



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

Justice William E. Powers Building, Third Floor  
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Providence, RI 02908  
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**CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
September 5, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Pamela Marchand  
Robert Griffith

**Members Absent:**

Frank Perry  
June Swallow  
Ian Morrison

**Staff Present:**

Romeo Mendes  
Juan Mariscal

**Guests**

John Faile  
Pasquale Delise  
Domenic Soignoli  
John Paul Verducci

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Marchand called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM noting that there was not a quorum present therefore there would be no action taken on agenda items and all discussion would be for the purpose of making recommendations to the full board.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Due to the lack of a quorum no action could be taken on either the March 13, 2006 or the May 1, 2006 Minutes

**III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

**Interconnection Program Project Eligibility Determination - New Lincoln/Pawtucket Interconnection.**

Discussion: Mr. Mendes introduced the item noting that upon review of the Commission's initial submittal and completion of a visit to the proposed pump station location, the project was eligible for 50% reimbursement. Ms. Marchand questioned who would own the station as it will be sited on City of Pawtucket property. Mr. Faile replied that it was the Commission's intent to maintain the station and eventually take ownership of it. These details will have to be worked out both during and after construction. Mr. Mariscal relayed that at this point all that was necessary was to make a decision regarding eligibility and it was not really necessary to address details such as ownership until a request for payment was submitted. Mr. Griffith added that he was in favor of issuing an advisory to the Board to proceed with staff's recommendation. Ms. Marchand agreed.

**Bristol County Water Supply - BCWA Water System Improvements RFQ/P**

Discussion: Mr. Mariscal explained some of the history dealing with the State's financial responsibility toward the BCWA. The WRB enabling legislation defines obligations with respect to development and financing of the Bristol County Systems. Specifically there are three major

projects, the East Bay Pipeline/emergency connection with East Providence, the upgrading of the Child Street treatment plant and the Shad Factory Pipeline. The BCWA and the State of Rhode

Island formed a partnership of sorts to protect certain interests. Bristol's interest was simply to construct a pipeline to bring drinking water from Scituate to Bristol County. The State's interest was that it did not want the BCWA to abandon its treatment facility or the rights it had to its sources of water in Massachusetts. The resolution which came in the form of legislation that was enacted was that the State would provide a certain amount of funding to complete all three projects. The East Bay pipeline is finished and the State has provided the funds called for in the legislation. The State has provided funding for necessary repairs on the existing Shad Factory Pipeline and recently put a 5 million dollar bond in place to partially fund design and construction of a new pipeline.

With regard to the treatment facility, the State funded phase one improvements per the recommendations of an engineering study some years ago to bring the facility into compliance with the safe drinking water act. At present although the facility can meet these regulations, it cannot do so at its design rate of flow. BCWA has requested permission to engage the services of a consultant to evaluate current regulations and determine what modifications are required to meet such at the facility's design capacity. The WRB is not sure that performing such an evaluation totally addresses the facility's shortcomings. Therefore they would propose to put an RFQ/P out for independent consultant services to evaluate the plant in a more comprehensive fashion. Along those lines meetings were held with the BCWA to discuss forming a partnership to craft an RFQ/P and eventually select a consultant to perform the evaluation. If the WRB has the responsibility for the required treatment plant upgrades it should insure that any evaluation that is done is as thorough and comprehensive as possible. The greatest interest here is to reduce dependency on the Scituate Reservoir therefore staff would recommend that the WRB partner with the BCWA to issue an RFQ/P for consultant services to evaluate current design parameters, operational issues and future needs for the purpose of initiating upgrades to the facility in order for operation in compliance with safe drinking water act M-DBPR standards at full design capacity to be possible. Mr. Griffith wanted verification that the total amount remaining from the 1986 Bond issue available for the study and implementation of recommendations was 2.2 million dollars. Mr. Mariscal responded that the 2.2 million dollar figure was correct and that it appeared the funds could be used for any work required at the treatment facility. Ms. Marchand asked whether the BCWA was required to partially fund these improvements. Mr. Delise answered yes. For example during the phase one treatment facility modifications the WRB funded 1.2 million in improvements that were determined to directly impact the plant's ability to produce drinking water in compliance with established standards, the BCWA funded \$800,000 of improvements that were determined to indirectly impact the plant's ability to produce water. The present proposal would be handled in much the same way. Ms. Marchand requested clarification regarding the focus of the phase 1 improvements, specifically the consultant's design work and what, if any, liability they might have now. Mr. Delise responded that the focus of the design was to address turbidity standards and that in his opinion this was done and the facility was able to operate in compliance. The existing problem that led to production being reduced involves the control of chlorites that are formed during the treatment process. This is one area that needs to be explored in the requested evaluation. In response to Mr. Griffith's query regarding the availability of a draft RFQ/P for review, Mr. Mariscal relayed that the staff engineer would be being working on such with the BCWA upon approval by the board. Mr. Griffith indicated that he was in favor of issuing an advisory to the Board to proceed with staff's recommendation. Ms. Marchand agreed.

**IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Romeo N. Mendes, P.E.  
Supervising Civil Engineer

*\*Note: The full proceeding of this meeting is available on audiotape by request.*

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