



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Water Resources Board**

Justice William E. Powers Building, Third Floor
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WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION & USE COMMITTEE MEETING

(Formerly the Public Drinking Water Protection Committee)

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 3, 2008

Members Present:

Robert Griffith
Liz Scott
William Stamp, III
June Swallow
Frank Perry
Harold Ward

Members Absent:

Ian Morrison

Staff Present:

Kathleen Crawley
William Rivero
Beverly O'Keefe

Guests:

Heidi Green
Eugenia Marks
Ames Colt
Christopher Mitchell

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Griffith opened the meeting at 12:35 p.m., and noted a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. April 29, 2008 Meeting Minutes

With a **motion** by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Stamp, the minutes of the April 29, 2008 meeting were approved.

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

1. Town of Lincoln Water Commission (LWC) – Extension Request

Mr. Griffith explained the item with an original request for extension has been asked to be withdrawn by the LWC.

2. Stone Bridge Fire District (SBFD) – 5 - Year Update Recommendation

Mr. Griffith introduced the item and reviewed the recommendation noting a finding of Non-compliance with a recommendation that SBFD schedule a meeting with WRB staff to review findings and requirements and that SBFD will have no later than one year to submit a revised WSSMP Update from the date of Board action.

Motion to approve staff recommendation of a finding of non-compliance with the recommendations presented was moved by Mr. Ward and seconded by Mr. Perry; the motion was approved.

3. Statewide Water Conservation Program

The Chairman declared that due to Mr. Mariscal's absence the item is carried over to next month's meeting.

IV. STAFF REPORTS:

1. Drought Management Program – Drought Condition Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O'Keefe reported that the drought indicators for this month shows precipitation is 1.71 inches below normal but when taking into account precipitation from January of this year we are above normal by 2.37 inches. She stated indicators provided by NOA and USGS shows we are in a normal status. She related the Drought Steering Committee met recently and continued with a drought advisory condition pattern with a caveat that in the third week of June we make a determination whether the status has improved or worsened and if things had worsened that a drought steering committee should convene. She reported the Scituate Reservoir is at 101.5% of capacity. She reported USGS is preparing stream flow and groundwater data in preparation for the next Drought Water Steering Committee meeting. She reviewed a summary of that data which included status of groundwater wells and related 23 of the 28 wells that we monitor are below average.

Discussion ensued regarding private wells, their overuse or irresponsible use and the impacts to groundwater supplies.

Mr. Griffith stated these concerns will be a topic of discussion at the next Drought Committee meeting. He added it is prudent to try to come up with an estimate for how much water is being withdrawn from sole source aquifers by private users without having wells registered or metered.

2. Water Supply Systems Management Plan Program - Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Ms. O'Keefe reported the Town of North Kingstown plan is under review, three revised updates are under review and additional plans are scheduled to come in over the next six months. She added a meeting with the review agencies took place earlier today to begin looking at the rules and procedures for recommended changes.

3. Groundwater Protection/Acquisition Program - Update

Mr. Griffith introduced the item. Mr. Riverso reported the Board approved project off Heaton Orchard Road is moving forward. He stated the Town of Richmond Planning Board did approve

the subdivision with one more step to be finalized by the Town Planner administratively. He added the Class I survey is being finalized and as soon as the Purchase and Sale agreement is finalized we will be prepared to bring the project forward to the State Properties Committee. He reported in regards to the adjacent property to the Richmond Airport, researched information was provided to the property owners attorney showing land comparables. He stated the attorney will get back to him if still interested in pursuing the project. He stated he is meeting with the owner for well site RIW 696, which is in the Hope Valley area and hopes he will sign the cooperative agreement to continue the project. He added site visits have been scheduled to visit sites with staff engineer.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Ward commented that since this agenda was light, is their a way to deal with items more Efficiently through information transfers such as through emails. Mr. Griffith stated we cannot conduct a meeting that requires voting by internet or conference calls. He added he understands Mr. Ward's concerns and would discuss the matter with the General Manager.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Griffith adjourned the meeting at 1:13 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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