



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Water Resources Board Corporate
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PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 31, 2006

Members Present:

Robert Griffith
Frank Perry
William Stamp
Elizabeth Scott
June Swallow

Members Absent:

Staff Present:
Juan Mariscal
William Riverso
Beverly O'Keefe
Romeo Mendes

Kathleen Crawley

Guests:

David Powers
Heidi Green
Evan Matthews
Alan Shoer

Steve Kerns

Bill Harritos
Ian Morrison
Henry Meyer
David Preston
Paul Gaudery

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Griffith called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** With a motion by Ms. Swallow, seconded by Mr. Stamp, the minutes of the September 26, 2006 meeting were approved.
- 3. ITEMS FOR ACTION:**
 - A. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLANS (WSSMP):**

(1) Providence Water Supply Board (PWSB) – 30–Month Interim Report – Finding of Non-Compliance - Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item noting a recommendation of finding of non-compliance. Ms. O'Keefe reported the original plan was approved with a subject to requirement to provide revised demand estimates. She stated that their response to this item in their interim report was acceptable. She noted the substantive concerns with the interim report regarding metered water production data provided and drought management plan data. She reviewed her recommendations for PWSB to update missing data and deal with discrepancies that were found. **Motion** to approve the recommendation of finding of non-compliance was moved by Ms. Scott and seconded by Ms. Swallow; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

(2) Greenville Water District (GWD) – WSSMP 5 Year Update – Notice of First Deficiency - Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item noting a recommendation of Notice of First Deficiency. Ms. O’Keefe reported GWD has provided a responsive plan update but lacked discussion of regionalization or conservation efforts and details on certain important topics. She recommended issuing a Notice of First Deficiency and 120 days to resubmit a replacement plan to correct the deficiencies. Mr. Dave Powers of the GWD addressed the committee stating the district has made a great deal of effort towards regionalization and will follow up with the details and will respond to the comments in a timely manner but asked for closure on the issue of the abandoned supply sources, which could never be reactivated due to contamination. Ms. Swallow recommended clarification that discussion of the abandoned supply wells be centered on their feasibility and not on reactivation. **Motion** to approve the recommendation was moved by Ms. Scott and seconded by Ms. Swallow; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

(3) Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) – WSSMP 5 Year Update – Finding of Non-Compliance - Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item noting a recommendation of non-compliance. Ms. O’Keefe reported the update is a comprehensive restatement of the original Plan lacking necessary updated information including addressing issues surrounding water availability and demand need to reflect a coordinated approach to water management in the Hunt River basin. She recommended a finding of non-compliance with a one-year extension for resubmission of the revised plan. Alan Shoer of QDC addressed the committee stating that water supply system management planning is an important issue for them, including as it relates to the Hunt Aquifer as its sole supply for development needs presently and in the future. He questioned the approach of finding of non-compliance on an issue which requires a regional or statewide solution. He asked the committee to consider a coordinated approach for all systems involved in the Hunt Aquifer in their determinations and defer consideration until the North Kingstown and Kent County plans are submitted and reviewed so the Water Resources Board can coordinate and help to pull the entities together. Mr. Mariscal stated that when the recommendations were put together it was noted that QDC has been very responsive in this area but some base elements specific to QDC need addressing. Mr. Griffith stated that North Kingstown and Kent County Water Authority will be under the same level of scrutiny with their plan submissions. He directed staff in their submittal letter to QDC to be clear with their expectations and to spend the appropriate amount of time coordinating with QDC. Mr. Perry discussed the need of proactively coordinating with the Comprehensive Community Plans of each community involved. **Motion** to approve the recommendation of non-compliance noting the Hunt Aquifer issue is not solely for resolution by QDC but is going to require a management scenario of all involved entities was moved by Ms. Swallow and seconded by Ms. Scott; the committee approved the motion. Mr. Perry voted yes but with reservations.

B. BIG RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA PROGRAM (BRMA):

(1) Proposals For Demolition and Debris Removal – Recommendation for Vendor Approval – Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Mendes briefed the committee regarding removal of Solid waste at Pole 134 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich in the BRMA. He recommended approval of the proposal submitted by Ocean State Environmental in the amount of \$20,000.00 and to move forward to issue a purchase order. **Motion** to approve the recommendation was moved by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Stamp; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

C. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE:

(1) Legislative Amendment - Water Quality Protection Charge Adjustment – Discussion

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Mariscal stated that there was no recommendation for action for today's meeting. He reported that a meeting was held with the water suppliers resulting in a good and lively discussion. He summarized the current legislation. He related certain points of consensus made by the water suppliers which included: the surcharge program has been increased two times in the past, an increase should benefit everyone not just one part of the state, there needs to be a general benefit and a project priority listing, an increase can be supported but checks and balances must be in place to protect the funds and distributed fairly to the suppliers, and an increase could be more than a penny but should be a meaningful amount to fund needs.

4) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM - Update

Ms. O'Keefe reported the program is proceeding as normal. She stated the Narragansett Five-Year update will be do November 10 and the Harrisville Five-Year update is under staff review. She added the Woonsocket Interim Report has been received and was distributed for agency review.

1). Harrisville Fire District (HFD) Relationship with Pascoag Utility District (PUD) Regarding Future Water Supply Expansion and Needs – Update

Ms. O'Keefe reported there is no further progress regarding regionalization issues between PUD and HFD.

B. RI PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROG. PHASE III – Update

Mr. Riverso reported that payments have been approved for over 92% of funds. He stated that the Kingston and QDC land projects are on track. He added that further payment requests should be on the next month's agenda.

C. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION/ACQUISITION PROGRAM:

Mr. Riverso reported on the progress for certain well sites as follows:

- RIW 336(a) - Owners have decided to hire an Environmental Attorney to conduct further negotiations.
- RIW 405 or Richmond Airport site is on hold pending outcome of RIW 336.
- Tuckahoe Turf Property sites is moving forward with due diligence tasks underway.
- Charlestown site appraisal has been completed and reviewed with general manager and staff and will be followed with discussions with the owner.
- South Kingstown site is on track per conversations with Henry Meyer.

Mr. Riverso reported that there have been inquiries for program funds to assist well head protection area purchases and development over and above the original program sites. He stated we have received a written request from the Town of North Kingstown and an informal verbal request from the Town of Richmond. He stated a formal request was forwarded to the Director of the Budget Office for a bond counsel opinion on proper use of funds along with a projected use of funds schedule. He added that we expect an opinion soon. He stated this item was brought forward for discussion and any committee guidance towards any needed criteria to be established.

D. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – Drought Condition Update

Ms. O’Keefe reported we are slightly above normal in precipitation levels for October. She stated surface water run-off is at normal levels, Scituate Reservoir is above the 84.6 percent capacity level and groundwater was normal and above normal in southern Rhode Island.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Griffith adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Griffith
Chairman

Note: The complete proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape by request.

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