) UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACILITIES & OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT (URI) - WSSMP – Request for Approval –

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O'Keefe reported that URI's WSSMP 5-Year Update was submitted to the Board on August 20, 2003, that staff and agency comments were returned on February 16, 2004, that URI responded to these comments on July 22, 2004, which were sent out for agency review with comments returned. She stated that URI as an institutional supplier is required to submit a WSSMP and shall endeavor to be consistent and adhere to the spirit and letter of the Rules and Procedures wherever possible. She related that all comments were addressed adequately and recommended approval as submitted. Mr. Griffith recognized Mr. David Lamb of URI. Mr. Lamb stated that it was a great learning experience preparing the plan having joined URI a little over a year. Mr. Griffith asked for information on the demand management program. Mr. Lamb related that a new grant has initiated a worthwhile conservation program, which is already in progress. Ms. Good commented that URI's response letter stated that additional information will be provided to the by September 30, 2004 which will require an additional review. She stated it would be premature to approve the plan at this time. Ms. O'Keefe stated that URI's response letter was adequate. Mr. Lamb stated that he intended to incorporate the letter responses into the plan as he thought this was a requirement. Ms. O'Keefe stated the URI response letter automatically became an addendum to the original plan. Further discussion ensued. Ms. Good stated that the committee should review the content of the additional responses before taking any action. Mr. Lamb offered clarification of his intent to provide additional information. Mr. Stamp made a motion to approve the plan as submitted. Mr. Griffith reviewed the expectations of the September 30th, 2004 submission forthcoming by URI. Mr. Perry seconded the motion. Ms. Swallow suggested tabling the motion. Mr. Griffith suggested further review of responses by URI, RIDEM and staff take place before the Board meeting. He asked that the maker of the motion to revise the motion. A motion to approve subject to additional discussion and review of the response letter by RIDEM, URI and staff was called by Mr. Stamp and seconded by Ms. Perry; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

(3) UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND (UWRI) – WSSMP - Request for Approval –

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe reported that RIWRB approved the UWRI WSSMP on September 9, 2003 subject to addressing four items with submittal due March 9, 2004 but a submittal was not received and a First Notice of Deficiency letter was sent to UWRI on April 28, 2004 after which their response was received on June 7, 2004. Staff and agency review was completed on August 31, 2004. She further reported the review identified five items to be addressed, of which the first four items are the subject to items. She stated that the responses to the subject to were adequate. She stated the fifth discussion item addresses RIDEM’s review comment that UWRI’s Water Quality Protection Plan does not comply with the rules and procedures of the Water Resources Board. Ms. O’Keefe reported that UWRI has responded adequately to the September 9, 2003 letter that detailed the four subject to items. She stated it would be inappropriate to request additional information. She stated RIDEM has a valid point in requesting a more cohesive water quality protection plan. Discussion ensued by the members. Ms. Good contended that original comments by RIDEM did address a deficient water quality protection plan, which may not have been passed on clearly to UWRI. Mr. Griffith stated that as all the agencies have grown over the years in performing their reviews they have all gained insight on certain items and may focus differently on certain items. He asked if Stanley Knox of UWRI had any comments. Mr. Knox introduced Brendan Innis of Pare Engineering who stated that all comments and issues were addressed and will comply with any and all wishes of the Board but would like to see the process move forward at this time. Mr. Knox stated that all of the required information is in the plan and addendum materials. Further discussion ensued regarding clarification of requirements being resolved at the staff level. Mr. Griffith added that if an issue remained unresolved by staff then it should come before the committee as an action item. He stated that at this time he would not like to see further subject to requirements sent back to UWRI. Mr. Griffith called for a motion to approve. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Stamp and seconded by Mr. Perry; the committee approved the motion. Ms. Good voted nay.

