

Report on the Public Hearing held to consider:  
***Rhode Island Water 2030***  
State Guide Plan Element 711 – Public Hearing 02.21.12 Draft

State Planning Council  
RI Division of Planning - Statewide Planning Program  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

## **I. Attendance**

Two public hearings were held by Kevin Flynn, Associate Director of the Division of Planning, to consider adoption of a new Element # 721, *Rhode Island Water 2030*, of the State Guide Plan. The Plan will consolidate and replace five existing potable water policy elements into a single element of the State Guide Plan. The hearings were held at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B at One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, 02908; one at 2:00 P.M. and the second at 6:0P.M. on Monday, April 30, 2012.

### **2:00 P.M**

Mr. Flynn called the first hearing scheduled for 2:00 P.M. to order at 2:06 P.M.

a. Council Members and Staff in attendance

Mr. Kevin Flynn, Associate Director, RI Division of Planning  
Mr. Jared Rhodes, Secretary, RI State Planning Council  
Ms. Nancy Hess, Supervising Land Use Planner, RI Division of Planning

b. Others in attendance

Mr. Henry Meyer, Manager, Kingston Water District  
Mr. Ames Colt, RI Bay, Rivers & Watershed Coordination Team, Department of Environmental Management  
Marten Hoogeboom, RI Housing

Approximately 3 persons attended the hearing at 2:00 P.M. A list of registered attendees is included as Attachment #1.

### **6:00 P.M**

Mr. Flynn called the second hearing scheduled for 6:00 P.M. to order at 6:00 P.M.

a. Council Members and Staff in attendance

Mr. Kevin Flynn, Associate Director, RI Division of Planning  
Ms. Nancy Hess, Supervising Land Use Planner, RI Division of Planning

b. Others in attendance

Ms. Eugenia Marks, Senior Policy Director, Audubon Society of RI  
Mr. Daniel Varin  
Mr. Bradford Southworth

Approximately 3 persons attended the hearing at 6:00 P.M. A list of registered attendees for 6:00 P.M. is also included in Attachment #1.

## **II. Opening Statements**

### **2:00 PM**

Mr. Flynn called the first hearing scheduled for 2:00 P.M. to order at 2:06 P.M. Mr. Flynn explained that the proposed plan was authorized for this public hearing on March 8, 2012 by the State Planning Council. He also explained that a notice of this hearing was mailed to the chief elected and planning officials of all municipalities in the State, and to more than 400 persons, agencies, and groups who have requested such notice. Notice of this hearing was also published in the *Providence Journal* on March 28, 2012.

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Mr. Flynn explained the hearing procedures. He stated that the hearing would be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure adopted by the State Planning Council and the Administrative Procedures Act. He would first call upon Ms. Nancy Hess, Supervising Land Use Planner, to provide a brief overview of the purpose and content of the Plan.

Mr. Flynn then introduced Ms. Hess. Ms. Hess presented a Power Point Presentation on the Plan (See Attachment #2). She explained that the proposed plan was a product of her work as staff working with a voluntary advisory committee of drinking water stakeholders. The Committee was composed of representation of drinking water suppliers, state agencies, and environmental organizations. It had 13 meetings between 2009 and 2011. This Plan will consolidate and replace five previous potable water policy elements into a single element of the State Guide Plan. The following existing State Guide Plans which will be rescinded in their entirety upon adoption of the Plan by the State Planning Council:

- 1990 *Scituate Reservoir Watershed Management Plan* (125)
- 1991 *Water Supply Plan for RI* (721)
- 1993 *Rhode Island Emergency Water Supply Management Plan* (723)
- 1997 *Water Supply Policies for Rhode Island* (722)
- 2002 *Rhode Island Drought Management Plan* (724)

Ms. Hess proceeded with an overview of the contents of the plan. The Plan contains three parts; Part 1, Rhode Island's Water Potable Water Setting, Part 2, Potable Water Issues Today, and Part 3 Assuring That There's Water for Tomorrow. Part 3 also contains the Vision, Goals, Policies and Implementation Matrix. She explained the key points of each part and the issues that the Advisory Committee discussed. The presentation concluded with a summary of public outreach that was conducted as the drafting of the Plan proceeded. Ms. Hess did seventeen various presentations to (not including Advisory Committee Meetings) the State Planning Council, the Technical Committee of the Council, the Water Resources Board Legislative Policy Sub-Committee, the Atlantic States Rural Water Works Association and at various Source Water Protection Workshops held by the Department of Health.

**6:00 PM**

Mr. Flynn called the second hearing scheduled for 6:00 P.M. to order at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Flynn explained that the proposed plan was authorized for this public hearing on March 8, 2012 by the State Planning Council. He also explained that a notice of this hearing was mailed to the chief elected and planning officials of all municipalities in the State, and to more than 400 persons, agencies, and groups who have requested such notice. Notice of this hearing was also published in the *Providence Journal* on March 28, 2012.

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### **III. Public Comments**

#### **2:00 P.M.**

Mr. Flynn opened the hearing for public comment. The following person spoke:

- 1) Mr. Henry Meyer, Manager, Kingston Water District

Mr. Meyer spoke in support of the plan. He expressed that Ms. Hess did a very good job of distilling a lot of information from multiple documents into one good document. He suggested that further refinement of the text would be beneficial. Some concepts repeat themselves throughout the document. The Matrix shows great detail on how the document was constructed. He pointed out a factual error on Page 2-2 of Part 2 related to the Chipuxet River. He stated in his 35 years of water management, the Chipuxet has never run dry. He believed this comment was referring to the Hunt River cited in preceding text of the paragraph not the Chipuxet. His written comments are included as Attachment # 3.

Mr. Flynn asked if anyone else wished to be recognized to speak on the Plan. No others wished to speak.

