

[Adopted by NRPC Executive Committee: 9/11/02]

Resolution Regarding Comprehensive Planning for Multi-Jurisdictional Drinking Water Supply and Distribution in the Nashua Region

Pennichuck Corporation, located in Nashua, provides water to customers in communities throughout Southern New Hampshire and in Massachusetts. Within the NRPC region, the “core” system provides water to the City of Nashua and through contract provides water to several communities including Hudson, Merrimack and Milford. Water is supplied primarily through the Pennichuck Pond system and through withdrawals from the Merrimack River. In total, eight of the twelve communities in the region either have customers, wells or watershed lands that are affected by the system.

WHEREAS, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission and several communities in the region are intervenors in the current Public Utilities Commission action regarding the proposed merger of Pennichuck with Philadelphia Suburban water company; and

WHEREAS, the location and size of waterlines and the establishment of franchise territories has a powerful impact on development patterns; and

WHEREAS, there is a finite amount of drinking water resources available for use within the greater Nashua area; and

WHEREAS, regional planning commissions in New Hampshire have a responsibility under RSA 36:45-53 to coordinate all aspects of planning within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, multi-jurisdictional water utilities should understand build-out conditions of municipalities and municipalities must understand limitations of the water supply in order to plan effectively; and

WHEREAS, water utilities that serve multiple jurisdictions should be coordinated with municipal, regional and state governments and watershed organizations so that effective and coordinated planning may occur; and

WHEREAS, water utilities and municipalities have a shared interest in conservation of watershed lands and it is in the best interest of both to establish a coordinated land conservation strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission shall pursue assistance and support from the water utility to develop and maintain a forum for the coordination of regional water planning issues, and to develop and maintain data and analyses to be used by the water utility, communities, the region and State to enhance sound water-related decision making, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT

This policy applies regardless of the owner of the water utility, be it a private or publicly owned entity, and the NRPC takes no formal position at this time on who should own the utility.