



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Water Resources Board**

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**RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD MEETING #502**  
**Monday, August 16, 2010 @ 1:00 PM**

**Town of West Greenwich Town Hall**

**280 Victory Highway**

**West Greenwich, RI 02817**

**Members Present**

William Penn, Chairman  
Pamela Marchand, Vice-chair  
Michael P. DeFrancesco  
Kevin Flynn (1:09 pm arrival)  
Ronnie Gibson  
Alicia Good\*  
Jon Schock  
June Swallow  
William Parsons\*  
Jesse Rodrigues  
Harold Ward

**Staff Present**

Kenneth J. Burke, General Manager  
Kathleen Crawley, Staff Director  
Romeo Mendes, Supervising Engineer  
Peter Duhamel, Principal Planner  
Emily J. Cousineau, Implementation Aide

\*Member Designees

**Members Absent**

Thomas Boving  
Samuel Kitchell  
Susan Licardi  
William Stamp, III

**Guests Present**

Sandra S. Bockes, West Greenwich resident  
Kevin Breene, West Greenwich Town Admin.  
Sandra Bockes, West Greenwich Conserv. Com.  
Carol Jarbeau  
Paul Kaltschee, West Greenwich resident  
Jo-Ann Lemaire  
Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District  
Gail Murray, West Greenwich resident  
Daniel Novack, West Greenwich Conserv. Com.  
Jessica Pagan, Brown University student  
Peter J. Pallozzi, Providence Water Supply Brd.  
Linda Eklof Read, West Greenwich resident  
Clifton Sundelin, West Greenwich resident  
Kathleen Swann, West Greenwich resident  
Tony Viola  
Michael Walker, RIEDC

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Penn called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm, noting that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Ms. Swallow, second by Mr. Schock, to approve the minutes of Board Meeting # 501, dated July 19, 2010. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Penn requested that time be set aside at the September meeting to review and revise the Business Plan. He asked that staff distribute the current plan electronically to Board members.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Henry Meyer (RIWWA) - Mr. Penn acknowledged two written letters submitted to the Board. The first letter came to the Board from RIWWA through Mr. Henry Meyer. Mr. Meyer addressed the Board, stating that his letter contained comments on the Water Use and Efficiency Regulations. Mr. Penn suggested that comments be submitted directly to staff and perhaps published on the Board's website.

Mr. Kevin Breene (Town Administrator, Town of West Greenwich) - The second letter came from the West Greenwich Town Council through Town Administrator Kevin Breene. The letter concerned the BRMA divestment plan and the tenants whose leases are not being renewed. Mr. Penn invited Mr. Breene to read the letter aloud. After doing so, Mr. Breene added that the Board had supplied said tenants with a list of agencies to assist with relocation; however, the agencies themselves are unfamiliar with the situation in Big River.

(1:09 pm – Mr. Flynn enters)

Mr. Daniel Novack (West Greenwich Conservation Commission) – Mr. Novack stated that a comprehensive land use plan for Big River should be drafted to include uses in addition to water supply. He asked that the Board consider some type of “legal adjustment” allowing the BRMA tenants to remain and somehow removing the Board’s administrative and financial burdens. Mr. Penn invited Mr. Novack to submit a legal alternative, if possible.

Ms. Lynn Read (BRMA tenant) – Ms. Read stated that she is not an original owner, but has lived in the same house since 1955. She stated that her house had been well maintained by her family.

Mr. Tony Viola (resident of West Greenwich) – Mr. Viola voiced support for the statements of the Town Council. Mr. Penn restated that the Board’s actions reflect directives from the Governor’s administration; however the Board will consider alternatives.

Ms. Gail Murray (resident of West Greenwich) – Ms. Murray asked about the status of the well fields in Big River. Mr. Burke responded that the current focus is around Fishhill Road, but that future phases could be located throughout the management area. Mr. Penn added that the Board has been directed to undertake the well project to address regional and statewide water supply needs. Staff expects permitting to be completed by December and the system’s construction is scheduled for 2011-2012.

Ms. Sandra Bockes (West Greenwich Conservation Commission) – Ms. Bockes mentioned that the houses to be demolished could be used for affordable housing in the State. Mr. Penn agreed, though noted that the houses are all currently rented at fair market value. Furthermore, the Board solicited community housing organization about moving the structures. No parties had shown interest.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### Chief Business Officer’s Report

Motion by Mr. Penn, second by Mr. Schock to approve the Chief Business Officer’s Report for July 2010 as revised to reference FY 2011 throughout the report. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

## **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT (Enclosure 3)**

- Mr. Burke reported that staff had rejected a change order request from Weston & Sampson for approximately \$80,000. WRB staff spoke with USGS and delivered a non-Unix based version of the hydraulic model to Weston & Sampson for their use. The contractor is currently manipulating the hydraulic model and may submit a subsequent request for a change order to focus exclusively on additional geologic sampling in the Flat River.

- Mr. Burke reported that the staff had completed a draft scope of work for the Child Street Treatment Plant improvements. Mr. Burke visited the Bristol County Water Authority on August 10<sup>th</sup> and toured the route of the Shad Factory pipeline. Staff will discuss the Shad Factory pipeline permitting process with the supplier's attorney next week.
- Mr. Penn requested that the Board see a monthly status report on the revisions to the WSSMP regulations.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS:**

Allocation Committee - Water Use and Efficiency Update

Mr. Ward reported that the committee met on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>. Both discussions were largely focused on water suppliers. Comments from the Rhode Island Water Works Association and Kent County Water Authority, as well as a staff summary of the comments, were electronically distributed to the Board members on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee proposed a ten-year goal of 65gpd for residential use and to provide suppliers with a list of methods to reach this goal. However, municipal governments have authority to deny a supplier's request to implement certain methods for water efficiency. The committee voted to recommend a statewide, once or twice per week water restriction over sprinkler use, excluding vegetable gardens and drought tolerant landscapes. The restriction would include an education effort to explain the necessity of the decision. Mr. Ward also stated that, to meet the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, the committee would need Board approval of the regulations by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

In response to Mr. Ward's report, the Board discussed the concept of a state-wide water use restriction that did not vary by supplier or region. Several members questioned the ability to enforce a regulation state-wide. Chairman Penn asked each board member if he or she would support a Board policy statement, rather than a regulation, supporting water use restrictions. The Board reached a consensus to draft a lawn watering policy statement.

**RECESS OF BOARD FOR BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Ward, second by Mr. Gibson to recess the Board meeting and begin the Board Corporate meeting at 2:20 pm. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

**RETURN FROM BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Schock, second by Mr. Rodrigues to adjourn the Board Corporate Meeting and return to the Board meeting at 2:22 pm. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Rodrigues, second by Ms. Good to adjourn the Board meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted;



Emily J. Cousineau  
Implementation Aide