#### **6:00 P.M.**

Mr. Flynn opened the hearing for public comment. The following persons spoke:

- 1) Eugenia Marks, Senior Policy Director, Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

Ms. Marks spoke in support of the Plan. She commended Ms. Hess and the Program for the stakeholder process through which the Plan was developed. The concise and complete information about drinking water in RI will be exceedingly valuable to municipal planners, other agencies and the public for environmental management. She complimented the layout of the Plan as informative and easy to follow with an attractive design. Her written comments are included as Attachment # 4.

- 2) Daniel Varin, 19 President Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

Mr. Varin spoke in support of the plan. He thought that it was a generally good plan. He suggested that some of the language should be hardened to be stronger. For example "somebody should do .... change it to Somebody must do....". He thought there should be more emphasis on the management of the Big River Watershed for water supply purposes. The disinvestment of land ownership in the Watershed by the State should be discouraged. He referred briefly to some past legislative attempts of original land owners to regain property within the watershed. No other area in RI has the unique characteristics of the Big River Area for water supply.

Mr. Flynn asked if anyone else wished to be recognized to speak on the Plan. No others wished to speak.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

##### **2:00 PM**

Mr. Flynn thanked everyone for their comments. He stated that the Statewide Planning staff would review all comments. All comments will be provided to the State Planning Council for its consideration in adopting a final version of the Plan. He indicated written statements made relative to any aspect of the proposed Plan would be accepted until the close of business on Monday, May 7, 2012. He adjourned the hearing at 2:35 P.M.

##### **6:00 PM**

Mr. Flynn thanked everyone for their comments. He stated that the Statewide Planning staff would review all comments. All comments will be provided to the State Planning Council for its consideration in adopting a final version of the Plan. He indicated written statements made relative to any aspect of the proposed Plan would be accepted until the close of business on Monday, May 7, 2012. He adjourned the hearing at 6:40 P.M.

#### **V. Written Comments received by May 7, 2012**

1. Henry Meyer, Kingstown Water District – May 2, 2012 (Attachment #5)

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kevin Flynn  
Associate Director, Division of Planning

**List of Attachments**

1. Registered Attendees List
2. Nancy Hess, DOP, Power Point Presentation

Written Comments:

3. Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District – April 30, 2012
4. Eugenia Marks, Audubon Society of RI – April 30, 2012
5. Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District – May 2, 2012

Other:

6. Response to Comments & Recommendations

**Attachment #1**

**Registered Attendees List**

For 2:00 P.M. Hearing:

By Registrant #

1. Henry Meyer, Manager  
Kingston Water District  
P.O. Box 216  
W. Kingston, RI 0892
2. Ames Colt, Chair  
RI Bay, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team  
RI DEM Room 430  
Providence, RI 02908
3. Maarten Hoogeboom  
RI Housing  
44 Washington St  
Providence, RI 02903

For 6:00 P.M. Hearing:

By Registrant #

4. Daniel Varin  
19 President Ave.  
Providence, RI 02906
5. Eugenia Marks, Senior Policy Director  
RI Audubon Society  
12 Sanderson Rd.  
Smithfield, RI 02917
6. Bradford Southworth  
46 Wilton Ave  
Pawtucket, RI 02861

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**Attachment # 2**

**Nancy Hess, Supervising Land Use Planner, DOP, Power Point Presentation**



**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
**Existing SGP Elements**

State Guide Plan Elements: 721, 722, 723

- 721: Water Supply Plan (1991)
- 722: Water Supply Policies for Rhode Island (1997)
- 723: Water Emergency Response Plan for RI (1999)

Policies were set forth for:

- Demand management
- Supply management
- Planning issues
- Emergency management

These plans emphasized and established:

- Ground and surface water are interrelated pieces of the water supply system
- Development needs to consider water supply capacities and delivery systems
- A framework for responses to drinking water emergencies

**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
**5 Existing SGP Elements 1969 -2002**

**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
**Existing SGP Elements**

State Guide Plan Element 724  
 724: RI Drought Management Plan (2002)

Establishes coordinated procedures for the State's response to severe drought episodes

The plan established:

- 7 drought-planning regions
- Hydrological drought indicators
- 5 phases of drought
- A response framework staffed by the WRB and overseen by a Drought Steering Committee

**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
**Existing SGP Elements**

State Guide Plan Element 125  
 125: Sakonnet Reservoir Watershed Management Plan (1999)

Policies and Actions are set forth to insure the long-term protection of water quality in the Sakonnet Reservoir watershed—including reservoirs, their tributaries, and groundwaters.

**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
**Other Existing SGP Element**

State Guide Plan Element 121  
 Land Use 2020: State Land Use Policies and Plan (2008)

Policies are established with respect to:

