



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Water Resources Board

One Capitol Hill, Third Floor

Providence, RI 02908

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**Rhode Island Water Resources Board Meeting #545
MINUTES**

Friday January 20, 2017

Second Floor Conference Room B

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. Alicia Good	Representing Janet Coit, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Pamela Marchand	Bristol County Water Authority
Ms. Eugenia Marks	Public Member
Mr. Marc Petrowicz	Unilock
Mr. Jesse Rodrigues, Jr.	RI Nurseries
Ms. June Swallow	Representing Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director, Department of Health
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Stefan Pryor, RI Secretary of Commerce

Staff Present

Ms. Kathleen Crawley	Acting General Manager
Mr. Tyler Phillips	Intern

Guests Present

Carissa Richard, Providence Water Supply Board
Brandon Blanchard, Pare Corporation
Tim Faulkner, EcoRI
Charles Walsh, Town of North Smithfield
Pete Ogle, Town of Charlestown
Matt Dowling, Town of Charlestown

II. Agenda Items

Call to Order

Chair Licardi called the meeting to order at 9:06 am noting that a quorum was present.

Chair Remarks

Ms. Licardi noted that all members of the Board were present. Currently the Board has eleven filled positions and four vacancies. She updated the board on the water use data initiative, noting that the competitive grant application for USGS funds was not selected. Staff and URI intend respond to feedback and apply in a future round. She also described efforts to date and plans to move forward with the South County Groundwater acquisition and protection program. She stated that the goals are to develop an application procedure, identify any projects that are still active from the 2009 process (approved by the board and the State Properties Committee), and bring the information to the Board for action. She also stated that she would like to move forward with a sub group to develop board policies and procedures.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. O'Rourke the minutes of July 13, 2016 and September 22, 2016 (no quorum) were unanimously approved with two corrections (the change of company name from GTECH to IGT for member Fuerherm and a correction to the meeting numbers).

Approval of 2017 Meeting Dates

On a Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Good, the 2017 meeting dates were unanimously approved.

Town of Johnston Water Department- Request to Reimburse the State

Motion by Ms. Swallow, second by Ms. Marks to accept the Department of Administration written legal opinion of January 4, 2017 as the position of the Board. All in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Mr. O'Rourke, second by Ms. Swallow to forward the legal position with a cover letter from the Board. All in favor, the motion carried.

Discussion: Members discussed the letter. Regarding repayment, the state's "share" of the past water facilities project cannot be separated into discreet separable items and repaid ("fungible and not divisible"). Regarding the sale to a private entity, the law requires the Board to block and oppose the sale of the district to a private entity.

Endorsement of the East Smithfield Water District Merger with Providence

Motion by Ms. Good, second by Mr. O'Rourke to accept the letter from the Chair with the understanding that it is the Board's position based upon legal input that these mergers fall under the authority of the Board. Ms. Swallow and Mr. Walker abstained. Remaining members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Discussion: Due to questions raised during discussion, the Chair stated that she would seek further legal clarification.

Water Supply System Management Plans

Motion by Ms. Marchand, second by Mr. O'Rourke to approve the Smithfield Water Supply System Management Plan. All in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Marks, second by Mr. O'Rourke to approve the East Providence Water Supply System Management Plan. Ms. Marchand abstained. Remaining members voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Ms. Crawley stated that the Town of Cumberland Water Supply System Management Plan is under staff review and will move forward to the Technical Committee and the Board.

Bristol County Water Authority-Request for Board Approval for Interconnection with Swansea

Ms. Marchand introduced the proposed Swansea emergency interconnection project. This project requires approval by the board because it is an interstate transfer of water. It is a hydrant to hydrant connection. The agenda item is for introduction/information and future board action.

Drought Update

Ms. Crawley provided a written update on drought conditions, noting that the state is still in a Drought Advisory and that conditions have not improved or deteriorated to the extent that the level would change. Members discussed the need for proactive measures, not just the tracking of statistics. Securing new sources of water is important. Water is not equally available...there are shortages. The

impacts of this recent drought, with some businesses running out of water, should serve to elevate the conversation. Members recommended developing a white paper.

Agency Reports and Updates

Ms. Swallow provided an update on the lead sampling in schools.

Public Comment

Mr. Ogle addressed the board regarding the Town of Charlestown's interest in getting involved to plan for water. They are interested in addressing nitrate issues and securing new sources.

Adjourn

Chair Licardi called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Swallow, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SLicardi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susan Licardi
Chair