



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Water Resources Board  
Justice William E. Powers Building, Third Floor  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 574-8400 ♦ FAX: (401) 574-8401

**CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 15, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Pamela Marchand  
Robert Griffith  
Frank Perry  
June Swallow

**Members Absent:**

Ian Morrison (at Finance Committee meeting)

**Staff Present:**

Romeo Mendes  
Juan Mariscal

**Guests**

Pasquale Delise

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Marchand called the meeting to order at 11:18 AM noting that there was a quorum present.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Griffith with a second by Mr. Perry, the March 13, 2006, May 1, 2006 and September 5, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

**Interconnection Program – KCWA Reimbursement Request.**

**Background::** Ms. Marchand recused herself from the discussion and action on this item.

Mr. Mendes introduced the item explaining that a request for reimbursement had been received from the Authority on December 10, 2007. The request listed five (5) invoices totaling \$3,339,640.22 but upon review of the material it was discovered that a sixth invoice had been included. The total of the invoices was actually \$3,987,178.24 and after reviewing all required documentation all costs making up the total were found to be eligible for reimbursement under the program therefore it would be staff's recommendation to reimburse 50% of the total or \$1,993,589.12.

**Discussion:** Mr. Griffith indicated that the original request from the Kent County Water Authority should reflect the correct total invoice amount of \$3,987,178.24 and the

approval should be subject to staff's receipt of such. Ms. Swallow then inquired as to the progress of the work and Mr. Mendes responded that the both the Kent County and Providence phases of the project had been completed with expected reimbursements of \$3.5 and \$1.15 million respectively. A reimbursement request from the Providence Water Supply Board is anticipated in the near future. The connection was tested and put into operation and this allowed the Clinton Avenue connection to be shut down. With Clinton Avenue shut down, Providence was then able to install the necessary butterfly valve in their 78 inch line and proceed with required inspection activities. Ms Swallow inquired if there was a maintenance agreement in place and Mr. Mendes responded that the connection agreement forwarded to the board with the reimbursement request detailed required maintenance activities. Mr. Mariscal reminded everyone that there was an amended motion on the table. Hearing no reply upon a request for further discussion being made, a vote was taken.

**Motion: Ms. Swallow moved approval. The motion received a second from Mr. Perry. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Marchand abstaining after recusing herself from the discussion.**

#### **IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion: Mr. Mariscal explained that a few meetings ago staff had presented the committee and the board with a proposal to issue an RFQ/P for consultant services to look into issues surrounding the Bristol County Water Authority Facilities. He noted that, as we all know, according to State Law, the WRB has a responsibility to pay for the expenses associated with the upgrading of certain facilities in the Bristol system, the major one being the water treatment facility when said upgrades are necessary to meet any new federal standards. Presently the facility is operating at approximately 1.0 to 1.5 MGD but has problems meeting existing standards at greater flows especially during certain times of the year. Additionally, there are new standards that will take effect in the next 5 -10 years. The enabling legislation calls for a plan to be developed and implemented to address the responsibilities of keeping the system fully functional. The RFQ/P has been drafted and although it is not ready for release and discussion at this point, it is expected to be finalized and over to State Purchasing probably within the next thirty days. Prior to its release, the WRB staff will meet with the BCWA Director to go over what is contained in the document. The main idea is to define what is needed in the system and what is needed from the perspective of the WRB responsibility for paying for upgrades. The WRB is attempting to get it all down in writing so it can then go forward and hopefully increase the performance of their treatment plant and meet current and future standards at a much higher production level.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Big River Groundwater Supply Project**

Discussion: Mr. Mariscal briefed the committee on the status of the Groundwater supply RFP and funding. With regard to the request for consultant services the Ad Hoc committee basically came up with a final document and it did receive approval from the board and presently our challenge is to blend in references to environmental work that the WRB intends to award to USGS. \$120,000 in funding is available in this year's supplemental budget and \$130,000 in next year's budget. The logistical issue that occurs here is that if the money is not used by the end of the current fiscal year it is gone. The hope is that it can be worked out but there has not been any feedback regarding carrying the funding over from one fiscal year to another. It seems that there is no direct way to fund a multiple year project given the way the \$250,000 funding has been appropriated (source). The WRB is attempting to find a way to get the work done within the given framework.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

*\*Note: The meeting's proceedings are available on audiotape for review in the offices of the Water Resources Board. To make an appointment to listen to the audiotapes, please contact 401-574-8400.*

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