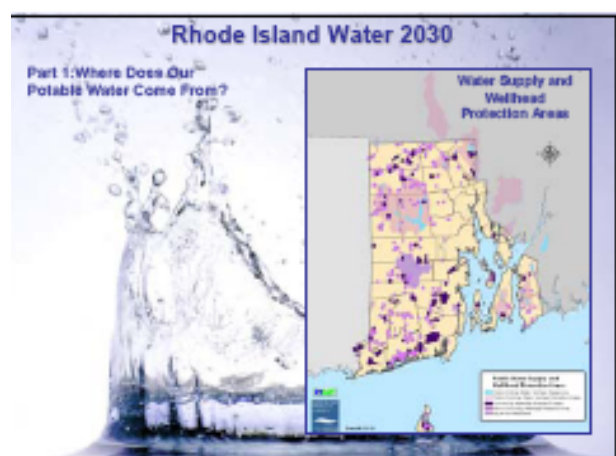
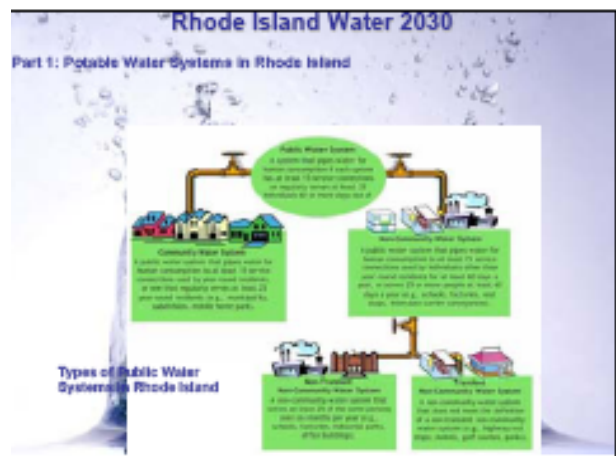
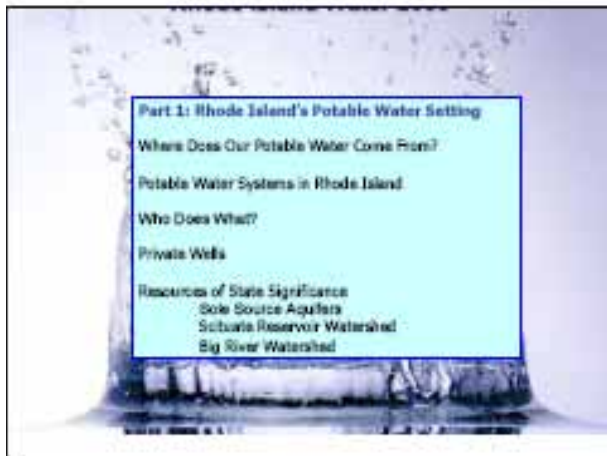
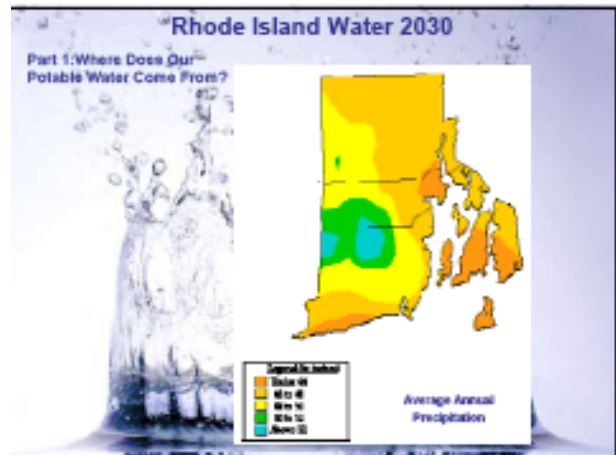
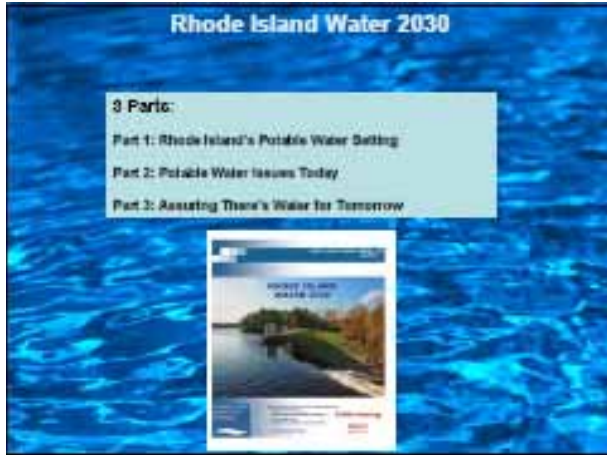
- General Land Development
- Economic Development
- **Water Resources**
- Transportation
- Energy
- Recreation and Open Space
- Housing

The plan emphasizes Smart Growth





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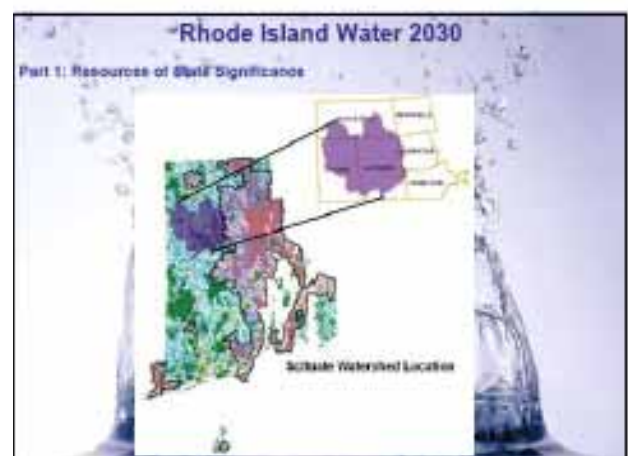
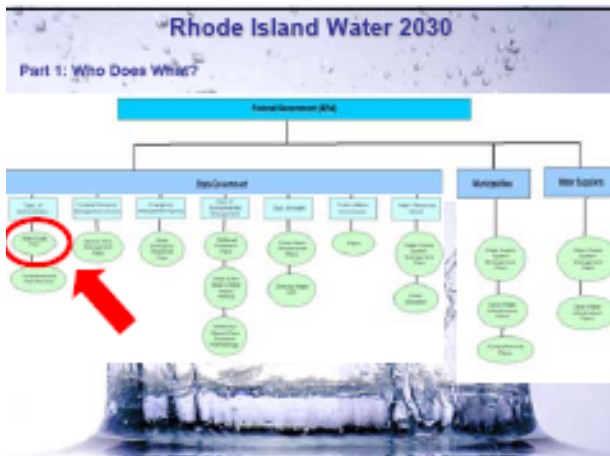
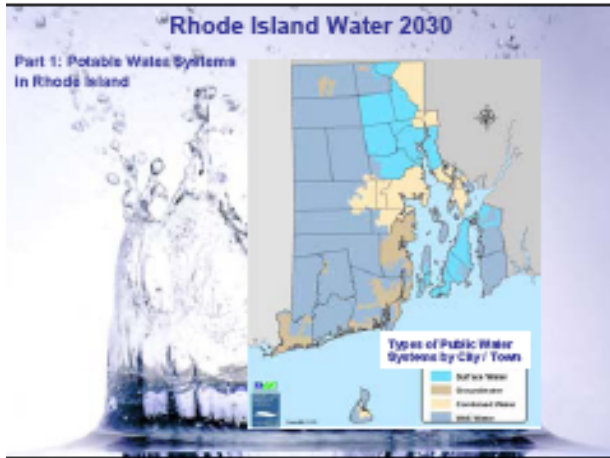
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**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
 Part 1: Potable Water Systems in Rhode Island

