



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
**Water Resources Board**  
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**RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD MEETING #517**  
**Monday, February 17, 2012 @ 9:00 AM**

**RI Department of Administration**  
**One Capital Hill, Providence RI**  
**Conference Room A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Members Present**

Thomas Boving  
Kevin Flynn  
Alicia Good\*  
Pamela Marchand – Vice Chair  
Jesse Rodrigues  
Michael Walker\*  
Harold Ward

**Guests**

Ames Colt, Bays, Rivers and Watersheds  
Coordination Team  
Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District  
George Parmisciano, Pare Corporation  
Dave Powers, Greenville Water District  
Eugenia Marks, Audubon Society  
Gary Morse, Operation Clean Government

**Members Absent**

Michael DeFrancesco  
Ronnie Gibson  
Susan Licardi  
Jon Schock  
William Stamp, III  
June Swallow\*

**Staff Present**

Kenneth J. Burke, P.E., General Manager  
Kathleen Crawley, Staff Director  
Romeo Mendes, Supervising Engineer

**CALL TO ORDER - Pamela Marchand, P.E., Vice Chair**

Ms. Marchand called the meeting to order at 9:11 am and stated that since there was not a quorum of members present, the meeting would be held for informational and discussion purposes only.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Action on the minutes of the December 5, 2011 minutes was deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE FOR BOARD DISCUSSION, CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 5, 2011 STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

Kenneth J. Burke, General Manager reviewed the strategic initiatives, changes in the strategic planning document since the December 5 meeting, and emphasized the responsibility for long range planning. He provided additional detail on the regional and long range options to continue the Board discussion from December 5.

Discussion (Presentation)

Mr. Rodrigues asked whether the estimated costs for the Pawtucket to Bristol County project included interest. The response was no.

There was discussion about the 1915 public law obligation to provide water at 150 GPCD. Mr. Meyer noted that the 150 gallons per capita figure in the public law is predicated on industrial development and includes all water uses. He suggested that before we tweak that 1915 obligation, we should have all our planning in place. Ms. Marchand indicated that the law gives Providence Water the right to restrict use above 150 gallons per capita. There was further discussion about the relationship between allocation and the public law and the obligation to serve areas in the watershed that are not currently served. Mr. Ward suggested that these questions be explored before pursuing changes or repeal of the statute.

Discussion (Public Input)

Mr. Meyer stated that he is concerned about the use of self supply data as a major demand on the resources. He also stated that there is a simple solution that he would like to present to the board in March for United Water, South Kingstown and Kingston Water District. Regarding the Board's programs, he stated that while it is important to keep the long range view, the Board should do the simple things first in order to demonstrate the ability to get things done. Ms. Marchand asked Mr. Meyer to provide a copy of the proposal to her or to Mr. Burke prior to the next meeting. Mr. Flynn added that if Mr. Meyer has specific comments about the document it would be preferable to have those comments prior to the next board meeting when action is anticipated. Mr. Meyer indicated that he would get correspondence out to the board.

Ms. Marks thanked the Division of Planning, the Board and Board staff. She acknowledged the issue of overlapping water supply with the state of Massachusetts and Connecticut and asked that there be references to state and regional planning opportunities. She also asked whether the estimates for desalination options distinguish between brackish and ocean sources. Mr. Burke replied that the estimates recognize and note these distinctions regarding saline content. A final point involved the need to consider impacts.

Mr. Powers, Superintendent of the Greenville Water District requested that their application for funding for an emergency interconnection be placed on the March Board agenda. Ms. Marchand asked Mr. Burke to respond. Mr. Burke stated that there are a few emergency interconnection requests and that they would prepare a staff recommendation which, if acceptable, could be ready for the next Board meeting for consideration.

Mr. Morse stated that as a ratepayer, in relation to the Shad pipeline and the existing treatment facility, the dependence and terms of the agreement with the Anawam Club are critical issues. The 6.9 Million could be allocated and the rest is up to the ratepayers on a deal that may only be a twelve month agreement. Mr. Flynn summarized the complexity of the choices and the timing, noting that any re-obligation of the funds or change in the project was not likely to get on the ballot this legislative session. In addition, more work is required to determine the best option(s). Ms. Marchand asked the Board to postpone a decision on the options until her Board has had an opportunity to fully evaluate them.

Ms. Marchand asked Mr. Burke to review changes in the document since the last Board meeting. He briefly summarized the changes:

- We worked with the Division of Planning to add the goals of Water 2030 and relate them to the programs and mission of the Board.
- Tracked changes that reflect comments from the Statewide Planning Program and the RI Department of Environmental Management.
- An additional notation that summer demands are met by storage in the Northern and Aquidneck regions.

Ms. Marchand asked members to forward any comments on the document to Mr. Burke prior to the next meeting. She stated that the Board should be prepared to take action on the document as a whole or in part at the next meeting.

Mr. Walker asked staff to add the statutory references for the BCWA (Shad pipeline, option 1a and 1b, pp. 28, 29).

Ms. Good thanked Ms. Crawley and Mr. Burke for considering DEM's comments and making quite a few changes based on the comments. She asked staff to add a statement in the document about the process for updating the plan.

#### **DISCUSSION FOR SELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

There are currently two vacancies on the Board and two public members whose terms expire in March. Ms. Marchand asked members to forward any board member recommendations to her prior to the next meeting. In addition, the Board elects officers from its public members in March of each year. Ms. Marchand stated that she would select a nominating committee since there were no volunteers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Members discussed a time for the next meeting and by consensus selected March 16, 2012 at 9 am. There was additional discussion on the importance of the water availability initiative and how the guidance will be provided to communities. Mr. Burke then summarized the status of bond funds and program funds and the status of the Board Corporate. Ms. Marchand acknowledged the need to clarify the responsibilities of the Board Corporate and the Clean Water Finance Agency. The Board adjourned at 11:09 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kenneth Burke, P.E.  
General Manager