



BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES

Portland Water District
August 23, 2012

1. **Convene Meeting:** President Crovo opened the meeting at 9:15 AM at the Portland Water District

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: President Crovo – Portland Water District
Vice-President Parent – Sanford Water District
Director Labbe – Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District
Director Mansfield – Biddeford-Saco Water Company
Director Neumann – York Water District

Absent: *Secretary/Treasurer Hodgdon – Kittery Water District
*Director Leach-South Berwick Water District

Others Present: Ms. Katsificias, Mr. Miller & Mr. Hunt – Portland Water District
Mr. Lynch – York Water District
Mr. Theriault – Biddeford- Saco Water Company
Mr. Rogers – Kittery Water District
Ms. Rebecca Schaffner-Tousignant

*noted: they had previous commitments prior to scheduling of the meeting.

3. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of 1-26-12:**
Director Parent motioned to approve the minutes of the 1-26-12 meeting.
Seconded by Labbe. Unanimously Approved.

4. **Reports:**

- **President's Report:** President Crovo introduced Rebecca Schaffner-Tousignant from GPCOG - Sustain Southern Maine.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Mike Rogers distributed the Treasurer's report showing our current balance of \$ 11, 726.32. It was noted because of the current balance no dues assessment would be required for 2012.

- **Directors Subcommittee Reports:**

Cooperative Chemical Purchasing Program

Mr. Lynch reports that all is going well with the chemical purchasing program.

Mutual Aid

President Crovo noted that subcommittee of Directors Neumann, Labbe and Crovo needed to finalize changes to the current Mutual Aid Agreement so it better interfaces with the Maine WARN agreement. Corporation Council for the Portland Water District has reviewed and incorporated changes to the agreement. Director Crovo noted he would set a meeting to finalize the changes. Director Labbe agreed to host a Mutual Aid exchange for the distribution group sometime in November.

Meet with Saco River Corridor

President Crovo reported that Saco River Corridor's Executive Director, Dennis Finn was invited to the SMRWC Annual Meeting of the members but could not make it. He noted that we had not received a formal response to our request to become a stakeholder and that we should reach out to them again.

Southern Maine Water Resources Network (Nature Conservancy)

Paul Hunt provided an update to the board on the latest meeting with the Southern Maine Water Resource Network. He reminded the board that The "Southern Maine Water Resources Network" is an effort by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to strengthen efforts to preserve and protect water resources of Southern Maine.

He noted as background that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) embarked on this effort in order to connect with people who don't necessarily buy into their land preservation mission for the expressed purpose of saving birds and animals by preserving their habitat. Instead, TNC is trying to connect their mission to people through water.

The stakeholders included governmental/ private, land/water, profit/nonprofit organizations active in Southern Maine.

The group agreed on 4 key areas in which to try and make progress:

1. Education/ outreach about the value of water
2. Increased funding for water and land preservation
3. Networking/working more in concert with one another
4. Advance regional planning efforts

Paul noted that these are the things that they are currently working on:

- Alex Mas of TNC secured another year of funding (2012-2013) to continue the effort.
- Presently developing a business plan to set a short and long-term course. Goal is to have that complete by December.

- Easiest short-term opportunities may be in areas 1 and 3: education/outreach and strengthening the network of organizations. The funding environment is not good right now and planning is by its nature long-term, pushing areas 2 and 4 a little further off into the future..
- A Steering Committee consisting of a subset of the larger network is meeting on this. Paul is member so this will keep SMRWC in the loop.

5. **Old Business:** none

6. **New Business**

1. Presentation and Sponsorship of GPGOG Sustain Southern Maine Initiative - Rebecca Schaffner-Tousignant, Program Manager for Sustain Southern Maine did a presentation on who Sustain Southern Maine partnership is what they are planning to do. She noted that the SMRWC would be a good fit as a partner because of the geographical representation of the council and that water utilities are important aspect of economic development and community growth.
Motion by Labbe, Seconded by Parent for the SMRWC to seek partnership status with the Sustain Southern Maine Initiative. Unanimously Approved.
2. Introduction of Maine Water to SMRWC – Director Mansfield and Bob Theriault updated the board on the recent acquisition of the Biddeford Water Company.
3. Discussion on local governance for water utilities – “Notice of Inquire of Inquiry – Decreasing Revenues of Water Utilities” Ron Miller reviewed the draft comments he prepared on behalf of the Council. After much discussion everyone agreed that the Universal Service Charge was a bad idea and promoting regional cooperation of Water Districts was something that the Council would support. As far as deregulation and local control the directors agreed that they agree to support investigating the concept, but wanted to review this with their respective Boards before committing on final comments to the PUC. Biddeford Saco noted that they would not be taking a position on deregulation because they are private company and will always be regulated. Director Neumann asked Mr. Miller and Director Parent if they would be willing to discuss the concept of deregulation with the KEYS (Kittery, York, and South Berwick) group to help educate their boards on the issue. President Crovo noted that final written comments to the PUC are due on October 1, 2012.

7. **Other Business** None

8. **Adjournment** *President Crovo adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.*

Respectfully Submitted

Christopher Crovo, President