**Rhode Island Drinking Water Facts**

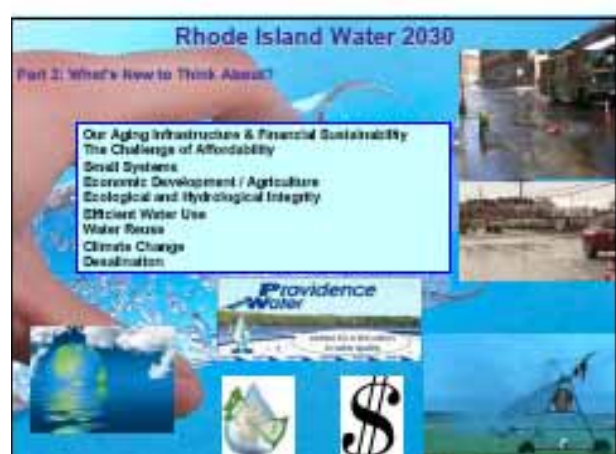
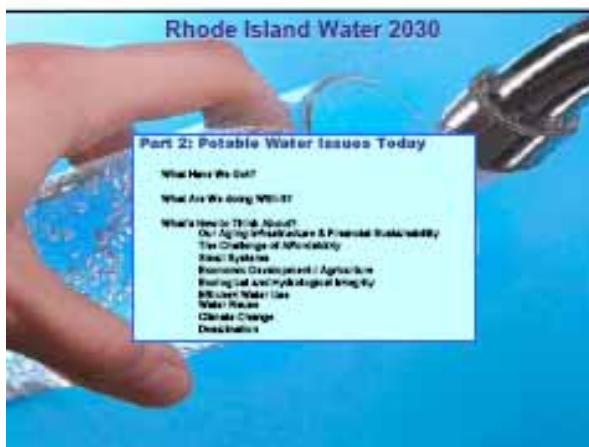
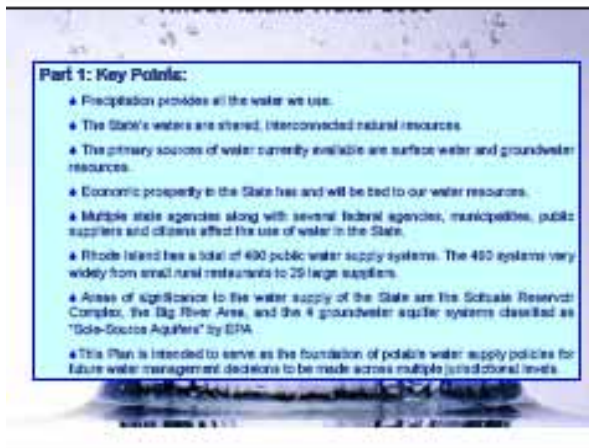
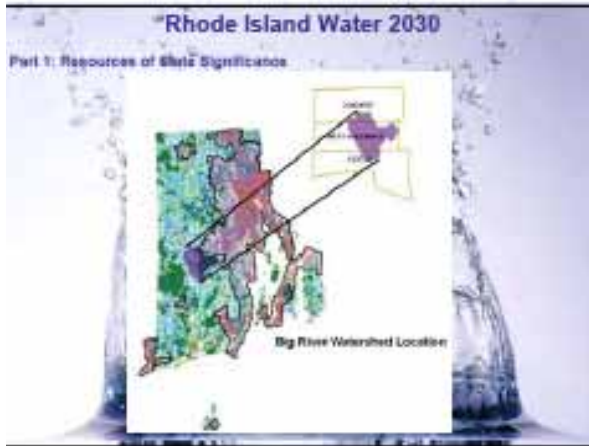
Rhode Island's 2016 Population is 1,052,567

	2008	2010
Persons Served by Public Water in Rhode Island	*1,075,630	*1,074,258
Number of systems using surface water	24	29
Transient Systems	522	317
Non-Transient Systems	30	81
Community Systems	85	89
Number of public water systems in Rhode Island	487	440
Persons served by groundwater systems	*720,629	*724,788
Persons served by surface water systems	*344,151	*349,550
Number of systems using groundwater	**463	**449





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### Rhode Island Water 2030

Part 2: What's New to Think About?

Ecological and Hydrological

Streamflow is the most important water resource in Rhode Island.

### Rhode Island Water 2030

Part 2: Key Points:

- Rhode Island has sufficient supplies but water is not always located where it is needed or available in sufficient quantities for all uses at all times.
  - Northern RI generally has adequate supplies
  - Southern RI is groundwater dependent, and lacks constructed storage therefore water is not always available when needed
  - Appalachian Plateau has shallow resources with developed watersheds and low water that is challenging to treat
  - On other RI's water supplies are limited
- 41% of RI communities depend upon the State for water in one way or another
- Managing summer peak use and adequate supplies for new major users are major water supply issues
- Spreading development as identified in Land Use 2035 is detrimental to long term sustainable water supply for the State
- A system of understandable information is needed for making good land use decisions based on water availability
- Technology, data, management and financing of water systems are coping but need more support
- Our water resources are finite and require managing for sustainability as well as public health
- Our water rates compared to our neighboring states are relatively lower
- Augmenting existing supplies by reuse of non-potable water for non-potable purposes needs State standards to be adopted

### Rhode Island Water 2030

Part 2: What's New to Think About?

