

Prudence Island Water District  
Minutes of meeting: November 26, 2005

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; Phillip Brooks, and Robert Hanson. Absent was Richard Brooks.
2. Approval of minutes November 12, 2005. Motion to approve by Phillip Brooks, seconded by Robert Hanson, approved unanimously.

3a I. Administrative goals.

A. 2006 budget Ms. Richard said that she had been working on the 2006 budget but still was not far enough along in the process to present anything to the board. She said that she would have a draft by the next meeting so that there would be some sense of expenditures going into the new year.

B. Ms. Richard presented the board with the 2006 meetings calendar and advised the board that if no one had any objections that a vote to approve should be held at the next meeting. Mr. Buffum observed that some of the meetings would be held on holiday weekends. Ms. Richard said that it was unavoidable with meetings held every 2 weeks. She said that if necessary the meeting schedule could be amended but that Secretary of State required an annual calendar.

Ms. Richard said that she although she had not heard from the accountant, she wanted to begin composing the annual report because she wanted to have it finished by the end of the calendar year. She said that she did not anticipate any problems with the financial report because the district transactions for 2005 were very simple. She said that she would probably have a draft by the next meeting.

3 II. Technical. Land use planning – Phillip Brooks said that he and Mr. Hanson had attended a land use planning and development meeting at the town hall in Portsmouth. Mr. Hanson said that one of the topics discussed involved monitoring of septic system construction within the critical areas of the watershed and the need for DEM to monitor well placement and septic systems. Mr. Brooks said that enforcement of current regulations was an area of concern. Mr. Buffum said this was a town issue as well as a DEM issue. He said he was concerned about contamination of groundwater in the critical areas. Mr. Hanson said that if the state approved a septic system the town would approve it too. Mr. Brooks said that DEM would furnish the district with well placement records for the past 10 years but that it was probably not completely accurate. Ms. Richard suggested that what might be needed is to identify a single point of contact within DEM to address these types of issues. Mr. Hanson said that it seemed to be easier to get approval for construction on the island than it had been in the past. Ms. Kim Greene suggested that the district board seek out a meeting with DEM to express concern about development issues. Ms. Richard suggested drafting a letter to DEM about water resource issues. Mr. Brooks said that Gary (?) on the Portsmouth Planning Board would be contacting June Swallow at DOH about estimated cost of evaluating Mill Creek watershed to be done by USGS. Ms Richard said that USGS had expressed interest in doing watershed mapping on the island but that cost had been an issue. Mr. Brooks said that he had contact information for some people that might be willing to monitor

groundwater quality on the island. Mr. Hanson gave the contact info to the clerk. Mr. Brooks said that private well owners might be persuaded to volunteer for monitoring of their water. Mr. Brooks said that the reserve had equipment for monitoring salinity. He also said that the state had \$8 million available for groundwater protection programs. Mr. Hanson said he had the paperwork for that. Mr. Brooks said that DEM was taking the position that no area of the watershed on the south end of the island was suitable for public water supply. Ms. Richard said that a study of the watershed and a comprehensive fracture trace analysis needed to be done to establish whether or not properties outside of the Navy Base were impacting property north of the base. Mr. Brooks said that the town was reluctant to have any additional involvement with the infrastructure on Prudence Island until or unless a leak detection and repair program, a metering program and a flushing program is in place. Their position was that without these steps having been taken there were no grounds for imposing restrictions on any kind of construction. Ms. Richard said that she understood the town's position because if the water system was wasteful it was not the town's responsibility to take corrective measures. Mr. Brooks said that leak detection and flushing were not expensive programs to implement and that it was simply a matter of planning and execution. Mr. Buffum asked if within the short term, zone metering would be helpful for system monitoring. Mr. Brooks said that in order to do that meter pits would need to be dug. He said that once system-wide metering was in place the zone meters would need to be removed because they affect the system dynamics. He said that the master plan would identify appropriate places within the system to located zone meters. Mr. Brooks said that a scheduled program of periodic soundings was the most effective means of leak detection. He also said that an adequate flushing program would minimize the types of quality problems encountered within the system. Mr. Hanson said that until the district had control of the water system no progress could be made. Ms. Richard said that while that was true, the district needed to plan for what programs to implement when the acquisition was completed.

3b. Funding. Ms. Richard said that she had spoken to David Steere of USDA about the progress of the pre-development engineering study. Mr. Steere said that Mr. Nicholson should be able to estimate the costs of running the water system and that in any case the lack of financial information should not hold up the environmental report. Ms. Richard said she asked Mr. Steere about EPA matching funds and that he said it would be an appropriate funding strategy. She said that she would contact both Mr. Nicholson and EPA about her conversation with Mr. Steere.

Ms. Richard said that she was anxious finish the annual report so that she could report to RIF on the status of the ADDD grant.

4a. Correspondence.

AWWA publications, ASRWWA annual business meeting. Mr. Brooks said he would try to attend that meeting.

4b – No other business

5. Mr. Buffum moved for adjournment to executive session, seconded by Ms Richard, approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Patricia Richard, Clerk