



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Water Resources Board Corporate
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MINUTES OF BOARD CORPORATE MEETING #282
November 8, 2005

(Meetings of the Board Corporate convene immediately after the Board meetings.)

Members Present:

Daniel W. Varin, Chairman
Robert Griffith
Frank Perry
William Stamp, III
Clay Commons*
Alicia Good*
William Parsons
Jon Schock
Timothy Brown

Members Absent:

William Penn, V. Chairman

*Member designee

Staff Present:

Juan Mariscal
Kathleen Crawley
Brian Riggs
Beverly O'Keefe
Rob Christina
William Rivero
Elaine Maguire
Tracy Shields

Guests:

Pasquale DeLise, BCWA

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chairman Varin called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Schock, seconded by Mr. Perry, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October meeting.

3. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Schock moved approval of the October CFO report with Mr. Brown seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS RESULTING

A. Finance Committee—Mr. William J. Penn

(1) Payment Requests:

- (a) Casale, Caliri & Jaroma, LLP, Request for payment of professional services rendered in preparation of 50 audited financial statements, representation letter and management letter for year ended June 30, 2005 in accordance with GAAS and GASB. Requested payment: \$5,750.00; Recommended payment: \$5,750.00. Request for Approval

Mr. Schock stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed this payment request, and explained that it was before the full Board because it was not a progress payment, but rather a single payment request for the annual Board Corporate audit, and that the Committee had recommended approval. Mr. Schock moved approval with a second from Mr. Brown; this motion carried unanimously.

B. Public Drinking Water Protection Committee—Chair Robert Griffith

(1) RI Public Drinking Water Protection Program - Phase III:

- (a) City of Pawtucket - Land Acquisition Project in the Diamond Hill Reservoir Watershed; Town of Cumberland Plat 57, Lots 2 And 22; Acreage 44 +/- Acres, Request for Eligibility Approval

On a motion from Mr. Griffith with a second from Mr. Stamp, this request for eligibility approval was approved unanimously. Mr. Commons from the Department of Health questioned whether or not Lot 2 had been identified as containing wetlands. The answer was yes and Mr. Stamp added that this lot had been identified as a valued watershed protection area.

- (b) City of Pawtucket - Land Acquisition Project in the Abbott Run Watershed; Town Of Cumberland Plat 23, Lots 6 & 67 Acreage 3.2 +/- Acres, - Request For Eligibility Approval

Mr. Griffith moved approval with a second from Mr. Schock to approve this eligibility request. The motion carried unanimously. It was noted that most of these lots abut the stream.

- (c) City of Pawtucket - Land Acquisition Project in the Diamond Hill Reservoir Watershed; Town of Cumberland Map 37, Lot 827 and Map 40, Lot 16; Acreage 23.5 +/- Acres, - Request for Eligibility Approval

Mr. Griffith made a motion to approve this eligibility request with a second from Mr. Perry. Mr. Griffith noted that at the Committee level there had been some discussion regarding the definition of “passive recreation,” which had been referred back to Lisa Primiano at DEM because she had not been present at that meeting.

- (d) City of Pawtucket – Water Quality Improvement Project – Engineering And Construction Services for A Replacement Well - Request for Eligibility Approval

On a motion by Mr. Griffith, with a second by Mr. Stamp, this request for eligibility was approved unanimously.

- (e) City of Pawtucket – Water Quality Improvement Project – Installation of Water Distribution System Security Hach Monitoring Panels - Request for Eligibility Approval

Mr. Griffith moved approval with a second from Mr. Perry, and with Mr. Stamp opposing, this motion carried.

Mr. Griffith noted that there had been a “lively discussion” at the Committee level regarding this item. He noted that this was a request to secure technology that would enhance response time and ability to locate a defect. Mr. Commons wanted to know what parameters were being measured. Mr. Stamp questioned whether or not this was the best use of this money or if perhaps other agencies were a more appropriate venue to which the supplier could appeal. Chairman Varin added that he would like to know what the regulators thought of the effort. Mr. Griffith acknowledged that since Phase III is winding down, it would be necessary to revisit what is and is not considered eligible under this program going into the next phase.