Efficient Water Use

"THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE WE'VE GOT ENOUGH WATER FOR THE FUTURE IS TO MAKE SURE WE'RE USING IT AS RESPONSIBLY AS WE CAN."

### Rhode Island Water 2030

Part 3: Assuring There's Water for Tomorrow

- Vision
- Future Water Supply Needs
- Integrated Management & Planning
  - Comprehensive Community Plans
  - Pikes
  - High Resolution
- Water Resources Management
  - Resource Assessment
  - Water Quality & Quantity
  - Public Supply Management
  - Resources of State Significance
  - Demand Management
  - Drought Mitigation
  - Emergency Management

### Rhode Island Water 2030

Part 2: What's New to Think About?

Clear Water

Water Quality

Nonpoint Source Pollution

### Rhode Island Water 2030

Part 3: Future Needs

Four Scenarios were considered:

Future Water Demands?

Scenario 1: 1990 Draft Strategic Plan Demand	= 36.3 MGD
Scenario 2: Land Use 2030 Demand	= 54.7 MGD
Scenario 3: WSPAP Participated Demand	= 38.45 MGD
Scenario 4: Population Based Demand	= 74.14 MGD



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**Rhode Island Water 2030**

Part 1: Integrated Management and Planning  
 Vision

**VISION**

Goal 1: Water Quantity Management  
 Quantity Assessment & Conservation

Goal 2: Water Quality Management  
 Quality Assessment & Conservation

Goal 3: Water Supply Management  
 Quantity Assessment & Conservation

**Rhode Island Water 2030**

Part 1: Water Resource Management

**Themes:**

- Resource Assessment
- Water Quantity
- Climate Change
- Potable Supply Management
- Water Quality
- Resilience of State Significance
- Demand Management
- Drought Mitigation
- Emergency Management

**Rhode Island Water 2030**

Part 1: Integrated Management and Planning  
 Water Supply Policies in Comprehensive Plans

**Reasons to Consider the Water Supply Policies**

- Water quantity and quality are interconnected.
- Water quantity and quality are interconnected.
- Water quantity and quality are interconnected.

**Rhode Island Water 2030**

Part 1

**Key Points:**

- The vision for water supply in RI is to.....
- 7 Goals were developed for 2 overarching categories:
  - Integrated Management and Planning
  - Water Resource Management
- The Water Resource Management is further divided into 5 subthemes:
  - Water Quantity Management
  - Water Quality
  - Demand Management
  - Climate Change
  - Potable Supply Management
  - Drought Mitigation
  - Emergency Management
- Strategies are presented for each policy under each subtheme
- Timelines were set for strategies:
  - 0-5 years
  - 5-10 years
  - 10-20 years
  - 20-30 years
  - 30+ years
- 33 Partners were identified for lead or supporting roles

**Rhode Island Water 2030**

Part 1: Integrated Management and Planning  
 Regionalization

**Advantages**

- Advantages
- Disadvantages
- Approaches
- Questions to consider
- RI General Law 48-30

**Rhode Island Water 2030**

Implementation Metrics

Report on the Public Hearing held to consider:  
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**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
 Implementation Matrix

<b>VISION</b>	To ensure safe, reliable, ample water supplies to meet the State's short and long range needs while preserving the physical, biological, and chemical integrity of the water resources of the State.
<b>GOALS</b>	<p><b>Integrated Management &amp; Planning</b></p> <p>IMP-1. Integrate water resources and supply planning for water systems across intergovernmental and regional jurisdictions.</p> <p>IMP-2. Ensure the adequate location, management, and financial viability of water systems.</p> <p>IMP-3. Manage and plan for water systems that support sustainable, compact increase and concentrate development within the urban and suburban areas and growth centers.</p> <p><b>Water Resources Management</b></p> <p>WRM-1. Manage and plan for the sustainable water use and development of the water resources of the State.</p> <p>WRM-2. Protect and preserve the health and ecological functions of the water resources of the State.</p> <p>WRM-3. Ensure a sustainable supply of quality drinking water for the State.</p> <p>WRM-4. Ensure the protection of public health, safety and welfare and essential drinking water resources during drought, supply emergencies.</p>



**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
 Implementation Matrix

<b>Integrated Management &amp; Planning</b>		Lead	Support	Monitor
<b>Goal IMP-1</b>	Integrate water resources and supply planning for water systems across intergovernmental and regional jurisdictions.			
<b>Planning Policies</b>	1. Include water quality/purity issues for water supply sources in state water use and/or nonpoint land use regulations.			
	<b>A Strategies</b>			
	A. Coordinate Water Supply Systems Management Plans (WSSMP) with comprehensive connectivity plans.	WSSMP	WSSMP/DCP	O
	B. Ensure that Executive Summaries of WSSMP are included in comprehensive connectivity plans.	DCOP	WSSMP/DCP	O



**Rhode Island Water 2030**  
 Implementation Matrix

<b>Strategies &amp; Time line:(205 Strategies)</b>			
		<b>IMP strategies</b>	<b>WRM strategies</b>
AN	As Necessary	3	19
O	Ongoing	25	73
ST	Short term (1-2 yrs)	11	31
MT	Medium Term (3-5 yrs)	10	16
LT	Long Term (more than 5 yrs)	6	10

END OF ATTACHMENT #2

**ATTACHMENT #3**

**KINGSTON WATER DISTRICT**

Mail to: P. O. Box 216, West Kingston, RI 02892      Tel. 401-783-5494  
Office at: 14 Frank Ave., West Kingston, RI 02892      Fax 401-789-7004

April 30, 2012

Mr. Kevin Flynn  
Associate Director  
Division of Planning  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: State Guide Plan 721, RI Water 2030


Dear Director Flynn,

As a member of the advisory committee, I am writing to commend Planner Ms. Nancy Hess for her amazing effort to consolidate the various guide plans into one document. However, because she had so much material to distill and incorporate into one document, the current product is very much in need of further refinement.

