



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

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**RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD MEETING #508**

**Monday, January 24, 2010 @ 1:00 PM**

**Quonset Development Corporation**

**95 Cripe Street**

**North Kingston, RI 02852**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Pamela Marchand, Vice-Chair  
Michael DeFrancesco  
Ronnie Gibson  
Alicia Good\*  
Kevin Flynn  
Samuel Kitchell  
Susan Licardi  
Thomas Boving  
Jon Schock  
William Stamp, III  
June Swallow  
Michael Walker\*

**Staff Present**

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

\*Member Designee

**Members Absent**

William Penn, Chairman  
Jesse Rodrigues  
Harold Ward

**Guests Present**

Bev Clay, Operation Clean Government  
Pasquale DeLise, Bristol County Water  
Charles J. Donovan, House Oversight Committee  
Bill Harritos, Quonset Development Corp.  
Nancy Hess, RI Strategic Planning  
Diane Johnson, ASRWWA  
Margaret E. Kane, Operation Clean Government  
Meg Kerr, NBEP  
Eugenia Marks, Audubon Society  
Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District  
Gary Morse, Operation Clean Government  
Jessica Pagan, Brown University  
Marina Perenign, Bristol Citizen

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-chair Marchand called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, noting that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Stamp, second by Ms. Good to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting dated December 20, 2010. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice-chair Marchand acknowledged that presence of Mr. Gary Morse, who made a presentation to the Board on behalf of Operation Clean Government. Mr. Morse reported on findings regarding the East Bay Pipeline, the Bristol County Interconnect, and the Shad Factory Pipeline. The projects are either finished, incomplete, or still in the planning phase, respectively. The original estimated cost of the program was \$8

Million, according to a 1998 study. Mr. Morse asked the Board to consider the original intent of the guiding legislation and to perform an audit of BCWA. He suggested that the Board consider the value of the aging legislation. Mr. Morse added that an analysis is needed to compare the costs of producing water versus buying water from the Scituate. Such an analysis should be part of the Performance Audit; however, the question was omitted in the study. He stated that cleaning the Shad Factory Pipeline's watershed would be excessively expensive. Mr. Stamp noted that the County is putting a strain on an already taxed water source, one which was not intended to feed the east bay area. Mr. Morse replied that a study by consultants Camp Dresser & Mckee had supported a comprehensive cost comparison. Mr. Flynn asked if Mr. Morse had spoken with Bristol County Water Authority. He replied that local town councils have asked for one of the BCWA directors to be present at every meeting and to provide updates. Ms. Swallow stated that Mr. Morse's recommendations would be beneficial from a local perspective, however, did he have any recommendations on how the State would benefit overall. Mr. Morse replied that other sources in the west bay area might be tapped, which would make Bristol's use of the Scituate less impactful. General Manager Burke stated that he would be at Bristol's Open Meeting tomorrow night. Furthermore, the staff had reviewed past Bond expenditures and he would also be meeting with a committee of the BCWA prior to their February Board meeting. Ms. Marchand asked that Mr. Burke provide a summary of the meetings for the next Board meeting. She further stated to Mr. Morse that Bristol's original supply should be seen as a valuable back-up measure.

(1:33 pm – Mr. Michael DeFrancesco enters)

Mr. Morse concluded that OCG believes there is no funding for a treatment plant in Bristol. Without a treatment plant, the original water supply can not be brought back online.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### Chief Business Officer's Report

Motion by Mr. Schock, second by Mr. Walker to approve the Chief Business Officer's Report for December 2010. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Burke highlighted that the fiscal note for the WUEA regulations was under review at the State Budget Office. He further noted that staff had been dedicating time towards mediating with BCWA and Operation Clean Government.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

### Legislative and Policy Committee

Ms. Marchand provided a verbal summary of the meeting. She highlighted that past rules and regulations have focused on piece-meal issues, rather than State-wide planning. She stated that a Strategic Planning Session of the Board should be arranged. Mr. Burke concurred, noting that it is important for the Board to have a joint understanding of its mission, obligations, and role. He added that towns such as Woonsocket and Newport had already begun regional planning efforts.

Ms. Swallow offered a different view of the committee meeting. She did not believe that the Board should focus on plan-integration, but that the Staff should review the water supply studies the Board has already completed. The Board needs to focus on supply, rather than management and business.

Ms. Marchand replied that the committee wanted to look at what the studies concluded in order to better facilitate a statewide plan. Mr. Flynn offered that his department is in the process of collapsing five water plans into one. Many people in the WRB are on the advisory team for that effort. He stated

that the plan looks at different issues, some that only minimally involve water supply. He offered to update the Board regularly and to help identify gaps in overall planning where the Board would be of concern. Ms. Marchand asked if Kevin might provide such an update for the next Board meeting.

Allocation Committee

Mr. Ward was not in attendance.

**RECESS OF BOARD FOR BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Stamp, second by Ms. Swallow to recess the Board meeting and begin the Board Corporate meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried and the Board recessed for Board Corporate at 1:56 pm.

**RETURN FROM BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Stamp, second by Ms. Swallow to adjourn the Board Corporate meeting and reconvene the Board meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried and the Board reconvened at 2:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Walker noted that the Nominating Committee would like to hear from any Board members interested in holding the positions of Chair or Vice-chair. The committee would be meeting with the coming month.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Stamp to adjourn the Board meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Emily J. Cousineau  
Implementation Aide

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.