Rhode Island Water Allocation Program

Out of Basin Transfer Committee

Summary of the First Meeting: November 7, 2002
Newport City Hall Conference Room, 2d Floor

Members Present
Julia Forgue, Chair (RI Water Works Association)
Kevin Cute, Vice Chair (CRMC)
John Dubuis (Pawtuxet River Authority)
Alisa Richardson (RIDEM Water Resources)
Pam Marchand (Pawtucket Water Supply Board)
Facilitator: Connie McGreavy, RIWRB

Preliminary Discussions and Work Plan

Connie McGreavy attended this first meeting of the Out of Basin Transfer Committee to provide background information on the RI Water Allocation Program and to initiate a work plan that contributes to the implementation of a water supply registration system for the State of Rhode Island.

1) The committee expressed an interest in acquiring a list of all state-wide, regional, and local out-of-basin water transfer policies and regulations affecting Rhode Island as a first step toward framing the current status of such transfers in the state. The committee agreed to bring the issue to the Research Committee as a possible work task.

2) The committee discussed the need to develop water allocation criteria as a function of out-of-basin transfers. It was noted that criteria will vary according to area (i.e. water withdrawls and uses associated with the Blackstone River vs. the Wood-Pawcatuck). It was also noted that RIDEM is working toward developing a stream flow standard.

3) The committee identified the following issues as preliminary questions and tasks:

- Definition of basin
- Define out-of-basin transfers with respect to existing definitions vs. current practices
- Graphically depict current out-of-basin transfers; prioritize Blackstone and Wood-Pawcatuck
- Determine critical limits for transfers
- Statutory and regulatory consistency: within existing legal framework / actual practices

4) It was agreed that the above questions and tasks and all subsequent problems related to out-of-basin transfers should be examined independently according to a) economic; b) drinking water supply; and, c) environmental protection scenarios.