Rather than focus on some of the factual errors and repetitive material, I would recommend that the document be held for further review and improvements so that it can function as an easily workable guide that points out a clear way forward for water supply.

As always, I am prepared to offer my support and services to assist your department in completing this ambitious undertaking.

Sincerely,

  
Henry Meyer  
Manager

***Kingston Water District: To Serve, Preserve & Conserve***  
**"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."**

ATTACHMENT #4



April 30, 2012

Ms. Nancy Hess, Supervising Planner  
Statewide Planning Program, Division of Planning  
Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: State Guide Plan Element 721

Dear Ms. Hess:

I commend you and the Program and Division for the stakeholder process through which you developed this plan. Your approach of gaining approval for concept, outline and text is successful. We appreciate the laborious task of culling essential information from the ~~four~~ <sup>five</sup> state guide plan documents from which this draft State Guide Plan Element was coalesced, presenting them ~~in~~ <sup>as</sup> melded versions for review, and then accommodating the myriad comments. Having this concise yet complete information about water in Rhode Island in various jurisdictions and uses is exceedingly valuable to municipal planners and other town agencies, water suppliers, various agencies for environmental management, and the public.

The ecological services, groundwater supply for drinking and agriculture, used water disposal quantities and quality, potential for use of stormwater run-off for non-potable uses are inter-related components of the important uses of water of which potable water is the lynch pin. That this plan includes these various topics will help the multiple agencies responsible for aspects of water management coordinate plans and implementation in the public interest.

As we move toward better understanding of the inter-related demands for water, we are better able to set policy that is in the long-range, comprehensive public interest, from estuarine resources that provide an economy to the state and require freshwater inputs from our rivers; to providing water for businesses that underpin the state's economy; to ecological services that provide aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, and tourism values; to drinking water for residents and visitors. The data and procedures referenced and discussed in the proposed Guide Plant provide the basis for beneficial policies that will manage these resource assets.

The layout of the proposed Guide Plan makes information relatively easy to find and follow. The design is attractive. These features should make a working document for municipal and state agencies, as well as the general public.

We support approval of this draft *Rhode Island Water 2030* to become the current version of State Guide Plan Element 721.

Cordially, Eugenia Marks, Senior Policy Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugenia Marks".



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**Attachment # 5**

## KINGSTON WATER DISTRICT

Mail to: P. O. Box 216, West Kingston, RI 02892  
Office at: 14 Frank Ave., West Kingston, RI 02892

Tel. 401-783-5494  
Fax 401-789-7004

May 2, 2012

Mr. Kevin Flynn  
Associate Director  
Division of Planning  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: State Guide Plan 721, RI Water 2030

Dear Director Flynn,

As I stated at the hearing earlier this week, there are a few errors and omissions that should be corrected before the final document is approved. I have listed my comments below and have attached copies of the relevant pages of the proposed document.

1. Page 2-2: paragraph 2: This text should be rewritten by separating out the discussion of Aquidneck Island watershed (a surface water system) from the groundwater systems utilizing the Chipuxet and the HAP.  
In the same paragraph, the reference to the Chipuxet running dry is inaccurate. I believe the author intended to use the Hunt River. Certainly many entities have cited the lack of water in 2005 on the Hunt as the "poster child" for water flow problems.
2. Page 2-2: paragraph 3: second sentence: The storage problem is not related to finished water supplies. Try inserting the words "Raw water" or "source water" at the beginning of the sentence.
3. Page 2-4: last paragraph: The discussion of reactivating abandoned/contaminated wells should be rephrased. In order to reactivate contaminated wells, any utility would have to resort to extensive and expensive treatment plants that would have to be maintained at full operational condition and capacity even if only used as backup sources of supply.
4. Page 2-6: paragraph 1: The math is all over the place. One sentence uses 50 to 155%. The second sentence talks about adding 30-50 on top of 58-72 gpd. The next sentence refers to doubling and tripling of daily usage.
5. Page 2-7: bottom paragraph: Providence Water Supply Board meets its demand because of the capacity of the treatment plant and the large amount of raw water stored in the reservoir itself.
6. Page 2-8: General comment: The text fails to mention anything about the migration of manufacturing, industry, and business away from the urban areas. For example, Brown and Sharpe, Bostitch, and Amica all chose to relocate to non-metropolitan areas. Quonset became an industrial/commercial park relatively overnight. Needless to say, people followed the businesses, thus exacerbating population growth into non-urban areas.
7. Page 2-11: paragraph 3: All water systems are subject to "water budgeting", not just surface water systems. Surface water systems have a significant "accounting advantage" over ground water systems in that surface water systems can prestore significant amounts of raw (source) water. In the same paragraph, the third sentence refers to preservation of aquatic habitat and 7Q10. 7Q10 is statistical tool and properly belongs in the next paragraph.

