



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

Foundry Office Building, 3rd Floor, suite 394  
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 222-1450 • FAX: (401) 222-1454

**RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD MEETING #509**

**Monday, February 21, 2011 @ 1:00 PM**

**RI Economic Development Corporation**

**315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101**

**Providence, RI 02908**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

William Penn, Chairman  
Michael DeFrancesco  
Ronnie Gibson  
Alicia Good\*  
Kevin Flynn  
Samuel Kitchell  
William Stamp, III  
June Swallow  
Jesse Rodrigues  
Michael Walker\*  
Harold Ward

**Members Absent**

Pamela Marchand, Vice-Chair  
Thomas Boving  
Susan Licardi  
Jon Schock

**Guests Present**

Charles J. Donovan, House Oversight  
Bill Harritos, Quonset Development Corporation  
Diane Johnson, ASRWWA  
Gary Morse, Operation Clean Government  
Henry Meyer, Kingston Water Authority  
Jessica Pagan, Brown University student

**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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Penn called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, noting that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Stamp, second by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the Board meeting dated January 24, 2011 with amendments. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Flynn noted that page 2 mistakenly mentioned "water plants", rather than "water plans". Ms. Swallow corrected her statements during Public Comment to read that "[Mr. Morse's] recommendations are beneficial from a local perspective; however, did he have any suggestions on how to proceed with a more State-wide perspective". Ms. Swallow also clarified that, during the Legislative

& Policy committee update, when she stated “the Staff should review the studies that have already been completed,” specifically she was referring to the Board’s water supply studies.

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Penn noted that copies of the 2010 Annual Report had been distributed to the Board members. He called attention to the Residential Water Rates study that displayed the wide range for the cost of water between different suppliers. He also noted the report on estimated costs for capital improvements to all water systems. This figure was \$830 Million. Mr. Penn also informed the Board of two upcoming dates in March. The public hearing for the Water Use and Efficiency rules is scheduled for March 15 at 10:00 am. On March 17, the Technical Committee will meet to discuss the Streamflow Depletion Methodology.

### Public Comment

Mr. Gary Morse (Operation Clean Government) – Mr. Morse thanked Mr. Burke and Ms. Marchand for attending the recent Bristol County Water Authority meeting. He stated that, since the meeting, answers given by BCWA had been found contradictory to the findings of OCG. As an example, he noted that the Authority had provided a different answer from the Department of Health in regards mixing water sources. Mr. Morse stated that OGC continues to work towards gathering a full accounting of all expenditures made under the BCWA Bond. He further thanked the Board for their assistance.

(1:07 pm – Mr. Sam Kitchell arrives).

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### Chief Business Officer’s Report

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Rodrigues to approve the Chief Business Officer’s report for January 2011. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

## **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Burke reported that draft permits for the Big River Well Program should be distributed and discussed with Alicia Good and her staff (DEM Water Resources), hopefully prior to the March Board meeting. Regarding Bristol County Water Authority, Mr. Burke stated that he has requested a master plan outlining all the outstanding work and funding required to complete the project. He is working with Bristol’s executive Director to complete that report. Lastly, Mr. Burke noted that he and Mr. Mendes would be attending a meeting of the Woonsocket Water Advisory Board. The meeting will discuss a proposed interconnection between Woonsocket and Pawtucket.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS:**

### Legislative and Policy Committee

#### i. Strategic Planning and amendment of Work Plan

Mr. Burke reported that Nancy Hess, from Statewide Planning, and Richard Ribb, from NBEP, had attended the recent committee meeting. The committee agreed that the Board has an obligation to perform strategic planning for the State’s water resources. Mr. Flynn and Statewide Planning have, to date, made great strides in developing Water Supply Guide Plans as part of an over-all Land Use Plan. Mr. Burke stated that, in concert with Mr. Flynn’s program, the Board needs to help define water availability and methods of supplying water throughout the entire State.

Originally, construction of the Big River Reservoir had been the key part of the Board's Strategic Plan. As that project was never realized, the Board has since focused on "piece-meal" projects. Mr. Ward noted that the Board is under legal instruction to provide cities and towns with water availability information. This will require a strategic planning effort. Mr. Burke agreed that allocation is part of the Board's function. A comprehensive strategic plan could indicate the best direction to pursue regarding such efforts. Mr. Penn added that the Board had completed many studies and that these needed to be reviewed and linked together. That knowledge would provide a "higher-up" perspective to guide strategic decisions in different areas of the State. Mr. Penn further concluded that the Board would need to see more definition to the WSSMP outreach program, as well as a time frame for the next phase of Allocation.

#### **RECESS OF BOARD FOR BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Rodrigues, second by Mr. Stamp 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 1:30 pm.

#### **RETURN FROM BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Rodrigues, 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 1:33 pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Walker called for any further recommendations for nominees to Board positions. He noted that the Nominating Committee would be meeting after the Board adjourned. No further recommendations were made at the time.

Motion by Mr. Rodrigues, second by Mr. Walker to adjourn the Board meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried and the Board adjourned at 1:34 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.