



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Water Resources Board

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Rhode Island Water Resources Board Meeting #545

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

RIDOA, Executive Dining Room, (Ground Floor)

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. Attendance

Members Present

Ms. Susan Licardi, Chair	North Kingstown Water Department
Mr. Daniel O'Rourke, Vice Chair	Warwick Water Division
Mr. Parag Agrawal	Associate Director, RI Division of Planning
Ms. Karen Fuerherm	IGT
Ms. Alisa Richardson	Representing Janet Coit, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Pamela Marchand	Bristol County Water Authority
Ms. Eugenia Marks	Public Member
Ms. June Swallow	Representing Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director, Department of Health
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Stefan Pryor, RI Secretary of Commerce

Members Absent

Mr. Marc Petrowicz	Unilock
Mr. Jessie Rodriguez, Jr.	RI Nurseries

Staff Present

Ms. Kathleen Crawley	Acting General Manager
Ms. Catherine Pitassi	RI Statewide Planning Program

Guests Present

Dr. Soni Pradhanang	Assistant Professor, Water Resources & Quality, URI Department of Geosciences
Dr. Thomas Boving	Professor - Environmental Hydrology and Director, Water E2S2 : Engineering, Economics, Science and Society Collaborative
Henry Meyer	Kingston Water District
Anna Lipin	Intern, Governor's Office
Carissa Richard	Providence Water Supply Board
Tina Malott	Duffy & Shanley
James DeCelles	Pawtucket Water Supply Board

II. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

Chair Licardi called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was not initially present. With consensus of the members present, Chair Licardi deferred action on the minutes and proceeded to the Chair remarks.

2. Chair Remarks -

Chair Licardi noted that there are some outstanding items related to the South County Ground Water Protection and Acquisition Program. Chair Licardi stated that she would be contacting

members to put together a sub-committee/working group to establish procedures and criteria for the program and Board approvals.

Ms. Marks asked how we will proceed putting together this committee. Chair Licardi suggested that she send an e-mail to explain the purpose and goals of the effort and look for volunteers. Ms. Marks indicated that she would be interested serving on this committee.

3. Agencies Reports and Updates – *for information*

Mr. Agrawal reported that there are two public hearings scheduled at 2:00 & 6:00 p.m. today concerning the State Water Quality Plan. Ms. Swallow reported that the lead legislation passed. The legislation will require an evaluation of lead in school and daycare drinking water and a report to the Legislature on the baseline levels of lead in community drinking water systems statewide.

4. Approval of March, 2015 Meeting Minutes – *for action*

With the arrival of Ms. Richardson and Mr. Walker, a quorum was present and Chair Licardi asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2016. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction- the spelling of Stefan Pryor's name. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Rourke and approved unanimously.

5. Water Use Data Grant Updates - *for discussion and action*

Chair Licardi introduced Dr. Boving and Dr. Pradhanang with the University of Rhode Island. They presented a detailed plan explaining their findings, data, and recommendations from the RI Water Use Data Work Plan prepared for the WRB. The presentation and discussion included:

- An overview of drinking water data
- Where to best house the data
- Security issues
- Collaboration with other agencies
- Use of existing infrastructure
- The inclusion of a product with public interface
- Costs and maintenance
- Flexibility for future expansion
- The project timeline and progress reporting

Ms. Richardson made a motion to endorse the continued partnership with URI to improve statewide water information with the understanding that the final project and report will meet the following criteria:

- Maximize the use of existing infrastructure
- Include a product with a public interface (a Federal View outside of the DMZ can satisfy this requirement)
- Results in a savings of effort for both the WRB and the Water Suppliers
- Results in the lowest maintenance possible
- Assures buy-in from DOIT

Mr. Walker proposed an amendment to the motion to require that the General Manager and project team provide progress updates at a minimum of every six months to assess progress and allow for any necessary course corrections.

Ms. Richardson concurred, adding the amendment. The amended motion, second by Mr. Walker passed unanimously.

6. Dry Conditions Summary – *for discussion, and/or action & handout*

Ms. Crawley explained in detail the Assessment of Drought Conditions summary report that was distributed. It was produced by the Water Resources Board in Consultation with the National Weather Service and the US Geological Survey. The data indicates that if dry conditions continue through July it could trigger all four criteria for issuing a statewide drought advisory.

Ms. Crawley reported the data required to assess conditions will be available in the first week in August. The Board can decide whether to convene the Drought Steering Committee (DSC) in early August or combine the meeting with the next meeting of the Board. Members discussed the options and felt that waiting until the next Board meeting on August 19 was too long a delay given current conditions and the time of year. A meeting the first week of August as soon as the data is available, is warranted.

Ms. Swallow made a motion to convene the Drought Steering Committee the first week in August and to move forward with conservation messaging prior to the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8. Adjourn

Chair Licardi called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. O'Rourke, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Catherine Pitassi

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Licardi
Chair