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8. Page 2-12: Ground water systems do not have the ability to prestore raw (source) water. Though both SW and GW systems have distribution systems, GW systems do not have the ability to store enough raw water in advance of extended dry periods or droughts of record to be able to meet peak demands without causing streamflow depletion, etc.
9. Pages 2-13 & 2-14: The terms “green infrastructure”, “built environment”, and “natural water infrastructure” make for confusing metaphors. I feel that it is unwise to refer to manmade projects as the built environment and that it is equally dangerous to associate natural with infrastructure, which is perceived as a human phenomena. Infrastructure replacement planning and environmental planning need to move forward in tandem, but let’s not confuse the issue.
10. Page 2-20: In the discussion of water rates, MA and CT are listed, but RI is missing. The range for RI should be included so that we can make our case of economic advantage.
11. Page 2-29: last paragraph: Has the WRB developed a water allocation program???
12. Page 2-31: first sentence: Water supply and demand are the important... I would modify the sentence by taking out the word “the” or by adding a few adjectives. Certainly, other attributes go into growth and development.
13. Page 2-34: paragraph one: Wastewater reuse and rainwater harvesting are established methods for minimizing the needs for new sources of supply. As a matter of record, all reservoirs work on the principle of rainwater harvesting.
14. Page 2-35: I would suggest adding the phrase “stormwater management” into the first sentence. On the same page, some discussion of the benefits of stormwater treatment would be helpful.
15. Page 2-42: General Comment: Desalination: I am surprised that little attention is paid to the fact that one of the most expensive utilities is being utilized to provide for use of what has been the most underfunded utility.
16. Page 3-5: There is no mention of the United, TSK, and Narragansett dependence upon the Mink Brook. See USGS study.
17. Regionalization: You carefully avoid the largest potential regionalization, namely all of the Providence supplied water systems. In addition, there is little discussion of what happens to the management of resources when one large entity takes over other sources of supply that previously had not been accessible by the acquiring entity. The concept of “spreading the drought” comes to mind.

In closing, your agency’s efforts to consolidate the various guide plans into one document are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
  
Henry Meyer  
Manager

**Attachment # 6**

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**Division of Planning – Statewide Planning Program**

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**Response to Public Hearing Comments of April 30, 2012**

**And Recommended final revisions to**

State Guide Plan 721, *RI Water 2030*

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**2:00 P.M.**

Comments: Mr. Henry Meyer, Manager, Kingston Water District

- ◆ Mr. Meyer spoke in support of the plan. He expressed that Ms. Hess did a very good job of distilling a lot of information from multiple documents into one good document. He suggested that further refinement of the text would be beneficial. Some concepts repeat themselves throughout the document. The Matrix shows great detail on how the document was constructed.

Response/Recommendation:

No text change. – The content and language of the Plan was developed with extensive review, comment, and input from the Advisory Committee. Additionally, the language was discussed and agreed to by the Technical Committee and the State Planning Council as adequate for public hearing. Some repetition among topics in the Plan is intentional for emphasis and continuity. Themes are used to repeat topics between Parts 2 and 3 rather than cross references within the Plan. This was determined to be better for the clarity of understanding for all on some very complex topics and make the document easier for readers to follow.

- ◆ Mr. Meyer pointed out a factual error on Page 2-2 of Part 2 related to the Chipuxet River. He stated in his 35 years of water management, the Chipuxet has never run dry. He believed this comment was referring to the Hunt River cited in preceding text of the paragraph not the Chipuxet.

Response/Recommendation:

Text change – Part 2, Page 2-2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph – Recommend additional language and change the order of the sentences for clarity:

Notable exceptions, such as the groundwater dependent Chipuxet and the Hunt-Annaquatucket-Potowamut (HAP) aquifer systems, need attention along with better source protection in the Aquidneck Island watershed. ~~The reservoirs in the Aquidneck Island watershed are shallow, are beginning to have frequent blue-green algae blooms and routinely test above maximum contaminant levels for disinfectant byproducts.~~ The Chipuxet River is a river in South Kingstown. It flows approximately 8.5 miles. There are 2 dams along the river's length. The river's aquifer is used as a drinking water supply for several major water suppliers that serve South Kingstown and Narragansett along with the University of Rhode Island. ~~Due to heavy water supply demands on the aquifer, the river has been known to run dry at times.~~ The Hunt River is also a river in Southern RI. It flows approximately 7 miles. The river is formed in East Greenwich by the confluence of Scrabbletown Brook and an unnamed stream. From there, the river flows north along Route 4, then northeast to Potowomut Pond. Below the pond, the river flows southeast to Potowomut Peninsula where the river widens and becomes known as the Potowomut River. Most of the Hunt River forms the boundary between Kent and Washington (South) Counties, and also separates East

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Greenwich and Warwick from North Kingstown. Due to heavy water supply demands on the aquifer, the river has been known to run dry at times. The reservoirs in the Aquidneck Island watershed are shallow, are beginning to have frequent blue - green algae blooms and the raw water routinely tests above maximum contaminant levels for disinfectant byproducts

**6:00 P.M.**

Comment: Ms. Eugenia Marks, Senior Policy Director, Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

- ◆ Ms. Marks spoke in support of the Plan. She commended Ms. Hess and the Program for the stakeholder process through which the Plan was developed. The concise and complete information about drinking water in RI will be exceedingly valuable to municipal planners, other agencies and the public for environmental management. She complimented the layout of the Plan as informative and easy to follow with an attractive design.

Response/Recommendation: None required

Comments: Mr. Daniel Varin, 19 President Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

- ◆ Mr. Varin spoke in support of the plan. He thought that it was a generally good plan. He suggested that some of the language should be hardened to be stronger. For example “somebody should do .... change it to Somebody must do....”. He thought there should be more emphasis on the management of the Big River Watershed for water supply purposes. The disinvestment of land ownership in the Watershed by the State should be discouraged. He referred briefly to some past legislative attempts of original land owners to regain property within the watershed. No other area in RI has the unique characteristics of the Big River Area for water supply.

