



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Water Resources Board**

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RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD

MEETING #491

Monday, September 21, 2009 @ 12:00 Noon

MINUTES

Members Present

William Penn, Chairman
William Stamp III
June Swallow*
Jon Schock
Ronnie Gibson
Alicia Good*
Kevin Flynn
William Parsons
Allan Klepper
Samuel Kitchell

Members Absent

Jesse Rodrigues
Harold Ward
Pam Marchand

Guests Present

Henry Meyer, KWD

Staff Present

Kenneth Burke, General Manager
Kathleen Crawley, Staff Director
Romeo Mendes, Supervising Engineer
William Rivero, Programming Services Officer
Peter Duhamel, Principal Planner
Emily Cousineau, Implementation Aide

*Member Designees

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Penn called the meeting to order at 12:04p.m., noting that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Flynn, second by Mr. Klepper to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2009 Board Meeting #490. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Penn reported on the staff's progress preparing the FY2011 Budget Report. The State Budget Office continues to send additional instructions in an attempt to fill the \$60 million dollar State deficit. Mr. Penn noted that he would discuss this during the Finance Committee's report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion by Mr. Penn, second by Mr. Shock, to accept the Chief Business Officer's Report for August 2009. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Burke reported that he has met with technical staff at the EPA to discuss their perspectives on water allocation. At the most recent Allocation Committee meeting, members rounded out four

different categories of water use and further worked to define valuable terminology. (See committee report).

According to Mr. Burke, the Big River Well Project is notably short on funding. The staff has worked to identify other program areas from which funds can be reallocated. He plans to work with the State Budget Office to ensure that the project remains functional.

Mr. Burke reported on several public meetings of interest. One will be in the Village of Alton concerning a proposed supply system. He is also scheduled to speak at a meeting of the Atlantic States Rural Water Association.

(12:09p.m. – June Swallow enters.)

UPDATE OF THE BUSINESS PLAN

Motion by Mr. Stamp, second by Ms. Good, to adopt the new business plan as amended. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Discussion:

Mr. Penn asked the Board members to assign priority to each of the 13 items listed on the proposed business plan.

- Big River Well Development Project – high priority, to be listed first.
- Water Allocation – high priority.
- Water Supply System Management Plans – high priority.
- Annual Reporting – high priority. The Board suggested that this item be placed under the heading “Stake Holder Communication”. Stake holders include both the State legislature and members of the general public.
- Emergency Interconnections – medium priority.

(12:12p.m. – Sam Kitchell enters.)

- Statewide Water Planning (State Guide Plan) – medium priority. Mr. Flynn stated that the Statewide Planning Program is working to consolidate sections of the guide and clarify policies on water issues. Mr. Flynn estimated that the project would take two years.

(12:25p.m. – William Parsons exits.)

- Bristol County – medium priority. Mr. Burke explained that the staff provides technical oversight of the program. Board members discussed when Bristol County would be financially independent. The Board has an obligation to upgrade the water treatment plant. Mr. Stamp stated that the legislature should be contacted concerning how the Board is meant to fund this program after the bond expires. Mr. Schock concluded that a reasonable end date should be set for funding.
- South County Well Site Acquisition Program – medium priority.
- Supplemental Water Projects – low priority for the near future.
- USGS Updates and Studies – low priority, to be combined with Water Allocation and removed from the list.
- BRMA Land Use Management Plan – a constant task.
- WRB Program Sustainability – high priority. Mr. Penn requested that this item be placed underneath the heading of “Stakeholder Communication”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Finance Committee

FY 2011 and FY2010 Revised Budget Request

Motion by Mr. Schock, second by Mr. Klepper, to permit Chairman Penn and the General Manager to collaborate on and submit the Budget Proposals in order to comply with the October deadlines set by the State Budget Office. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

Discussion:

Chairman Penn reported that the Big River Well Development Program is under funded, as are other Board programs, including personnel. Mr. Penn explained that monies will need to be reallocated to fund the well program. Mr. Burke has contacted the Budget Office. The Finance Committee also suggested that supplier audits be held off by one year. The Board will continue to solicit State funds; however, these are necessary backup plans.

Allocation Committee

Meeting Notes from September 2, 2009

Mr. Burke updated the Board on committee progress. He explained that the interim allocation program will help to manage water allocation in different systems throughout the State. The plan will eventually be sent out for public comment and become a policy of the Board. The committee has reached a general consensus of the plan's framework.

RECESS OF BOARD FOR BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Stamp, second by Mr. Schock to recess the Board Meeting and start the Board Corporate Meeting at 1:05p.m. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

RETURN FROM BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Schock, second by Mr. Stamp to return from Board Corporate to the Board meeting at 1:09p.m. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

OPEN CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RIGL SECTION 42-46-5(a)(5): Acquisition of Property

Motion by Mr. Schock, second by Ms. Swallow to go into Executive Session in accordance with RIGL Section 42-46-5(a)(5), for a matter related to property acquisition.

Mr. Penn called for the vote. The following roll call vote was taken:

- Mr Schock – yes
- Mr. Stamp – yes
- Mr. Gibson – yes
- Mr. Kitchell – yes
- Mr. Klepper – yes
- Ms. Good – yes
- Mr. Flynn – yes

Ms. Swallow – yes

And Chairman Penn voted yes. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

The Board proceeded into executive session at 1:10 p.m.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Schock, second by Mr. Klepper to adjourn the executive session with no voting matters. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 1:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Stamp, second by Ms. Swallow to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Emily Cousineau
Implementation Aide

DRAFT

The meeting place is accessible to the handicapped in conformance with RIGL 42-46-2. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Board office at tel. 222-1450/TDD 2221454, at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting date. If requested, tapes of the meeting will be made available.