



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Water Resources Board**

Division of Planning
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RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD - MEETING #552

MINUTES

Thursday, December 14, 2017

1:00 PM

RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers,
Hearing Room B, 2nd Floor
89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI

Attendance

Members Present

Ms. Susan Licardi – Chair	North Kingstown Water Department
Mr. Daniel O’Rourke, Vice Chair	Warwick Water Division
Mr. Parag Agrawal	RIDOA Planning
Ms. Karen Fuerherm	IGT
Ms. Elizabeth Scott	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
Ms. June Swallow,	Representing Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director, RI Department of Health
Mr. Jesse Rodrigues	RI Nurseries

Members Absent

Mr. Marc Petrowicz	Unilock
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WRB Staff Present

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

Others present

Macky McCleary	Administrator of RI Div. of Pub. Utilities and Carriers
Jonathan Schrag	Deputy Administrator RI DPUC
Meg Kerr	Audubon
Henry Meyer	Kingston Water District
Leanne Peckham	Kingston Water District
Jim DeCelles	Pawtucket Water Supply
Gregg Giasson	Providence Water Supply

Call to Order

Chair Licardi called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Chair Remarks

Chair Licardi deferred remarks and proceeded with introductions.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Licardi called for approval of the Water Resources Board Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2017. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Vice Chair O'Rourke. The approval was unanimous.

2018 Annual Meeting Calendar

Mr. Walker suggested that the 2018 meetings of the Water Resources Board be held at the RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. Administrator McCleary was agreeable to this and asked his staff to see if there were any existing schedule conflicts. The agenda item vote was postponed pending verification of room availability.

Move to Division of Public Utilities and Carriers:

Presentation by Administrator McCleary

Chair Licardi introduced Administrator McCleary to the Board. Administrator McCleary spoke about his employment history and highlighted relevant experience in the utilities/water fields. He then made a Power Point presentation about the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers describing the difference between the Commission (PUC) and the Division (DPUC), regulatory responsibilities, the need for comprehensive water planning and policy, and a commitment to the long term. He discussed division policy goals and special project areas such as Energy, Social Justice/Public Health, Innovation, Bandwidth, and Mobility.

Discussion

Discussion points are summarized below:

- The intent is to coordinate with the Senate Study Commission and engage stakeholders including the Board. The parallel conversation that will be happening with the Senate Commission creates the ability to draw on a wide group of stakeholders to help define the future.
- The intent is to expand staff and resources available to fulfill the missions assigned to the Water Resources Board. The current phase is a hypothesis, where certain staffing and funding are proposed in the budget to manage existing responsibilities. Ultimately, the goal is to draw on the community to fully design the end state.

- A top priority is the creation of a statewide comprehensive long-term Water Plan, to include an ongoing, legislatively mandated planning process with stakeholder input.
- WRB has broad coordinating, policy and regulatory responsibilities that consider statewide benefit and view water as a public good. These include regulatory and enforcement authorities to bring water from areas that are water rich to those that are deficient. Some highlights of how the move could further those missions include:
 - The DPUC has an adjudicatory role, offering an impartial process where decisions are made based on the facts, existing regulations and the law to resolve disputes.
 - The Administrator of the DPUC serves a fixed 6-year term -this adds stability/continuity and reduces political influences.
 - Creating a legislative mandate for a comprehensive long-term water plan (50-100-150 years) lays the groundwork for how to prioritize and invest in connecting water systems.
- An area of concern statewide is the lack of/lapse of water supply contracts between water suppliers and wholesalers. There may be future opportunities to expand financial planning and oversight.
- There was discussion about whether the Board's policy responsibilities were consistent with the DPUC's responsibilities, which are viewed more as regulatory for water. While this represents an expanded role over the existing for water, the policy responsibilities already exist and are active in other areas, notably electricity. In addition, the creation of the Deputy Administrator for Policy institutionalizes the role.

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Calendar

Administrator McCleary verified the availability of the room for the 2018 WRB meetings. Mr. Rodrigues made a motion, second by Mr. Walker to approve the meeting dates presented to be held at the DPUC, Hearing Room B. The approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM #6 Agency Reports and Updates

Ms. Swallow gave an update on Department of Health matters:

- The Providence Water Supply Board is launching a new pilot program to add orthophosphate to improve corrosion control and minimize lead in the drinking water. They are also starting a lead service line loan program.
- Regulation revisions continue.
- The Office of Drinking Water Quality is analyzing results for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Oakland Association, Inc. did not meet the standard and the Infrastructure Bank is financing a connection to the Harrisville system.

Mr. Agrawal gave a DOA-Planning update:

- The State Planning Council approved the \$6.5B Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the next three years. 88% of this funding is for RIDOT projects and the remaining 12% is for RIPTA.

Mr. Walker gave a Commerce RI update:

- Infosys is relocating to Rhode Island
- Governor Raimondo emphasized the importance of computer skills when companies are hiring. A goal of the administration is to build an intellectual infrastructure.

Ms. Scott gave an update on RIDEM issues:

- The water quality assessment/impaired waters report is due the week of December 18, 2017. She said that there was a workshop scheduled for January 11, 2018.

AGENDA ITEM #7 Adjournment

Chair Licardi called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Walker made the motion, second by Mr. Rodrigues. The meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Susan Licardi
Chair