



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Water Resources Board
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RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING # 459

May 8, 2007

Members Present:

Daniel W. Varin, Chairman
William Penn
Robert Griffith*
June Swallow*
Alicia Good*
William Stamp, III
William Parsons*
Jon Schock
Ian Morrison

Staff Present:

Kathleen Crawley
Romeo Mendes, P.E
William Riverso
Regina Frisby
*Member designee

Members Absent:

Frank Perry

Guests

Ken Payne, Senate Policy Advisor
Tim Brown, Kent County Water Authority
Evan Mathews, Quonset Development Corporation
Heidi Green, Quonset Development Corporation
Harold Ward, Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Assoc.
Susan Licardi, North Kingstown Water Department
Bill Harritos, Quonset Development Corporation
Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District
Brendan Ennis, Pare Engineering
Peter Masterson, Kent County Water Authority

CALL TO ORDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Varin called the meeting to order noting that a quorum was present.

Motion by Ms. Swallow second by Mr. Stamp to approve the minutes from Board Meeting #458, April 10, 2007 with one correction (add the word “not” on page 6). The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Penn, second by Mr. Shock to approve the April 2007 Chief Business Officer’s Report as submitted as reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Varin provided an update to the Board on the activities of the *Special House Commission to Study Water Use and Distribution in Rhode Island*. He and General Manager Mariscal made a presentation to the commission on May 2. A copy of the slide presentation was distributed to members.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Ms. Crawley distributed a number of handouts including two letters from the Water Security Coalition, the presentation on water demand reduction by Amy Vickers, and the CBO and CFO reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Reaffirmation of Motions Approved March 13, 2007 on a Vote of Five to One

Motion by Mr. Morrison second by Ms. Good to reaffirm the motion approved by a vote of five to one in the March 13, 2007 meeting to approve the authorization of \$2.2 Million for the acquisition in question of and

discussed in executive session *vis a vis* the Tuckahoe Turf Farm to include lease provisions as requested by the owner. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Swallow	Yes
Ms. Good	Yes
Mr. Schock	Yes
Mr. Varin	No
Mr. Stamp	Yes
Mr. Penn	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes

Chairman Varin recorded the vote as six to one in favor. The motion carried.
Public Drinking Water Protection Committee - Chair Robert Griffith

Water Supply Systems Management Plans (WSSMP):

Motion by Mr. Griffith second by Mr. Morrison to issue a notice of non-compliance for the Town of Jamestown Water System Supply Management Plan five-year update report as recommended by staff and the Public Drinking water Protection Committee.

Discussion

Mr. Brendan Ennis addressed the Board summarizing timing issues regarding the development of the plan and the issuance of new source water protection guidelines. He questioned the issuance of non compliance versus a notice of first deficiency. Upon further discussion Mr. Griffith withdrew the motion.

Motion by Mr. Penn second by Mr. Stamp to refer the matter of noncompliance or notice of first deficiency for the Town of Jamestown five-year update report back to the Public Drinking Water Protection Committee for further deliberation. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Discussion

It was noted that the Board had taken action and that the time/procedural requirements of the WSSMP program had been met.

Motion by Mr. Griffith second by Mr. Stamp to approve the Town of Narragansett Water System Supply Management Plan five-year update report as recommended by staff and the Public Drinking Water Protection Committee. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Hunt River Interim Management Plan

Motion by Ms. Good, second by Mr. Morrison to receive the interim management plan and urge the parties to continue to work together and to consider the comments raised by the Water Security Coalition and the RI Department of Environmental Management. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Discussion

There was considerable discussion about the interim plan. Mr. Ward addressed the board and reiterated the request by the Water Security Coalition to designate the Hunt River as stressed. The Water Coalition and RIDEM expressed concerns about the lack of coordination of withdrawals within the interim plan. There was discussion as to whether the board was charged with approving the document or whether it constitutes a progress report on an interim report from an ad hoc group formed to work together. There was discussion about the timing of the letter from the Water Security Coalition, received one day ago and distributed during the meeting. Several of the suppliers were not aware of the comments prior to the meeting. Mr. Griffith offered the Public Drinking Water Protection Committee as a forum for further discussion.

New Source Development

Motion by Mr. Griffith second by Mr. Stamp to approve the Kingston Water District well replacement request with the following requirements:

1. Each year beginning with the month of April and ending with the month of October:
 - a. Kingston shall provide verbal notification to the board within 24 hours when emergency withdrawals result in the 1.4 MGD original capacity of wells 1 & 2 being exceeded and shall

submit written notification to the Board for its review and approval in the event long term withdrawals such as may be required during planned water system improvements will also result in the 1.4 MGD threshold being exceeded.

b. Kingston shall report individual daily production figures for wells 1 & 2 once per month

2. As was the case with the drought of 1999, Kingston shall continue to use both USGS and their own river flow monitoring data especially during the months of July, August, September and October to determine how well #1 pumping will be adjusted to minimize impacts on the river.

The motion carried on a vote of six to one with Ms. Good opposed.

Discussion

There was considerable discussion about water allocation and concerns about using the current well redevelopment project to set ad hoc policy. There was recognition of the need to move forward with water allocation. There was discussion of the conditions outlined in the motion and recommended by staff. Ms. Good felt that the conditions should be based on current use with withdrawals not to exceed current use. It was noted that the Public Drinking Water Committee had similar discussions and the motion had carried with Ms. Scott, RIDEM opposed for the same reasons cited by Ms. Good. Mr. Stamp moved the question.

BIG RIVER GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT PROJ. AD HOC COMM - Chair Jon Schock

The committee did not meet.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Chair William Penn

Groundwater Protection/Acquisition Program:

Motion by Mr. Penn second by Mr. Schock to approve the RI Analytical Services Quotation for work related to well site RIW 336 for an amount not to exceed \$2,896.50. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Discussion

Mr. Riverso addressed the board and stated that the estimate/contract had been revised from the figure submitted with the board package and approved by the Finance Committee (\$2,726.50).

Motion by Mr. Penn second by Mr. Schock to approve the RI Analytical Services Quotation for work related to well site RIW 458 for an amount not to exceed \$3,769.75. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Discussion

Mr. Riverso addressed the board and stated that the estimate/contract had been revised from the figure submitted with the board package and approved by the Finance Committee (\$3,514.75).

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Chair Frank Perry

The committee did not meet.

CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMM. - Chair June Swallow

The committee did not meet.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Daniel W. Varin

There were no new bills to review.

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE - Chair Daniel W. Varin

The committee did not meet.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Penn requested a presentation to the Board by the Water Security Coalition and Chairman Varin directed Ms. Crawley to prepare a letter of invitation to the Coalition.

OTHER BUSINESS – Next

Under other business, Committee Chair, with consensus from committee members set the date of the next PDWP meeting for Wednesday, May 30, 2007.

RECESS OF BOARD FOR BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS

Without objection, Chairman Varin recessed the board meeting at 1:13 pm.

RETURN FROM BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS and ADJOURNMENT

At 1:24 upon return to the board meeting and with no other business before the board Mr. Stamp made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Schock. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Crawley
Staff Director