

Prudence Island Water District  
Minutes of meeting: May 27, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; Robert Hanson and Phillip Brooks. Absent was Richard Brooks.

Approval of minutes for meeting held May 13, 2006. Phillip Brooks moved for approval, seconded by Robert Hanson, approved unanimously.

Administrative: Ms. Richard said that she had spoken to Gary Chobanian at SRF to update project listings for potential loans, one of which called for a June 2006 project date for continued work on the Narragansett Ave. line. She said that other pending projects were water source exploration, an additional remediation project and a treatment facility. She and Mr. Chobanian agreed that for the moment it would be best to leave the schedule as is, even though it was unlikely that the district would be in a position to take on the projects within the timeframe suggested by PIUC.

Ms. Richard said that she would be contacting the town about accessing the remainder of 2006 funding so that the district would be in a position to pay some of its upcoming bills – insurance, legal fees and rent.

Technical: Land use and development. Phillip Brooks said that one more meeting was planned before the workshop. He said they were hoping to have representatives of DOH and URI geology, but that problems had arisen. Mr. Harry Sterling of PIPC explained that DEM had informed him that the workshop was not within their mandate. Ms. Richard asked who specifically had made this decision. Mr. Sterling said that the present NBNERR manager, Robert Stankelis, and Scott Millar of the Sustainable Watersheds Office had made the decision. He said that Mr. Millar was under the impression that enough science had been done on the issues. Mr. Sterling said that the town disagreed with that premise and that additional study would be necessary for land use policy to be established. He said that Robert Marshall had suggested approaching Rep. Gallison to convene the workshop. He said that he had checked with the town administrator and he had no objection. He said that the salient questions to be addressed by experts are: Has enough study been done on water availability to establish a public policy; if not enough information is available, what else needs to be done; and finally, how can we get the necessary information. Ms. Richard said while she saw no problem with asking Rep. Gallison to participate, she was not optimistic that doing so would have any influence on DEM. Mr. Brooks said DEM's decision not to participate might be part of a larger agenda. Mr. Sterling said that he felt Sen. Chafee might be of some assistance. Ms. Richard suggested that a letter be written to NOAA about the reserve manager's decision not to participate in helping the island community with planning and development. She said that participation in coastal decision-making education is indeed part of their mandate. Mr. Sterling said that technical assistance might still be available but that they did not want to organize the workshop. Mr. Buffum suggested that a dialog be established with DEM to determine what is meant by "technical support".

Leak detection: Philip Brooks said that no leak detection work was planned for the holiday weekend. Ms. Richard said that a lot of repair work was being done in Bristol Colony. Mr. Brooks said that he had been asked for technical assistance. Mr. Buffum cautioned Mr. Brooks not to open himself to any liability that could result from working with PIUC on technical matters where system damage might result. Ms. Kim Greene, general counsel, agreed with Mr. Buffum.

Pre-development engineering and environmental reports:

Mr. Brooks asked if all members of the board had looked at the proposed site for the treatment plant, and suggested doing so after the meeting. He said he had found 2 additional old wellheads on PIUC property.

Ms. Richard said that Narragansett Tribe Preservation Office representatives were scheduled to tour the site on Wed., May 31.

Ms. Richard asked if the board had any questions or observations about the redraft of the engineering report. She said that the delineation of the old Homestead Road was still incorrect. She said that she would like to see figures on the iron and manganese levels to determine how the solid waste calculations were made. Mr. Buffum pointed out that although Mr. Nicholson stated that minimal waste would be generated, he also said that the bottom of the large water tank probably had a considerable amount of iron and manganese particulate in it that had settled to the bottom of the tank. Ms. Richard asked Mark Kimball, PIUC, if he could provide these numbers. Mr. Kimball agreed to do so.

Mr. Buffum asked what the four wells were that were mentioned in the report. Ms. Richard said that to the best of her knowledge the four wells in service were Indian Spring #1 and #4, the Army Well and the DeWitt well. Mr. Brooks said that there was also a test well on the Indian Springs property.

Mr. Buffum asked how expensive it would be to disinfect the water for the Army Well to add it to the proposed treatment system. Mr. Brooks said that he did not believe that it would be very expensive.

Mr. Buffum said that he had looked at the description of Miox disinfection on the internet and asked if it would be an appropriate oxidizer rather than potassium permanganate. Mr. Brooks said that every treatment system was different. Ms. Richard reminded Mr. Buffum that Miox had not been approved in RI for disinfection and the report was written based on what RIDOH would allow.

Ms. Richard observed that the engineering report now included a cost of operations and a change in the cost per customer. She said that the board should continue to review the report and forward any further observations or questions within the week so that she could forward them to C&E Engineering.

Ms. Richard said that no substantial changes had been made to the environmental report, although an additional alternative to the treatment plant had been added.

Funding: Ms. Richard said that she planned to approach RIF about the possibility of a grant from the Newport County Fund, possible for a cost-of-service study. She said that we wanted to find out how well the report on the ADDD grant had been received before applying for more funding.

Correspondence. Trade magazines and newsletters.

No other business. Mr. Buffum moved for adjournment to executive session, seconded by Ms. Richard, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Patricia Richard, Clerk