



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

Justice William E. Powers Building, Third Floor  
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**RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD  
Legislation and Regulations Committee  
November 7, 2007**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Daniel W. Varin, Chairman  
Pamela Marchand, P.E.  
Robert Griffith  
Harold Ward  
Henry Meyer, Pres. RI Water Works Assoc.

**Members Absent:**

**Guests**  
Carissa Richard-Providence Water

**Staff Present:**

Juan Mariscal, P.E.  
Kathleen Crawley

**Call to Order**

Chairman Varin called the meeting to order at 2:30, summarized the discussion from the previous day and referenced the list of topics distributed at the November 6 meeting (attached).

**Items for Discussion and Action (2008 Legislative Proposals)**

Discussion continued on major topics resulting in consensus on the following:

- The proposed reorganization creates additional bureaucracy; strengthening the capacity of the WRB and fine tuning existing programs can address the important water supply issues (conservation, water supply planning, and investment in infrastructure, redundant and back-up supplies and storage).
- The Water Resources Board and Board Corporate need adequate funding and staff
- All board members should be voting members
- WRB should prepare and adopt a five year strategic water supply plan with an emphasis on implementation.
- Revenue stabilization for water suppliers is necessary to support conservation
- Water suppliers should be structured/financed as enterprise funds to accomplish needed investments in infrastructure.
- Infrastructure replacement plans and capital improvement planning should be more closely integrated with WSSMPs and state water supply planning (five year water plan).
- The Water System Supply Management Plans statute and regulations should be amended to eliminate the requirement for the 30 month update, require annual reporting and revise enforcement language and process.
- The interconnection statute and regulation should be evaluated to allow for funding of state priorities [currently the program operates on a first come first

- serve basis and is locally driven].
- The committee recognized the need for stream flow standards, but deferred to RIDEM and the Water Security Coalition.
  - The Chairman or his designee should be the representative to the State Planning Council

**Other Business and Adjournment**

The committee adjourned and agreed to meet again in November to structure a formal response to the bills for Board consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Crawley  
Staff Director

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**RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES BOARD**

**MEMORANDUM**

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To: Legislation and Regulations Committee

Subject: Topics for Consideration and Comment on Proposed Legislation

Date: November 6 and 7, 2007

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This list of items was prepared by an ad hoc committee that held several meetings in September and October. Some were drawn from bills filed in the 2007 General Assembly session and others are proposals that the Board may want to support or oppose in the 2008 session. They are not listed in any order of priority or importance.

Water suppliers need funding to support more than \$805 million in improvements. Some questions are:

Grants, loans, or both

Designate of water suppliers as enterprise funds; require establishment of restricted reserve accounts

Authorize or require suppliers to add a surcharge (\$0.01 or 0.02 per 100 gallons) to fund reserve accounts. Limit use of funds to capital improvements.

Water suppliers need stable funding to cope with changing weather, purchase of water from other sources, and other fluctuations in revenues.

Require establishment and funding of revenue stabilization accounts.

Water Supply System Management Plans:

Require monthly recording and quarterly reporting of use by quantity and category.

Eliminate 30-Month Reports

Enforce compliance with reporting and other requirements of rules.

Withhold any funding by WRB and WRB/C to enforce compliance.

Cooperate with the Planning Division to prepare a new element of the State Guide Plan replacing current elements 721, 722, and 723.

Utilize water atlas prepared by USGS and WRB

Include water allocation data by watersheds and municipalities

Prepare a separate short-term plan of improvements. Combine with priority list by DOH?

Address the problems of the Central Region and three water supply agencies serving this region.

Require suppliers to pool funds to augment supplies.

Use revenue bonds to finance development of Big River Groundwater Phase I

Accelerate initial RFQ/P by reallocating funds in budgets for 2008 and 2009

Require preparation and adoption of stream flow standards by RI DEM by date certain

Utilize in water allocation procedure

## Reduce Peak Demand

- Require increased rates in peak periods
- Conduct continuing information and education programs
- Increase penalties for violation of emergency restrictions

Set standards by statute for non-account/non-revenue water

Set standards by statute for residential water use and water losses

Bill water supply and waste water treatment and disposal on the same bill

Divide the current Water Resources Board into three boards

- Staff required to support additional boards
- Number of overlapping members
- Existing WRB would become planning (only) agency. WRB has carried out several construction projects: PWSB service to North Providence, Richmond water system, North Smithfield service area.
- Make the General Manager of WRB a member of the State Planning Council

Make all members of board(s) voting members

Establish new statewide surcharge for major investments by WRB/C or successor.

Establish a grant program for small water suppliers from State Revolving Fund

DOH strongly objects

Establish density standards by statute to define a "public water supply system"

Standards in 2007 bills are incorrect

- Require 60,000 SF per DU for development with on-site water supply and conventional septic systems.
- Require 15, 000 SF per DU for development served by public water system but with conventional septic system.
- Permit use of advanced/innovative waste water treatment and disposal systems only when managed and maintained by a central entity.

Present proposed legislation on one bill or several bills, each focusing on related topics.

Other topics?