



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Water Resources Board

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WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION & USE COMMITTEE MEETING

(Formerly the Public Drinking Water Protection Committee)

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING PROCEEDINGS

October 30, 2007

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff Present:	Guests:
Robert Griffith	Ian Morrison	Juan Mariscal	Heidi Green
Liz Scott	Frank Perry	William Riveroso	Pam Marchand
William Stamp, III	June Swallow	Beverly O'Keefe	Brendan Ennis
	Harold Ward	Kathy Crawley	John Paul Verducci

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Griffith opened the meeting at 12:08 p.m., and noted a quorum was not present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Griffith dispensed with approval of the minutes due to lack of quorum.

Chairman Griffith proceeded to Discussion Items.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

Mr. Griffith stated that absent a quorum, we can discuss these items and make an advisory based on the consensus of the group to the full Board at the next meeting.

1. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLANS (WSSMP):

a) North Tiverton Fire District (NTFD) - Five-Year Update - Request for Approval

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. He corrected the agenda as listed to be an item with a recommendation of "Non-Compliance". He reviewed the recommendation that requests the committee to find the plan as deficient in several systemic areas and is accordingly in Non-Compliance. He reviewed the items of concern in the recommendation. Mr. Stamp asked if there was a cost factor involved with the items. Mr. Griffith asked if NTFD was notified. Ms. O'Keefe said yes. She reported the system had acquired the Town of Tiverton system and then had difficulties identifying and determining the infrastructure components purchased. She stated the consultant hired by NTFD prepared an adequate plan for those areas they were able to identify but

there was still considerable information lacking so that it did not meet the standards for the WSSMP program. One of the main issues is the “Master Meter” at the point of purchase from Fall River is faulty. A brief discussion ensued regarding the “Meter” matter.

Consensus of the committee is to support the staff recommendation of a finding of Non-compliance with time to complete a resubmittal.

b) Town of Cumberland (TC) – Five-Year Update - Request for Approval –

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. He corrected the agenda as listed to be an item with a recommendation of “Non-Compliance”. He stated the staff report contains a list of deficient and non-compliant items and a lengthy list of staff recommendations resulting in a finding of “Non-compliance” and a resubmission date no later than one year of the date of determination of Non-Compliance by the Board. Ms. O’Keefe reported the Cumberland Water Department Superintendent was notified of the review but has recently resigned he and told her he would contact the Public Works Director who would be the next person in line to attend this meeting. She introduced Mr. Brendan Ennis of Pare Engineering who prepared the updated plan. Mr. Ennis reported he is actually a sub-consultant to Woodard & Curran who are the “Water” Consultants for TC. He stated Woodard & Curran are aware of the situation but he cannot speak on any actions the TC will take. He stated he is fully prepared to update the plan and work with the Water Resources Board on behalf of the TC and as an agent of Woodard & Curran. Mr. Griffith asked if further details can be gathered for TC’s retrofit kit program. Mr. Ennis stated he would look into the matter.

Consensus of the committee is to support the staff recommendation of a finding of Non-compliance with time to complete a resubmittal.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Drought Management Program – Drought Condition Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe stated her memo showed a number of below normal conditions and that these conditions set in motion a scheduling and holding of a Drought Advisory Steering Committee (DASC) meeting. She reported that today’s handout summarizes what we knew going into the meeting and the consensus after the meeting. She reported that consensus was to move into a Drought Advisory Stage even though we are outside the summer high water usage season. She stated the stream flow, groundwater and small system reservoir indicators are all below normal. She reported the DASC is scheduled to meet again on November 15th, to review conditions. She reported that a press release was issued with the approval of the Governor’s office reporting the DASC meeting, consensus and recommendations for what need to be done.

Ms. O’Keefe stated some of the short term conditions have improved slightly. She reported the crop moisture index has improved, precipitation for the month is 1.8 inches, we are down for the month by 1.62 inches and down since January 1st 2.36 inches. She stated the Scituate Reservoir is at 273.24 feet or 70.2% of capacity and added it is her understanding the drought trigger goes into effect at 273 feet for the Providence Water Supply Board (PWSB) plant. Ms. Marchand of PWSB stated that will depend on the time of year. Ms. Marchand passed out a chart showing where the reservoir level is adding the data shows we are within historical averages. Ms. O’Keefe stated we will continue to monitor conditions.

3. Water Supply Systems Management Plan Program - Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe reported we continue to receive 5-year updates and bring forward plans updates and 30-month interim reports. She stated this morning a meeting was held with the state review agencies to discuss the rules and procedures, current legislation, and the internal checklist to seek recommendations for changes and improvements to the WSSMP process.

4. RI Public Drinking Water Protection Program - Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Riverso reported he has spoken with QDC who has related they are expecting the appraisal to be completed shortly and asked them to forward it when completed for our review. He reported also speaking with United Water who related they will be coming in for their final reimbursement. Mr. Griffith asked Ms. Green of QDC if she would like to add any update. Ms. Green reported the appraiser will be looking at all three scenarios put forth by the Board discussions, which then will be evaluated and presented to the association and followed by a final report based on the chosen course of action by the association.

5. Groundwater Protection/Acquisition Program - Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Riverso reported the committee guided staff to begin investigations towards assisting areas that may see increases in development in South County identified in the Statewide Planning 2025 report. He stated they are listed in the memo. He reported he has spoken and met with representatives of the Shannock Village District which is a listed area, who relate they are moving forward with a purchase and sale of a well site for their needs and will not require funds from the Board for their project. He reported meeting with the Richmond Town Planner who related they are still compiling information for the Richmond Commons project, which is also near a listed area. He stated they did follow up with letter describing their water supply needs, which is included in the project. He reported at this meeting the program well sites were reviewed and it was decided to increase efforts on three sites known as RIW 696, RIW 550 and RIW 385. He stated that for RIW 696 which is nearby two areas listed a meeting was held with the owner who gave verbal approval to continue investigating the site. He stated that he plans on bringing this project forward to the Board and State Properties committee for conceptual project approval soon. He stated finalizing the Board approved project off Heaton Orchard Road is in progress.

Mr. Griffith stated that in regards to the “Growth Centers” identified in the 2025 map are not formal growth centers but are areas where the Statewide Planning Unit identified these areas where growth is taking place and or has the potential for taking place. He reiterated they do not meet the formal definition of “growth centers”, which have to be designated at the request of the communities, and so far neither of these communities have formally requested so. He recommended staff to coordinate closely with Ms. Blanch Higgins who is the Supervising Planner of the land use section within Statewide Planning. Mr. Griffith stated he applauded the approach but is concerned that we use the terms accurately and consistently between us. Mr. Mariscal stated we will refer to them as sites we are pursuing for acquisition for future groundwater wells.

6. Hunt River Sub basin - Interim Management Plan – Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O’Keefe reported the Hunt River Watershed Association did not meet this past month, which is a concern but they related they were called to attend another meeting.

7. Water Conservation Program – Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Mariscal stated there is no report at this time. A brief discussion ensued regarding the serious drought conditions in the states of Georgia, Alabama and North Florida who have all been remiss in their water management planning.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Griffith adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Rivero
WRB Programming Services Officer

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