- (f) City of Woonsocket Public Works – Water Quality Improvement Projects – Vulnerability Assessment Plan; Watershed/Water Supply Security Fencing - Request for Eligibility Approval

On a motion by Mr. Griffith with a second by Mr. Perry, this request for eligibility approval passed unanimously. Mr. Perry noted that this was part of a substantial program to improve security of the watershed by installing guardrails as much of this watershed is closely surrounded by motor vehicle traversable roads.

(g) Bristol County Water Authority - Land Acquisition Project in the Kickemuit Reservoir Watershed; Request For Eligibility Acceptance

With a motion by Mr. Griffith and a second by Mr. Schock, this motion carried with Mr. Commons opposing.

Mr. Commons was not convinced that this particular parcel was within the watershed area. He noted that areas further upstream could be far more detrimental, and acquiring these properties would therefore provide greater protection of the watershed. Mr. Griffith acknowledged the sites upstream might provide more protection of the watershed; however, they might not be available for purchase.

Mr. DeLise advised that the parcel is on the reservoir and a site visit would prove this. He acknowledged that this was not the first lot recommended; however, after being in litigation for 10 years over the Lyle property which the court had ordered returned to the owners, there is not a lot of land available. What remains are strips that cannot be developed; since they are not developable as is, it would not be appropriate to spend money to acquire these strips.

Mr. DeLise continued that most of the water for Bristol County Water Authority comes from Massachusetts, but he considers the Kickemuit Reservoir more important because that is where the water goes. He noted that they cannot negotiate successfully with Massachusetts, but they have tried.

Mr. Stamp noted that the land's being so close to the treatment plant is a plus.

Mr. Commons noted that it's good for a future water use facility. Ms. Good asked if the land must be within the watershed. Chairman Varin noted that it has to protect the quality of the watershed. Mr. DeLise explained that these funds are used only to secure open space. Mr. Varin asked if parcel 19 was owned by the same people, and Mr. DeLise responded yes.

Mr. Stamp asked if it could possibly be used as a water supply in the future. Mr. Mariscal stated yes. Mr. Commons explained that it enhances the holdings, but it does not enhance water quality protection.

Mr. Griffith respectfully added that part of the problem here could be that different individuals and agencies may have differing definitions for the same terms. Mr. Stamp continued that the land was desirable; it would be a good place to put needed future infrastructure.

Chairman Varin's final comment was that this property could be a problem in the future.

5. NEW BUSINESS - None

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Payment request:

- (1) Kent County Water Authority Requisition # 2 – Water Quality Improvement Projects – Coloration Study and Manganese Sequestering Study; -. Requested payment: \$55,685.59; Recommended payment: \$55,685.59. Request for approval

Mr. Schock stated that this was a request for payment of a study which answered the question of whether or not the Kent County Water Authority would be able to sequester manganese. Mr. Schock explained that the two problem contaminants in this region are iron and manganese. These studies determine whether or

not sequestering is a solution. If the study determines that the contaminant is above a certain level, then sequestering is no longer a viable option. Mr. Schock explained that this was not experimental, and Mr. Griffith noted that these studies had been designated as eligible in the past.

Mr. Griffith moved approval with a second by Mr. Stamp, and with both Mr. Brown and Mr. Perry recusing, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Eligibility requests:

- (1) Kent County Water Authority—Water Quality Improvement Projects: Water System Cleaning and Lining Project (Design Phase); Redevelopment and Rehabilitation of a Well Facility (Construction Phase). Request for Eligibility Approval

With a motion by Mr. Griffith and a second by Mr. Schock, and with both Mr. Brown and Mr. Perry recusing, the motion carried unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Schock, seconded by Ms. Good, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Shields
Personnel Aide

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