

Woonsocket Water Treatment Plant Project Advisory Committee

February 23, 2011

7PM

Woonsocket City Hall

Committee members present: Chairman James Cournoyer, Vice-Chairman City Councilman Daniel Gendren, City Councilman Christopher Beauchamp, Paul Levreault, Owen Bebeau, Secretary.

Absent: Alan Rivers, Matthew Tessitore

Guests: Ken Burke, General Manager RIWRB; Romeo Mendes, RIWRB

The committee asked various questions to Ken Burke. The following topics were discussed:

- The Chair gave scenarios of water plant options based on current conditions and DEM decree.**
- Mr. Burke states that he is also on a fact finding mission concerning the Woonsocket water plant. He does support a regional approach.**
- Mr. Burke wants local suppliers to maintain their water source.**
- Funding from RIWRB was discussed. There is \$5,000,000 currently available for an emergency interconnect should Woonsocket wish to merge water supplies with Pawtucket. Money would probably be**

used for a Woonsocket/Cumberland line (\$500,000). There is a potential competing project in Warwick, but that is not as far along as this project.

- Funding is partitioned at 25% of the project cost for 1 way flow and 50% for 2 way flow. This is only based on total funds available.
- There is a potential for additional funds to be available in 2012 and 2014.
- Funding is not available for a stand alone North Smithfield site.
- The RIWRB has no preference as to where the new plant should be built.
- It is recommended that a new plant be built and not just a pipeline.
- Mr. Burke was asked if the RIWRB would take over/enforce sending water south to Providence or South County. The answer is no. The RIWRB observes from a statewide perspective. They would be looking at South County on its own and not fed from northern RI.
- Discussion of Lincoln water as wholesale purchasers.
- Mr. Burke spoke of legislative mandate on Providence to supply water to municipal communities.
- Discussion of the emergency aspect of water flow and how it should not just sit in pipes; it needs to flow for health reasons.
- Mr. Burke offered to have RIWRB meet with City administration.
- The water interconnect in East Bay is longer than proposed Woonsocket/Pawtucket pipeline.
- Timing and DEM consent was discussed. Mr. Burke has not witnessed DEM fining water suppliers for such matters as to deadlines for water plant construction or water supply hook up.

- Question was asked as to having an interconnecting pipeline reducing supply in Woonsocket in case of catastrophic failure elsewhere. Mr. Burke indicated that he did not want to see the city lose protection in these events.

The February 3, 2011 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

A tour of the Water Plant is tentatively scheduled for 3/4/11.

Next meeting is scheduled for 3/3/11.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21PM

Respectfully submitted,

Owen Bebeau

Secretary