



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
**Water Resources Board**  
100 North Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING # 457  
March 13, 2007

**Members Present:**

Daniel W. Varin, Chairman  
William Penn  
Robert Griffith\*  
June Swallow\*  
Frank Perry  
William Stamp, III  
William Parsons\*  
Jon Schock  
W. Michael Sullivan

**Staff Present:**

Juan Mariscal, P.E.  
Kathleen Crawley  
Romeo Mendes, P.E.  
Beverly O'Keefe  
William Rivero  
Regina Frisby  
\*Member designee

**Members Absent:**

Ian Morrison

**Guests**

Ken Payne, Senate Policy Advisor  
Alicia Good, RIDEM  
Vasilios Harritos, QDC  
Eugenia Marks, Audubon Society  
Heidi Green, Quonset Development Corporation  
Carissa Richard, Providence Water Supply Board  
Peter LaPage, Providence Water Supply Board  
Paul Gadoury, Providence Water Supply Board  
John Conti, House of Representatives  
John Reiner, North Kingstown Town Planner  
Tim Brown, Kent County Water Authority  
Pasquale Delise, Bristol County Water Authority

**CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Varin called the meeting to order and called for a resolution of the Board to congratulate Romeo Mendes on the Birth of his fifth child, a son which was adopted by unanimous consent. He noted that the draft minutes had been sent electronically and hard copies are now available. He asked members to review them for action.

**Motion** by Mr. Griffith, second by Mr. Schock to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2007 Board Meeting #456 to include discussion points raised by Mr. Sullivan (see below). The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Mr. Sullivan referenced the Chairman's report section of the February minutes. He stated that both he and Ms. Good have on separate occasions tried to reinforce that much of the information discussed in the last meeting and outlined by RIDEM has already been collected. The point that DEM has tried to make is that the data needs to be organized in a format that is useful to all. Much of the requested data does not represent the need to collect new information. He asked that the record reflect that RIDEM is not requesting all new information.

Chairman Varin stated that he would accept that correction and that it is important that Alicia and other DEM staff along with WRB staff get together as soon as possible to determine what is needed. He also stated that WRB cannot spend a lot of time on formatting information with

current staffing and office conditions. Mr. Sullivan stated that if there could be a worthwhile task, if it has not already been done, it would be to prepare a clean inventory and an index of all the studies in Water Resources Board's possession. Chairman Varin said that it is important that Alicia and others from RIDEM and the WRB staff get together as soon as possible to determine what is needed.

## **REPORTS**

The Chief Business Officer Report for February 2007 was distributed at the meeting. Mr. Penn stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed the report. Mr. Penn stated that the budget number for this fiscal year has been changed to reflect the Governor's recommended FY 2007 supplemental budget request, not the budget originally enacted by the legislature which reflects a decrease of roughly \$200,000.

**Motion** by Mr. Penn, second by Mr. Schock to accept the Chief Business Officer Report for February 2007. The vote in favor was unanimous.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The board's budget will be heard by the House Finance Committee on March 27 in the afternoon. Members were invited to attend.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Mariscal stated that he would follow up with Board members on the specific time for the Budget hearing. He emphasized that there are significant staffing issues. Three staff positions remain vacant, though we are working to fill the positions. Elaine Maguire had a compound fracture of her ankle and has had surgery. She is doing fine but is expected to be out at least another eight weeks. Other staff are working to keep up with Big River related activities. Romeo Mendes had a great event occur with the addition of another son last week and will be taking some time off. Will Riverso unfortunately was out of the office for a period of time due to a back injury, though he has returned. Mr. Mariscal noted that he had the flu and was out of the office for four days and that his wife underwent surgery last Friday and is expected to leave the hospital tomorrow. With all of this coming and going of staff it is sometimes difficult to focus on what we are supposed to be doing on a regular basis. On top of all of that we are working with DOA to move to better office space. This will also cause considerable disruption in our operation. We received a letter from Senator Blais and Senator Breene addressing concern about security of ancient documents related to Big River as well as other historic documents and data that may be stored at the Big river Field Office. Fortunately, we have been concerned about that for at least the last six months. Romeo and other members of the staff have been down there removing pertinent documents related to the past and present Big River projects. We have gathered the information and most if not all is secured. Yesterday, three staff members including myself were down there reviewing files and documents that we thought might be better secured or relocated.

Regarding the budget, Mr. Mariscal stated that this is a critical year for our operations. He questioned how this will all dovetail with the joint Senate Committee, which has been meeting and the House Commission which should begin meeting soon.

He mentioned that we continue to have a temporary employee, Ms. Regina Frisby as well as an intern, Mr. Daniel Rubenstein assisting with administrative and GIS functions.

