



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

January 30, 2007

#### **Members Present:**

Robert Griffith  
June Swallow  
Elizabeth Scott

#### **Members Absent:**

Frank Perry  
William Stamp  
Ian Morrison

#### **Staff Present:**

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

#### **Guests:**

Henry Meyer  
Heidi Green  
William Harritos  
Stan Knox  
Pasquale DeLise  
Carol Larivierre  
Ben Nascenzi

### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Griffith called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was not present.

Chairman Griffith proceeded to take up the discussion items first to give a quorum a chance to present itself. At 12:03 by ruling of the Chair, a quorum was declared present.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

With a motion by Ms. Swallow, seconded by Ms. Scott, the minutes of the January 3, 2007 meeting were approved.

### **3. ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

#### **A. RI PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM - PHASE III:**

- 1) Stone Bridge Fire District Requisition # 9 – Water Quality Improvement Project – Purchase and Installation of Storm Water Drainage Catch Basin – Requested Amount \$26,500.00; Recommended Payment \$26,500.00 – Request for Payment Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Riverson reported the project for payment consideration under requisition #9 is for a storm water drainage project that consisted of the installing 1 catch basin, drainage pipe, and repaving of affected areas on the upper part of the SBFD treatment plant driveway. He stated that SBFD reported this project was under taken in an effort to lessen the impact that impermeable surfaces at the treatment plant will have on Stafford Pond. Mr. Riverson stated the WRB Corporate previously approved project eligibility, the project is complete and proper supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed. He recommended approval by the Committee for the payment request in the amount of \$26,500.00. Ms. Scott asked that this project type come under reconsideration for eligibility in the future. **Motion** to approve the payment request was moved by Ms. Swallow and seconded by Ms. Scott; the motion was

approved.

- 2) City of Woonsocket Requisition # 6 – Watershed Protection Project – Land Acquisition Costs- Requested Amount \$18,353.14; Recommended Payment \$18,353.14 – Request for Payment Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Riverso reported the project for payment consideration under requisition #6 is for land acquisition costs associated with the Sadlow land acquisition project protecting watershed around Woonsocket's Reservoir #3, which was successfully closed on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. He stated these costs include appraisal, environmental site assessment and survey costs in the amount of \$18,353.14. Mr. Riverso stated the WRB Corporate previously approved project eligibility and proper supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed. He recommended approval by the Committee for the payment request in the amount of \$18,353.14. **Motion** to approve the payment request was moved by Ms. Scott and seconded by Ms. Swallow; the motion was approved.

- 3) City of Woonsocket Requisition # 7 – Water Quality Improvement Project – Looping Dead End Water Mains (Sycamore Street to Rhodes Avenue), Requested Amount \$40,497.18; Recommended Payment \$40,497.18 – Request for Payment Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Riverso reported the project for payment consideration under requisition #7 is a water main looping project consisting of 20 linear feet of 6-inch pipe and 400 linear feet of 8-inch pipe looping a portion of Sycamore Street to Rhodes Avenue in the City of Woonsocket. He reported that WWD states that this project type prevents flow reversals that may occur in the system which causes problems associated with rust and sediment accumulation. He stated the work was completed in July 2005 and was done in-house whereby the City saved approximately \$15,000.00. Mr. Riverso stated the WRB Corporate previously approved project eligibility and proper supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed. He recommended approval by the Committee for the payment request in the amount of \$40,497.18. **Motion** to approve the payment request was moved by Ms. Swallow and seconded by Ms. Scott; the motion was approved.

- 4) City of Woonsocket Requisition # 8 – Water Quality Improvement Project – Replacement of Tuberculated Water Mains, Requested Amount \$39,001.69; Recommended Payment \$34,942.68 – Request for Payment Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Riverso reported the project for payment consideration under requisition #8 is for a water main replacement consisting of 20 linear feet of 6-inch pipe and 400 linear feet of 8-inch pipe upgrading the existing 4-inch main. He stated the work was completed in October 2004 and was done in-house whereby the City saved approximately \$15,000.00. Mr. Riverso stated the WRB Corporate previously approved project eligibility and proper supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed. He recommended approval by the Committee for the payment request in the amount of \$34,942.68, which is WWD remaining fund balance. Ms. Scott stated that this project type should also come under reconsideration for eligibility in any future phase of this program. **Motion** to approve the payment request was moved by Ms. Swallow and seconded by Ms. Scott; the motion was approved.

## B. WATER FACILITIES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

- 1) Bristol County Water Authority – Shad Factory Pipeline Repair Project – Requisition #2 – Requested Amount \$21,403.00 - Recommended Payment \$34,942.68 – Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Mendes reported this is a second request for A/E costs to assist in the design and installation of a new shad factory pipeline. He stated BCWA is nearing completion of the design and permitting phase of the project. He stated proper supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed. He recommended approval of the payment request in the amount of \$21,403.00. **Motion** to approve the payment request was moved by Ms. Swallow and seconded by Ms. Scott; the motion was approved.

## C. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLANS (WSSMP):

- 1) Town of Johnston Water Control Facility (JWCF) – 30-Month Interim Report – Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe reported JWCF submitted their original 30-Month Interim Report back in March of 2006 and the Board made a determination of non-compliance due to deficiencies in September 2006. She stated that JWCF has followed up with a replacement plan submitted in October 2006, which was distributed to state agencies for review and comment. She stated that this submittal is a vast improvement from the previous one. She stated her findings to the committee which included concerns regarding non-functional wholesale meters resulting in reporting data estimates rather than real time data, non-account water use reported at 30.3 % which is more than twice the state mandated limit of 15%, lack of a meter replacement program and shortcomings in other plan implementations.

