

Prudence Island Water District
Minutes of meeting: July 9, 2005

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

2. Approval of minutes June 25, 2005. Motion to approve by Richard Brooks, seconded by Phillip Brooks, approved unanimously.

3a. Bylaws. Ms. Richard said that attention should be given to the organizational structure of the bylaws to avoid having to reorganize them whenever new bylaws were adopted.

3aI. Water restrictions. Mr. Buffum said the draft of conservation bylaws should be forwarded to general counsel for a legal opinion, after which they should be available for public comment. Ms. Greene said that she would check with special counsel about division of labor issues and would report to the board.

3aII. Federal Anti-discrimination laws: The board received a copy of the revisions done by general counsel. Ms. Richard asked if the revisions should be posted for public comment. Richard Brooks said that these bylaws were time sensitive and should be adopted. Mr. Buffum said that they should be adopted and then posted and that if the public comment made it necessary to revisit them that the board could do so. Richard Brooks moved to adopt the following anti-discrimination bylaws, seconded by Phillip Brooks, approved unanimously:

Section B – Applications for Service

1. The PIWD will not discriminate against any consumer or applicant for water service because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including physical or mental handicap provided that the applicant or consumer possesses the capacity to enter into legal contract for services), age, national origin, county of ancestral origin or marital status. This non-discriminatory policy will apply to all services provided or applied for, and for all assessments, taxes or fees that the PIWD might charge.

Section I – Administrative

1. The PIWD will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age, national origin or country of ancestral origin. The PIWD will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age, national origin or country of ancestral origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited, to the following: employment, promotion, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; selection for training, including apprenticeship; and, all other terms, benefits and conditions of employment. The PIWD will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age, national origin or country of ancestral origin.

3bI. Administrative goals. Ms. Richard presented the board with a copy of the renewal certificate for insurance through RI Interlocal Risk Mgt. Trust. She said that the district had not yet been invoiced, and that she would check with them to make sure it hadn't gotten lost somehow.

3bIA. Harry Sterling of PIPC presented the board with an outline of the proposed workshops to be held in conjunction with the Prudence Conservancy on land use and development planning. He said that the board of the Conservancy had approved their participation in the workshops. He said that he would like the workshops to take place in August in order to get maximum public participation. Richard Brooks asked about the scheduling and the venue. Mr. Sterling said that he hoped to schedule workshops for Sundays to avoid conflict with major island organization activities. A venue for the workshops is to be decided. Ms. Richard said that when a firm itinerary was in place the board would decide who would represent the district at that particular meeting. Richard Brooks encouraged board members to participate even if they were not representing the district at a particular meeting.

3bII. Technical goals. No technical issues to discuss.

3c. Funding. No funding issues to discuss.

4a. Correspondence. List of publications received from AWWA. RI Interlocal Risk Mgt. Newsletter. ASRWW membership package.

4b. Other. Richard Brooks asked if Rep. Gallison had introduced legislation on behalf of PIUC. Ms. Richard said that she had found no reference to it in the house daily calendars on the General Assembly web site.

Legislation on water issues at the state level:

H5594 – Duty to report contamination to DOH director signed into law.

S0958 – Cross connection control legislation continued to next legislative session. Phillip Brooks said that this legislation might prove costly to the district because every single service connection would need appropriate hardware installed. Richard Brooks said that the district would be installing meters at some point and that cross-connection/backflow control could be added at the same time. Phillip Brooks said that depending on the choice of meter, opportunities for resource-conserving rate structures were possible.

H5305 – Allowing consumers to tie fire protection systems into water distribution systems, recommitted to house corporations. Phillip Brooks said that should this legislation pass, the district should adopt bylaws requiring a separate service connection for fire protection.

H6091 – Filing water supply system management plans. Changes to language already in place in General Laws, continued to next legislative session. Ms. Richard said that she was not familiar enough with the current law to form an opinion on the legislation, but suggested contacting RIWWA and other water districts for input.

Public comment/questions. Mrs. Wallace asked the board to clarify the distinction between the water district and the water company. Ms. Richard explained that the board was positioning itself for negotiations with the utility for transition to a publicly administered water system. Mrs.

Wallace expressed concern about water availability and asked what constraints were in place for well drilling. Richard Brooks said that the only constraint was that the well must be 100 feet from a leach field. Ms. Richard said that ultimately the town had control of development on the island, and that one of the district's goals would be to establish relationships at several levels of government that would foster cooperation to keep the island water supply viable. Mrs. Wallace also expressed concern about water quality. Ms. Richard said that water quality was of great concern to the board and asked that Mrs. Wallace fill out a water quality survey. She explained that one of the goals of the survey was to establish the true cost of water for residents in order to increase funding opportunities.

5. Mr. Buffum moved for adjournment to executive session, seconded by Richard Brooks, approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Patricia Richard
Clerk