

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY USE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 19, 2002

Members Present:

John P. O'Brien Co-Chair
Kathleen Crawley
H. Charles Obert
Christine Lipsky
Susan Licardi, Director, North Kingston Water Supply Board
Al Bettercourt, RI Farm Bureau
Gene Pepper (for Ken Ayers Div of Ag)

Members Absent:

Walter S. Combs
Andy Dzykewicz
Ken Ayars
Larry Macedo

I. CALL TO ORDER:

With a quorum present, Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

Mission Statement Water Allocation Priority Uses

The mission of the Water Allocation Priority Uses Subcommittee is to produce a set of dynamic criteria that may be used by the Water Resources Board in developing standards for uses of waters of the state. The criteria should be informed by existing state policy and federal and state law and shall be tailored to the degree supportable by existing data as well as to the unique characteristics of watersheds and basins.

The subcommittee shall develop these criteria based upon a review of

1) Existing laws, regulations and policies of the State of Rhode Island that pertain to priorities for all uses of water in the State, including but not limited to: drinking water supply, fire protection, agriculture, aquaculture, industry, preservation of the environment, and recreational use; and

2) Existing and projected needs for all uses of the State's waters.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

The sub-committee reviewed several documents as we develop the hierarchy for priority uses, considering federal and state law.

Most useful is a five-page handout (excerpts from the regulated riparian code, section 6R-3-04 Preferences Among Water Rights), which states in part:

- (1) When the waters available from a particular source are insufficient to satisfy all lawful demands upon that water source, water is to be allocated by permits up to the safe yield or other applicable limits of allocation of the resource according to the following preferences:

- (A) Direct human consumption or sanitation in so far as necessary for human survival and health;
- (B) Uses necessary for the survival or health of livestock and to preserve crops or physical plant and equipment from physical damage or loss (in so far as it is reasonable to continue such activities) in relationship to particular water sources: and
- (C) Other uses in such a manner as to maximize employment and economic benefits within the overall goal of sustainable development as set forth in the comprehensive water plan.

Our subcommittee agrees with the above

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,
H. Charles Obert

Our Subcommittee will meet in the Bureau of Audits Conference Room at the RI Department of Administration building at One Capitol Hill, Providence from 9 to 10:30 AM on the third Wednesday of January, February and March (if we haven't reported to the full committee by then).

**Note: For more information on Water Allocation, visit: <http://www.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/scc/wrb/index.html>.*

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