The WRB Staff recommendation is to accept the report as information, scheduling of a meeting with Johnston and their consultants to develop a plan of action to identify supply and demand management actions, and to design an implementation plan for system improvements and to consider a meeting between JWCF, Providence Water Supply Board, and the WRB to discuss options to improved system management. Mr. Nascenzi of the Town of Johnston stated that he did not agree with the non-account water figures but would continue to comply with and provide any additional data as requested. **Motion** to approve the recommendation was moved by Ms. Swallow and seconded by Ms. Scott; the motion was approved.

- 2) United Water Rhode Island (UWRI) – 30-Month Interim Report – Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe reported the UWRI 30-Month Interim Report was received on March 8, 2006, and reviewed with action taken at the September 20<sup>th</sup> 2006 Board meeting. She stated the Board found the Report to be deficient due to missing information but in substantial compliance with the objectives of the Water Supply System Management Act. She reported UWRI resubmitted an amendment to the Report on December 18, 2006 which was distributed for agency and staff review. She stated the amended report provided additional information on the Water Quality Protection Component and Supply Augmentation evaluation of existing and future supply and demand. She recommended approval of the 30-month interim report as amended. **Motion** to approve the report was moved by Ms. Scott and seconded by Ms. Swallow; the motion was approved.

#### 4) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

##### A. HUNT RIVER WATER ISSUES - Update

Mr. Mariscal reported communications and progress continues with the water systems in developing an interim management plan.

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

Mr. Mariscal reported there is no update since the last Committee meeting. He stated legislative recommendations were forwarded to the Governor's office for review and approval, whereby to date he has received questions but no negative feedback from the Governor's staff.

##### C. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – Drought Condition Update

Ms. O'Keefe reported that December was a dry month where precipitation levels was around 50% of normal conditions but because of the abundance of prior precipitation we are still in a moist and/or normal condition. She stated the Scituate Reservoir was still above 100 % capacity. She added we continue to monitor for drought conditions around the state.

##### D. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM - Update

Ms. O'Keefe reported the program is proceeding as normal with a few Five-Year updates and 30-month reports under review.

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

Ms. O'Keefe reported no additional progress regarding regionalization issues between PUD and HFD.

##### E. RI PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM:

Mr. Riverso reported over 92% of funds have been reimbursed. He stated he is working closely with Mary Kay Esq. to finalize remaining land projects. He stated it appears Kingston will come through with their project but that QDC may be questionable. He stated the remaining systems with water quality improvement projects have promised to get their project submittals in time for the next meeting.

##### F. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION/ACQUISITION PROGRAM:

Mr. Riverso reported progress for the Tuckahoe Turf Property sites is moving forward with due diligence tasks underway and that a revised proposal has been agreed to with the owner on two sites. He reported that in regards to the Kavin site, the owners would like to move forward with an agreement in line with the original proposal. Mr. Riverso reported Bond Counsel has forwarded an opinion on proper use of funds which should bring further policy discussions and actions in the near future. Mr. Mariscal noted that he had received requests from the Towns of Richmond and North Kingstown seeking funding to buy groundwater wellhead land. As a result a Bond Counsel opinion was requested and received Bond Counsel outlined some basic conditions for using the GO Bond funds including that the Water Resources Board would have

to own the property purchased and to receive Department of Administration approval. He stated, regarding the Town of Richmond, Bond Counsel indicates the WRB could purchase the property subject to conditions defined, and that the WRB could lease back the land to the Town for public water supply purposes. He stated that the Water Resources Board Chairman has sent a letter to the Town requesting additional technical and administrative information in order to determine if this site is suitable for drinking water purposes comparable to the approach taken with the investigations of the USGS/WRB wells. Mr. Mariscal proceeded to reiterate and review his discussions with Bond Counsel and actions taken for clarification for the committee regarding the Town of Richmond's request. Mr. Griffith stated that he believed we are not under any obligation regardless of the purpose for which a certain well site is acquired to reimburse an expenditure after the fact for which no prior approval was given and if they are expecting us to reimburse them, they should have come to us through the normal process allowing us to do our own due diligence. Mr. Griffith stated he believed the State Properties Committee would not approve this project as described. Mr. Mariscal stated that he did try to explain to the Town of Richmond that this program was not set up as a land grant program dealing with cities and towns like Phase III basically is, that this program was set-up for the Water Resources Board to purchase sites that were already identified after conducting a lot of detailed scientific investigations by USGS on these certain sites. He stated that internal discussions recommended this type of purchase may not be appropriate but if the Water Resources Board is going to do this we need to level the playing field by advising all cities and towns in South County as well as the water suppliers that we have this money available and we would define a program around it.

Ms. Scott formally asked for a pre-meeting with RIDEM permitting staff to review concerns previously raised regarding the Tuckahoe Turf property project before a purchase and sale agreement is finalized. Mr. Riverso stated that a meeting with RIDEM is scheduled as part of the process but at this time we are still compiling information and a meeting would be followed up on. Ms. Swallow asked that RIDOH participate in the meeting also. Mr. Griffith suggested that at the appropriate time an executive session meeting be considered in order to discuss matters. He reminded staff to be cognizant of following proper procedures as we are getting closer in accomplishing some of these acquisition projects.

**5) OTHER BUSINESS:**

Ms. Scott asked that USGS be placed on the next agenda to provide a presentation on the Water Atlas that's being prepared. Mr. Mariscal stated that the presentation has been scheduled for the next Board meeting.

**6) ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Griffith adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Riverso  
WRB Programming Services Officer