Response/Recommendations:

No text change – The Plan is an over arching policy document of the State Guide Plan. As such it is directive but not regulatory. The content and language of the Plan was developed with extensive review, comment, and input from the Advisory Committee. Additionally, the language was discussed and agreed to by the Technical Committee and the State Planning Council as adequate for public hearing.

- ◆ Mr. Varin thought there should be more emphasis on the management of the Big River Watershed for water supply purposes. The disinvestment of land ownership in the Watershed by the State should be discouraged. He referred briefly to some past legislative attempts of original land owners to regain property within the watershed. No other area in RI has the unique characteristics of the Big River Area for water supply.

Response/Recommendations:

No text change - The document currently addresses stewardship of the Big River Area by the State through the Water Resources Board for water supply purposes. It is first mentioned as a “Resource of State Significance” for water supply in Part 1 on pages 1-21 to 1-24, and again in Part 3 on pages 3-39 to 3-40. The Water Resources Board has recently adopted a Strategic Plan in 2012. Specific goals pertaining to land use and protection of the watershed area are detailed in and will be guided by that Strategic Plan. The Water Resources Board staff has reviewed this Plan and found the language sufficient. In addition, under the Water Resource Management Goal #2, in the Implementation Matrix there are 2 distinct polices and 26 strategies set forth for use, management and protection of the Watershed by the State.

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**Written Comments:**

Comments: Henry Meyer, Kingston Water District – May 2, 2012 (Attachment # 5.)

Response /Recommendations:

Page 2-2 paragraph 2 – Re Chipuxet Aquifer - Text change recommended. See the recommended response to Mr. Meyer's testimony on April 30, 2012 at the 2:00 PM hearing.

Page 2-2 paragraph 3 – Re Chipuxet Aquifer - Text change recommended. See the recommended response to Mr. Meyer's testimony on April 30, 2012 at the 2:00 PM hearing.

Page 2-4 last paragraph – re abandoned/contaminated wells – No change – Existing language supports and agrees with what Mr. Meyer is describing.

Page 2-6 paragraph 6 – Re outdoor nonessential water use figures – Text change recommended - Two different sources were used for information. The more accurate figure for outdoor summer water use will be maintained. Delete the more general sentence:

~~"The summertime daily water use in suburban communities increases from 50 to 155%."~~

Page 2-7 bottom paragraph – Re Water Consumption verses Safe Yield of Scituate Reservoir – No Change - Existing language accurately states why Providence Systems can provide maximum day demands that are higher than the safe yield of the system. Without the storage capacity, the maximum day demand that is higher than the safe yield of the system would not be met.

Page 2-8 general comment – Re: Land Use & Sprawl – Text addition recommended –

Land use has changed in the State with major implications for water supplies. The State Land Use Plan, *Land Use 2025*, (State Guide Plan 121) documented that land consumption per person is increasing in suburban and rural communities since 1997. It stated that land consumption and transportation patterns in the State are such that land has been developed at a rate greater than population growth. ~~This is a~~In addition, the migration of manufacturing, industry, and business away from the urban area has added to the departure from the historic patterns of dense urban centers.....

Page 2-11 paragraph 3 – Re: Water budgets – Text change recommended to first sentence. Delete the word "surface". All other wording remains as is as it accurately introduces the meaning of the 7Q10 terminology.

In ~~surface~~-water systems a water budget becomes a sort of accounting system used to predict how much water is available in most years for all categories of use (including maintenance of streamflow).

Page 2-12 – Re groundwater Systems – Text change recommended – Add the word "underground" to first sentence of paragraph two.

A groundwater system serves as both an underground water reservoir and a water-distribution system.

Page 2-13 & 2-14 – Re the definition of Sustainable water resources – No change – The point of this Section is precisely to introduce new terminology to the traditional definition of water infrastructure. Further, suppliers need to ensure that the full price for water service includes the cost of system improvements which avoid adverse hydrological impacts on the environment.

Page 2-20 – Re water rates – Text change – Add an additional sentence to end of paragraph two.



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Not only is our drinking water of excellent quality but it is also an exceptional good value. Our water rates compared to our neighboring states (Massachusetts [MA] and Connecticut [CT]) still show that RI has relatively lower rates. [Further details on RI water rates are included in Part 3.](#)

Page 2-29 last paragraph – Has the WRB developed a water allocation program? - No change – Yes, the existing language reflects the current status of the WRB water allocation program.

Page 2-31 first sentence – Re: first sentence – Text change recommended - Delete the word “the” in the first sentence.

Water supply and demand are ~~the~~ important factors in growth and development of Rhode Island’s 39 cities and towns.

Page 2-34 paragraph one – Re rainwater harvesting – No change- This statement agrees with the existing text.

Page 2-35 – Re Rainwater Harvesting - Text change – added ‘stormwater management to second sentence.

It is an ancient [stormwater management](#) technique enjoying a revival in popularity due to an interest in reducing consumption of potable water.

Page 2-42 – Re Desalination- No change- This is a general opinion which agrees with the existing text.

Page 3-5 – Re: Scenario 2 and dependence on the Mink Brook – No Change. The Mink Brook is part of the Chipuxet Aquifer but aquifers and the interrelated water systems are not the focus of this section. This Section is part of the overall analysis of the future water demand for the State. It is intended to provide a snapshot of the range of additional water needs. These are described as future scenarios. The future scenarios show what range of management options need to be considered to provide for the continued sustainability of our drinking water resources.

Page 3-18 Re: Regionalization – No change - This is a general opinion which somewhat agrees with the existing text but asks for more directive language to be used. This Section is intended to lay out regionalization policy for all water managers and decisions makers to follow. RI has multiple tiers of opportunities for regionalization. The Water Resources Board has recently adopted a Strategic Plan in 2012. Specific actions pertaining to regionalization of water systems will be guided by that Strategic Plan. The Water Resources Board staff has reviewed this Plan and found the language sufficient.