(4) CUMBERLAND WATER DEPARTMENT (CWD) – WSSMP 30-MONTH INTERIM REPORT – Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe reported that Cumberland’s 30-Month Interim Report was received on July 30, 2003, but did not address the “subject to” items. A First Notice of Deficiency letter was sent to CWD on December 16, 2003 requesting additional information on the status of the “subject to” items. The CWD responses were received on April 5, 2004 and distributed for agency review. Staff review was completed on August 30, 2004 with review comments received. Ms. O’Keefe stated that the responses were adequate and recommended approval. A motion to approve was called by Ms. Good and seconded by Mr. Stamp; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

(5) JAMESTOWN WATER DEPARTMENT (JWD) – WSSMP 30-MONTH INTERIM REPORT – Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe reported that JWD’s WSSMP was approved November 14, 2000 subject to adequate responses to three items at time of submittal with JWD’s 30-Month Interim Report. She stated that the JWD 30-Month Interim Report was received June 30, 2003, reviewed, and returned to on December 17, 2003 requiring additional information no later than April 17, 2004. The JWD Revised 30-Month Interim report was received on July 8, 2004 and sent out for agency review. Staff and agency review was completed on August 30, 2004. Ms. O’Keefe stated that JWD has submitted an adequate response and complies with the requirements. Staff recommended acceptance of JWD’s 30-Month Interim Report thus signifying JWD’s continued compliance with the WSSMP program. A motion to approve was called by Ms. Swallow and seconded by Mr. Perry; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

4) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM – Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. Crawley reported that we are progressing in translating the results of the water use and availability studies into a consensus planning process for managing the water resources of the state always keeping in mind the vexing and technical question of how much water is actually there. The Team is working on settling on some ranges of numbers to develop a template that allows for a determination, which will lead to good common sense decisions. She stated that the assembling of technical data continues so that local decision makers and other decision makers can actually begin to use it. Monthly meetings continue to keep progress moving forward.

(1) CURRENT WATER USE AND AVAILABILITY/MODELLING STUDIES – Update

Ms. Crawley reported that we are moving along on the studies including the review agencies. She added that correspondence was sent to USGS to ensure that the reports will be published in a timely manner. She reviewed the status schedule with anticipated milestones and reported on a second letter sent to USGS regarding the federal funding needed to finish the Pawcatuck Optimization Project. In the event that the federal funding is not earmarked by September 30, the project will be put on hold and a data report will be produced to allow work to continue in the future to complete the project.

B. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – Update

Ms. O’Keefe reported that precipitation throughout July for Rhode Island was below normal. With the increased rain in August and the expected rain this week should bring precipitation to near normal conditions, thus we are not in a drought.

C. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM – Update

Ms. O’Keefe reported that work continues with water suppliers and agency representatives on requirements and due dates. She stated that all parties are improving in their work, which includes communication. The 5-Year update one year in advance letters will be going out soon. Mr. Griffith suggested that before we send out any letters on these updates, a meeting should take place with all the review agencies to make sure there is nothing that needs attention.

D. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION/ACQUISITION PROGRAM - Update

Mr. Riverso reported that drilling on site RIW 336 is scheduled for September 15th and that the site engineer will be bringing his site proposal before the Town Council relatively soon. The engineer has indicated that he has favorably included the wellhead site area in his drawings. He will contact Ms. Primiano at the appropriate time. He reported that he will be meeting with the Richmond Town Planner who has related that he has further insights for discussion on the program sites. He related to the committee that there is campaign under way for the 2004 Open Space, Recreation, Bay and Watershed Bond, which include \$8 million for this program.

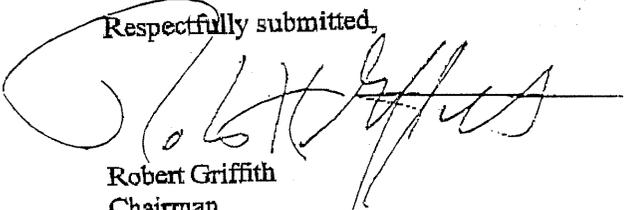
E. RI PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM - Update

Mr. Riverso reported that to date the program has disbursed over \$1.6 million and that recent follow-up phone calls to the water suppliers still indicate that they are exhausting efforts towards land acquisition projects.

5. OTHER BUSINESS: None

6. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Griffith adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert Griffith
Chairman

Note: The complete proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape by request.

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Overseeing Body: RI Water Resources Board
Public Body: RI Water Resources Board

Public Contact Information: Connie McCreavy
Posting Date: October 8, 2004