

Prudence Island Water District
Minutes of meeting: May 28, 2005

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

2. Approval of minutes May 14, 2005. Motion to approve by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Mr. Brooks, approved unanimously.

3a. Bylaws. Water restrictions. Mr. Buffum presented the board with revised copies of bylaws covering water restrictions during drought conditions. Stages 2-4 to be published in the newspaper. Reworded Stage 3 to allow weekend residents to water vegetable gardens. Mr. Brooks suggested that July 4th and Labor Day holidays be designated an automatic Stage 4 because of the high demand during these periods. Ms. Richard said that there would be difficulty with public awareness issues and enforcement issues. Mr. Brooks said that even with those difficulties the result would be water conservation. Ms. Richard said that probably the most the district could accomplish during the holiday periods was to ask the public to cooperate on conservation measures and that a display of materials on conservation should be made available at the election. Mr. Brooks said that it was going to be difficult to determine when each stage would be appropriate. Ms. Richard asked if it was possible to determine the height of the water table on a given day. Mr. Brooks said that he did not believe there were any reference wells within the community water system. Mr. Hanson said that he believed that the system operator had a means of determining the severity of shortage conditions within the system. Mr. Brooks said that there should be more restrictions on filling of pools and ponds. He said that watering of lawns is also a potential problem. He said that if someone decides to lay turf in summer that they should have to tank in water. Mr. Buffum asked if ponds and pools should require permitting at all times. Mr. Brooks said that metering would curb a lot of the problems with wasting water. Mr. Buffum asked if pools and ponds should be limited in capacity with vessels in excess requiring owners to tank water in. Mr. Hanson said another issue to be addressed was that of power washers. Ms. Richard said that eventually people would begin to install large swimming pools and that they should not be allowed to fill them or maintain their levels from the community water system. Mr. Brooks said that he would like Tues-Thurs to be the only weekdays that watering should be allowed and that weekend people should be issued red and green tags to designate watering on Saturday or Sunday. Mr. Buffum said that bylaws included a reference to watering permits for weekends. Ms. Richard asked who would be responsible for issuing permits and how would they be tracked. Mr. Hanson asked if weekend residents had their friends water plants during the week and if so, they wouldn't need to water on weekends. Ms. Richard said that a good public education program would help with conservation measures.

Federal Anti-discrimination laws: Ms. Greene, general counsel, was not at the meeting so discussion of anti-discrimination laws was tabled until she could be in attendance.

Ms. Richard said that text of bylaws should be made available for public comment.

3bI. Administrative goals. Ms. Richard said she needed to have ballots printed for the upcoming election. She said the district needs to get a ballot box. She suggested that the next meeting be given over to a candidates forum so that another meeting did not have to be scheduled.

Ms Richard said that she has received 2nd cycle of funding from the town and said that she would be cutting a check for hall rental to PIVFD.

3cII. Technical goals. Mr. Brooks said he has informed C&E Engineering that they are now authorized to begin working on the pre-development engineering and environmental report.

3d. Funding. Mr. Buffum presented Ms. Richard with the letter of obligation from USDA approving the funding for pre-development engineering. Ms. Richard said that anti-discrimination bylaws should be adopted as soon as possible to meet the conditions of the grant award. She presented the board with the text of a press release she had written announcing the grant award.

4a. Correspondence. AWWA membership card, NEWWA schedule of seminars, RI Interlocal Risk Management Insurance Policy synopsis.

4b. Other. No other business.

5. Mr. Buffum moved to adjourn to executive session, seconded by Ms. Richard, approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Patricia Richard
Clerk