



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Water Resources Board
Justice William E. Powers Building, Third Floor
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 574-8400 ♦ FAX: (401) 574-8401

PROPERTY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 12, 2008

Members Present:

Frank Perry
Jay Aron

Members Absent:

William Penn
William Parsons
Jesse Rodrigues
Richard Mignanelli

Staff Present:

Romeo Mendes

Guests

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Perry called the meeting to order at 9:43 AM noting that there was not a quorum present therefore there would be no action taken on agenda items and all discussion would be for the purpose of making recommendations to the full board.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to the lack of a quorum no action could be taken on minutes. Mr. Perry mentioned that a copy of the August 5, 2007 minutes was not included in the packet that was sent out to committee members and that same should be reviewed for approval at a future meeting.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the RI Water Resources Board and the Town of West Greenwich for roadway maintenance (sanding, brush cuffing, and snow Removal) - Request for Extension Approval

Discussion: Mr. Perry introduced the item noting that the proposed agreement was between the Town of West Greenwich and the WRB for maintenance of the roads located in the West Greenwich section of the Big River Management Area. The Town maintains these roads in the same manner as the other roads in West Greenwich and in return is compensated at an annual rate agreed upon by them and the WRB. The compensation to the town had been reduced over the years to the present level of \$7,000 per year and staff is now recommending that the existing agreement be extended for another five (5) years. The Property Committee could not take action on the item as a quorum was not present but discussion resulted in the committee's issuance of an advisory to the full Board to proceed with staff's recommendation

Ocean State Environmental, Inc. - Demolition and Removal of Failing Structures. Requested Payment of \$3,800.00 to Ocean State Environmental plus \$100.00 Permit Fee to State Building Code Commission - Request for Contract and Payment Approval.

Discussion: Mr. Perry reported that the proposed demolitions were requirements of the

most recent BRMA Building Code Commission inspections conducted at 319 Hopkins Hill Road, West Greenwich and 104 Arrowhead Road, Coventry. The projects involve the removal of a failing deck/ porch structure and construction of steps at the Hopkins Hill site at a cost of \$2,500.00 and removal of a dilapidated garage at the Arrowhead Road site at a cost of \$1,800.00. Additionally, the total cost includes \$100.00 for a Building Code Commission demolition permit. Mr. Perry indicated that the Property Committee could not take action on the item as a quorum was not present but discussion resulted in the committee's issuance of an advisory to the full Board to proceed with staff's recommendation

New England Orienteering Club - Use of BRMA for Mapping Activities - Request for Approval.

Discussion: Mr. Perry reported that the club runs a competition that involves following a specified course detailed on a map. 50 or so participants compete in the timed 90 minute event using a compass and map to navigate the course that has been laid out. Various individuals from the club have used the area before but a formal request is being made at this time due to the anticipated numbers. Mr. Aron relayed that he would not have a problem with the activity as long as specific areas to be used were approved by DEM to curtail or possibly eliminate potential foot traffic through sensitive riparian areas. Mr. Perry agreed with the logic and indicated that even though the committee did not have a quorum, based on the discussion, an advisory to the full Board would be issued to proceed with staff's recommendation subject to a concurrence being obtained from the DEM forester that the areas proposed for use are not environmentally sensitive.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Thibault Access request from New London Turnpike — Mr. Perry indicated that he had received correspondence from a James Thibault requesting access from New London Turnpike to a piece of his property that was landlocked after the condemnation of approximately 87 acres along the Street as part of the Big River Reservoir project. The area is located near the Cardi property and would require access through the Cardi security gate. Apparently, Cardi has been approached about the access and has preliminarily indicated they would not object. Mr. Perry explained that it was important for both the Committee and the Board to know exactly why the Thibaults were requesting access. They were compensated at the time of the condemnation because the original 87 acre acquisition resulted in the remaining pieces becoming landlocked. Mr. Perry relayed that the BRMA is basically an open area so they would be able to go onto their property now. The question is what is the purpose of formally requesting access at this time? The Committee and the Board need know if they just want have the ability to walk onto their property whenever they choose or they have some other purpose in mind such as construction. The last thing that the board would want is development along the boundaries of the BRMA. That is why our action, if any, on this has to be very clear. Mr. Perry and Mr. Aron recommended scheduling a meeting with the Thibaults so that they could state their position. Mr. Perry indicated that he would get in touch with the Thibaults and attempt to obtain more details.

Phase VII Timber Harvest update - Mr. Aron reported there have been numerous delays but it appeared that the work would be completed before the spring thaw. Also, DEM forestry is aware of an area of the BRMA where a Phase VIII harvest could potentially be conducted. DEM intends to conduct more in depth discussions with the WRB regarding the harvesting process and report to the committee in the near future.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Romeo N. Mendes, P.E, Supervising Civil Engineer

**Note: The full proceeding of this meeting is available on audiotape by request.*

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