Discussion

Mr. Sullivan asked about the reference to ancient documents in the letter from Senators Blais and Breene and about the Chairman’s reference to a lost index/file. Mr. Mariscal stated that many of the files and documents date back to the seventies. He stated that yesterday he transported three file folder boxes from the field office to the main office. In addition there was a small metal double width index card box. The box was not completely full, but on one side there was a series of index cards that had titles of reports of reports or maps. He unloaded his car from the front of the building placed the materials on the elevator pushed the fifth floor button and drove his car to the parking lot in the rear of the building. He then ran up the stairs, saw that everything was on the elevator and it was on the fifth floor. He then went into the office to get the dolly. He returned to the elevator which had returned to a lower floor. He pushed the button and the elevator returned. Everything was there except the metal box. He ran down the stairs and questioned several construction workers, the parking attendant and posted signs but did not find the metal box. He stated that he did not believe that this was a substantive document but a reference to map folders that we have and that Romeo had removed from the field office. Over the last several months Beverly O’Keefe along with Gina and Dan have been documenting and reorganizing the library. They have produced a listing of all reports that we have including documentation of materials related to Big River. The hope is to get together with RIDEM in the next couple of weeks to review the list.

Mr. Sullivan stated that his concern was that we may have single copy documents vulnerable to loss and not indexed is troubling. Mr. Mariscal stated that we do have an index. He also stated that he has discussed the original plans with Metcalf and Eddy and that they have the studies documented and retains the originals and reproducibles. He stated that staff has been doing the research and assembling the information prior to receiving the letter.

There was a brief discussion and concerns raised about office space and moving the offices.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**Public Drinking Water Protection Committee - Chair Robert Griffith**

**Motion** by Mr. Griffith, second by Mr. Stamp to approve the Kent County Water Authority/Providence Water Supply Board proposed new emergency interconnection as eligible for 50% reimbursement as a two way interconnection and the work related to the butterfly valve as eligible for a 25% reimbursement subject to availability of program funds. Roll call vote:

Voting Members

Daniel W. Varin, Chairman	yes
William Penn	yes
June Swallow	yes
Frank Perry	yes
William Stamp, III	yes
Jon Schock	yes
W. Michael Sullivan	no

Non Voting Members

Robert Griffith  
William Parsons

The motion carried with a vote of 6 to 1 with Mr. Sullivan opposed.

### Discussion

Mr. Paul Gadoury, Providence Water Supply Board and Mr. Tim Brown, Kent County Water Authority presented the facts of the proposed new interconnection. The new interconnection and butterfly valve would accommodate critical needs for inspection and provide a new means of supplying water to Warwick through Kent County in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Mendes reviewed past procedures, noting that when an interconnection was constructed so that it could deliver water either way, it was eligible for 50% reimbursement.

There was considerable discussion about the source of water and whether that had bearing on the eligibility. It was noted that

1. That the source of emergency water moved through the KCWA system would be PWSB (Scituate water).
2. KCWA currently did not have a separate source of water capable of producing and delivering 8 mgd of emergency supply
3. That the interconnection would create a new capacity to move 8mgd in the opposite direction to the benefit of Warwick.

Big River Groundwater Development Project Ad Hoc Committee - Chair Jon Schock  
The committee did not meet.

### **Finance Committee - Chair William Penn**

**Motion** by Mr. Penn second by Mr. Schock to approve final payment of \$1,657.08 to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. for material sampling at the former Amgen parking area. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Motion** by Mr. Penn second by Mr. Schock to approve payment of \$82,000.00 to the RI Association of Insurance Agents, Inc. for the Big River Management Area General Liability Insurance Premium. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**The Property and Construction, Engineering and Operations Committees did not meet. -**

### **Legislative Committee - Chair Daniel W. Varin**

**Motion** by Mr. Sullivan second by Mr. Griffith to send a letter of support for S 0242 which would coordinate the state and federal underground storage tank inspection cycles. The vote in favor was unanimous. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Motion** by Mr. Sullivan, second by Ms. Swallow to send a letter of support for companion bills S 0565 and H 5037 RI Cesspool Act of 2007 with noted revisions to the dates. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Motion** by Ms. Swallow second by Mr. Sullivan to send a letter of support for companion bills S 0376 and H 5578 related to cross connection/backflow control with noted revisions to the dates. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Motion** by Mr. Stamp second by Mr. Perry to support S 0318 in concept with some suggestions (define cistern, clarify/detail tax credit). The vote in favor was unanimous.

The board took no action on S 0628 which expands board member eligibility to hold office and on S 0143 regarding eminent domain.

**The Strategic Committee did not meet.**

**Nominations Committee - Chair William Parsons**

**Motion** by Mr. Parsons second by Mr. Stamp to retain the existing slate of officers - Mr. Varin, Chair, Mr. Penn, Vice Chair and Mr. Mariscal, Secretary-Treasurer. The vote in favor was unanimous.

There was no new business or other business to discuss.

With no objection Chairman Varin recessed the Board for Board Corporate Business at 1:47 pm. At 2:40 pm the Board returned from Board Corporate business.

**Motion** by Mr. Stamp second by Mr. Perry to adjourn. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Crawley  
Staff Director