



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
**Water Resources Board**  
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**Rhode Island Water Resources Board Meeting #548**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

Friday, March 17, 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. Eugenia Marks	Public Member
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

Members Absent

Ms. Pamela Marchand	Bristol County Water Authority
Mr. Marc Petrowicz	Unilock

Staff Present

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

Guests Present

Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District, President RI Water Works  
Bob Bozikowski, Manager of Water System Utilities Administration, University of Rhode Island

**II. Agenda Items**

Call to Order

Chair Licardi called the meeting to order at 9:07 am noting that a quorum was present.

Chair Remarks

Chair Licardi reported that she had not received a written response from legal regarding the East Smithfield merger and the board's authorities as discussed in the January meeting. She stated that there is a new competitive grant round for water use data with applications due in April and noted that URI is considering developing a grant request with partners (WRB, DOH, DEM). There is some positive news. The Supervising Civil Engineer position has been posted with applications due April 6 and there is movement to fill current vacancies on the Board.

Approval of Minutes, Meeting #547, January 20, 2017

Ms. Marks made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Rodrigues noted that there were two corrections needed—Ms. Good attended the meeting rather than Ms. Richardson and a spelling correction for Mr.

Rodrigues. Mr. O'Rourke made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections, second by Mr. Rodrigues. Mr. Nelson abstained and remaining members voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

#### Agency Reports and Updates

Mr Walker gave an overview of positive trends related to Hospitality and Tourism, the addition of Norwegian Airlines, 10% growth at TF Green, six new hotels and 2 additional prospects and overseas promotion of Rhode Island.

Ms. Good updated the Board on the wetlands work that is underway internally as the agency prepares for the public process and work related to the resiliency bond funds.

Ms. Swallow stated that she had recently attended a national meeting for the Association of Drinking Water Administrators. Efforts are underway to educate congress on the importance of and the need for support of the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds and state funding to protect public health. The school lead sampling is underway with results to be posted next week to the agency website.

#### Technical Committee Updates

The Technical Committee met February 17 in lieu of a Board meeting and held active discussion on three topics:

- a. South County Groundwater Protection and Acquisition Program.
  - The Committee is working to revise the application and ranking criteria and plans another meeting at the end of March to finalize the application and ranking process.
  - Representatives from Charlestown and URI were in attendance.
  - The committee summarized the following general program priorities to be reflected in the application and ranking criteria:
    - System capacity issues/need
    - Protection of water quality
    - Protection of water quantity
    - Planning and growth considerations
    - Compliance (applicants do not have compliance issues with RIDEM, RIDOH or WRB)
    - Imminent threats to water supply
    - Readiness of the Project
    - Proximity to the wellhead/point source

There was considerable discussion on the ranking priorities with the following consensus recommendations:

- Incorporate stream impacts (Stream Depletion Methodology) into the new source assessment to ensure that new sources are environmentally viable.
- Factor economics into the criteria-the potential cost to develop a new site and cost/benefit of groundwater protection.
- Collect clear justification statements as to the purpose and need for the project.

- b. Bristol County Water Authority Request for Board Approval for interconnection with Swansea.

Chair Licardi reported that the Committee recommends approval with conditions (reporting, maximum flow value, copy of the agreement). She noted that the matter will come back to the Board for action once the agreement is received by BCWA. Ms. Swallow added that she would verify that BCWA is working with the Department of Health.

- c. Wolf Rock site (WRB owned). Chair Licardi reported that the Committee discussed the University of Rhode Island's interest in the Wolf Rock site. Bob Bozikowski from URI attended the committee meeting and made a presentation. The system is interested in pursuing an agreement with the Board to either lease or acquire the site from WRB-three year timeframe. The site would offer a back-up source upstream from and in a more protected area than the existing sources. The Committee also discussed the Chipuxet watershed and issues related to water availability in the summer. The next steps for the Committee are to continue information gathering (property deed, dimensions, etc.).

There was considerable discussion amongst the Board members and guests about the yield (high yielding site), protective radius, proximity to URI, site characteristics (low lying site), and the need. Members also stressed the need to develop structure for WRB programs (policies and procedures). Ms. Marks summarized the role of the Board for coordinating all water resources of the state and in this case to assure a well-coordinated project that considers the resources and other suppliers. The Committee will continue to work with URI and others.

#### Rivers Council Designee

On a motion by Mr. Nelson, second by Ms. Swallow members voted unanimously to endorse the designation of Eugenia Marks to represent the Board on the Rivers Council. Ms. Marks stated that she is honored to take on the role, has been attending Rivers Councils meetings. She reported the activities of the Board at the most recent Rivers Council meeting. Chair Licardi thanked Ms. Marks and stated that she looks forward to adding the report to future Board agendas.

#### Legislation

Chair Licardi stated that the Board has a need to clarify its process for communication on legislation and will seek feedback from members and the administration. She noted several bills of interest which would be sent to members for information (H5610, H5484, H5638 and H5870, H5868 and S0163).

#### Drought update -

Ms. Crawley provided a summary noting that the state remains in a Drought Advisory and that conditions have not improved or deteriorated to the extent that the drought level would change. She noted that she was working with the US Geological Survey and the National Weather Service to update materials which will be posted to the website. Members discussed the idea of a white paper to showcase the impacts on RI and convening the Drought Steering Committee before summer.

#### Public Comment

Mr. Nelson stated that he is currently the Chair of the Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission. The Commission includes water resource protection as one of the criteria in scoring

farms for the acquisition of development rights. The Commission would like to update its scoring to reflect the most recent science and current conditions, and therefore, would like to reach out to the Board for input.

Adjournment

Chair Licardi called for a motion to adjourn. The motion by Mr. Rodrigues, second by Ms. Good, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Licardi  
Chair

DRAFT