



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

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 28, 2006

Members Present:

Robert Griffith
William Stamp
Elizabeth Scott
June Swallow
Ian Morrison

Members Absent:

Frank Perry

Staff Present:

Juan Mariscal
William Rivero
Beverly O'Keefe
Romeo Mendes
Kathleen Crawley

Guests:

Henry Meyer
Heidi Green

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Griffith called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

With a motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Stamp, the minutes of the October 31, 2006 meeting were approved.

3. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLANS (WSSMP):

(1) Harrisville Fire District (HFD) – WSSMP 5 Year Update – Notice 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 subject to three items which were successfully addressed in the Thirty-Month Interim Report approved March 8, 2005. She reported the five year update was submitted and distributed for agency review. She stated comments were received from Department of Environmental Management and the Statewide Planning Program and in addition, the August 2006 HFD Clean Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan was reviewed by staff and included with this review. Ms. O'Keefe reviewed her findings noting regionalization was not addressed, planning objectives were lacking, a leak detection survey was not provided, lack of a water quality protection component plan, missing source water mapping, no progressive drought management plan implemented among other areas of concern. Ms. O'Keefe recommended a

determination of Non-Compliance and give Harrisville Fire District one year from the date of notification within which to amend the Plan to the Board. She reported conversations were held with HFD who stated they could not make the meeting but would follow up addressing the items of concern. Ms. Swallow asked if a whole year is necessary. Mr. Morrison asked if they needed technical assistance. Ms. O’Keefe reported that the year timeline just follows procedures and that a water quality protection component plan may take that long. Mr. Morrison suggested adding to the motion providing support services to get the job done. Mr. Mariscal stated that staff can provide assistance and guidance but it will be incumbent upon the supplier to complete the plan. **Motion** to approve the recommendation of finding of non-compliance with staff providing technical support was moved by Mr. Morrison and seconded by Mr. Stamp; the committee approved the motion unanimously.

4) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. HUNT RIVER WATER ISSUES - Update

Mr. Mariscal reported a grant application was prepared and submitted to the USEPA. He stated the grant is for a watershed restoration program focusing on water quality improvements. He added one of the necessary requirements for submission was the watershed needed to be nominated by the Governor, whose office has been cooperative for the application process. He stated the grant would provide funds to establish a management plan for a three year period in the Hunt River watershed, inventorying the watershed area, assisting with a watershed council and determining impacts on species. He added the award would be decided upon and granted in July 2007.

B. LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT - Water Quality Protection Charge Adjustment – Update

Mr. Mariscal reported that a legislative committee meeting of the Board will be scheduled to discuss a series of legislative amendments. He stated that the Governor’s office has asked all agencies to submit any legislation additions by December 15th, 2006. He reviewed the status and feedback from discussions of the new surcharge adjustment proposal.

C. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – Drought Condition Update

Ms. O’Keefe reported we have had an extremely wet month with above normal precipitation levels for the month except for the northern most section. She stated the groundwater levels were normal for the northern and central sections.

D. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM - Update

Ms. O’Keefe reported the program is proceeding as normal. She stated the Narragansett and Jamestown Five-Year updates were submitted and 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 progress regarding regionalization issues between PUD and HFD were as previously reported under the action item.

E. RI PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM:

Mr. Riverso reported over 92% of funds have been approved for payment. He stated the QDC and Kingston land projects are on track. He added that program review discussions were held with program legal counsel on moving forward with finalizing certain remaining projects.

F. 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. He reported a meeting was held with RIDEM agriculture division regarding quality issues and testing in the area and additional suggested well site placement. He added a meeting is being scheduled with USGS to get their suggestions on additional well placements based on their modeling in the area.
- Charlestown site appraisal was not to the owners liking but will be followed up with additional appraisal reviews and discussions with the owner.
- South Kingstown site is on track per conversations with Henry Meyer.

Mr. Riverso reported that written requests have been received from the Town of North Kingstown and the Town of Richmond for program funds to assist well head protection area purchases and development over and above the original program sites. He stated a formal request was forwarded to Bond Counsel for an opinion on proper use of funds. Ms. Scott stated that quality and quantity concerns were raised regarding the Tuckahoe Turf properties at previous meetings and asked that staff consult with the RIDEM's water resources division as they progress forward with their due diligence tasks.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Meeting Date – December 19, 2006. Consensus was not reached for next meeting date.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Stamp, seconded by Ms. Scott.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Griffith
Chairman

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