

RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD - MEETING #549  
MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, August 18, 2017  
9:00 AM

RI Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill, Providence RI  
Conference Room A, 2nd Floor

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, RIDOA Planning
Ms. Karen Fuerherm	IGT
Ms. Alicia Good, P.E.	Representing Janet Coit, Director, RI Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Eugenia Marks	Public Member
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Stefan Pryor, RI Secretary of Commerce
Ms. Pamela Marchand	Bristol County Water
Mr. Clay Commons	Representing Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director, RI Department of Health

Members Absent

Mr. Jesse Rodrigues, Jr.	RI Nurseries
Mr. Marc Petrowicz	Unilock

WRB Staff Present

Kathleen Crawley, Acting General Manager  
Robert Bailey, P.E., Supervising Civil Engineer

**AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order**

Chairperson Licardi called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 AM, noting that a quorum was present.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: Chair Remarks**

Chair Licardi introduced new staff member Robert Bailey, P.E. as the Supervising Civil Engineer for the Water Resources Board. She reviewed several items under review by WRB staff including the BCWA/Swansea interconnection, the Pawtucket/Attleboro interconnection and

water agreement, the Lincoln water extension for Anchor Subaru, WSSMPs for Suez and Jamestown, and the expectation of Providence Water Supply Board's submission in September.

### **AGENDA ITEM #3 Approval of Minutes**

WRB Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2017 were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Marks. The motion passed unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: Greenville/Smithfield Emergency Interconnection final payment**

David Powers of the Greenville Water District and his consultant Pare Engineering presented a slide show of the construction activities for the interconnection of Greenville and Smithfield water districts. There was a discussion of the final payment now that the project is complete. Of the \$3.3M project sources were: \$1.0M from the Clean Water Finance Agency, \$1.3M from the Water Resources Board and \$1.0M from the rate payers

There were several questions:

Q. Ms. Marks asked if there was any funding remaining after this final payment.

A. Ms. Crawley stated that there are funds remaining to finish the Woonsocket/Cumberland project but not much after that- not enough to fund waitlist projects.

Q. Is there a Smithfield Water Board?

A. Mr. Powers stated that the Smithfield Town Council acts as the water board.

Q. The rate payers of Greenville Water District paid for the interconnection. If merged, will the costs/debt be split by the 2 groups of rate payers?

A. Mr. Powers stated that this is being reviewed in a joint study commissioned by the two systems. He referenced a similar effort in the recent merger of the East Smithfield and Providence systems noting that customers were paying different rates to cover system costs.

Q. There was a question as to the length, size, and type of new water main pipe.

A. Mr. Powers explained that 3100 ft. of 12" PVC was installed to connect the two systems. 1100 ft. of 12" PVC was installed on the access road to the tank. The 5200' of Ductile Iron pipe that is in between the two was acquired from the Town of Smithfield by the Greenville Water District.

Ms. Crawley reviewed the memo submitted to the board noting that the total reimbursements came in under budget at \$1,256,008.39 and that the final payment amount is \$69,286.51.

Motion to approve the final payment was made by Mr. O'Rourke and Ms. Marks, seconded by Mr. Walker and Ms. Good. The motion passed unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM #5 Board short term priorities – Senate Study Commission, Rule Consolidations and Program Priorities**

Chair Licardi introduced the agenda item 5. Since there is a study commission and given issues with the quorum, she wanted to have a board discussion about priorities for the short term. How will the Board interact with and provide support to the study commission that has been formed to study the water resources board and water supply in Rhode Island. Chair Licardi

stated that she felt it would be good for the board to correspond with the Commission, although it hasn't been formed yet, and let them know that we are available to help them in their work. There is a lot of history and expertise on the Board, a lot of work that has been done over the years including a strategic plan. That information needs to be in the forefront. Water resources and water infrastructure- both managing the resources and water supply and its availability- needs to be a priority for the state.

Discussion points included:

- The Board has a positive story to tell- a long history of collaboration and successes which should be communicated
- There is a need to make connections and educate- there is a general lack of understanding and knowledge in this area.
- There is no other agency but the WRB looking at coordinating the natural resources and water supply availability or infrastructure. This is the piece that needs to be understood.
- The board has completed various studies that provide a basis for moving forward with water resources management.
- While the water suppliers are doing an excellent job managing individual systems, there needs to be a higher level, comprehensive effort to assess and resolve water supply issues on a statewide level.
- Reliability-systems are getting old
- There is a need for an overall water supply strategy for the state
- The issue of public benefit and the need for a statewide comprehensive view for allocating and wheeling water
- The need to match water needs to availability on a statewide basis, address vulnerabilities of smaller supplies, infrastructure, climate change, etc.
- The need to address economic development-where it is likely to occur and a plan for water to support it
- The Board's capacity for collaboration and planning
- The Board's structure provides a forum for discussion of important issues and the opportunity to equitably resolve political issues

There was consensus that the Chair and staff should prepare an educational handout on behalf of the Board that provides a brief history, a path forward and is simple.

There was a brief discussion about the next meeting towards the goal of achieving a quorum. Members agreed to September 29 for the next meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #6 2017 Legislative Review**

A legislative summary was distributed. The commission was already discussed. There was no further discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM #7 Agency Reports and Updates**

Mr. Commons explained that Providence Water exceeded limits on lead levels by one part per billion. They are proactive and are working to fix this. Sample analysis frequency is six months. He also updated the Board on new staff, including a chemical engineer and an environmental scientist.

Ms. Good updated the board on the Freshwater Wetland regulations and storm water and flood resiliency bond program.

Mr. Walker discussed Frontier Airlines and the innovation voucher program successes.

**AGENDA ITEM #8 Adjournment**

Chair Licardi called for a motion to adjourn. The motion by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Commons, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:47.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Licardi  
Chair