

Prudence Island Water District

Minutes of meeting: November 12, 2005

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; and Phillip Brooks. Absent were Richard Brooks and Robert Hanson.

2. Approval of minutes October 15, 2005. Motion to approve by Phillip Brooks, seconded by Ms. Richard, approved unanimously.

3a. Bylaws. Mr. Buffum asked if any public comment had been received regarding administrative bylaws. Ms. Richard said that the only comments received had been from Mr. Rob Garlick at the previous board meeting. Ms. Richard moved for adoption of the administrative bylaws in their entirety, seconded by Mr. Brooks, approved unanimously.

3bl. Administrative goals.

Ms. Richard said that she had received an invoice for legal services from Hinckley, Allen and Snyder in the amount of \$875. Mr. Buffum, acting as treasurer, authorized payment of the invoice.

Ms. Richard reported having bought Quickbooks software and CDs for distribution of information and backup of computerized files. Total expenditure was \$117.92.

Ms. Richard said that the bank balance after payment of HAS invoice would be \$14481.71.

Ms. Richard said that she had not done any additional work on the draft 2006 budget.

3bll. Technical. Land use planning – Ms. Richard presented the board with cds of a map of the Mill Creek watershed overlaid on plat map created by Robin Weber of NBNERR. She said that it was in large format. Mr. Brooks said he might be able to get it printed for the district. Ms. Richard presented the board with a list of undeveloped properties within the watershed. She said that she would contact DEM about getting a list of private wells within the watershed. She said that it probably would not be complete. She said that the cd also included a pdf copy of Rules and Regs for Groundwater Quality dated March 2005. She said that the wellhead protection area in these regs called for a radius of 1750 ft. Ms. Richard said that such an area represented a sizable percentage of the island and she did not know what this designation meant in terms of development. Mr. Brooks said that it most likely had restricted uses in terms of chemicals and industrial uses that could affect the watershed. Ms. Richard said that more research was needed on this issue in order to plan for the future of the community water system. Ms. Richard said that in her conversation with Robin Weber, she was told that the island had no aquifer in the strict sense of the word. Mr. Brooks said that this was

correct and that the only source of water except a possible small aquifer on the north end was whatever rainwater had percolated through to the fissures in the bedrock. He said this made an extended drought a cause for concern. He said that the best way to manage such a system would be through use of several small distributed pumping stations rather than trying to centralize the system. He said that he had a book about approaches to water system development that he would loan out to board members so that they could familiarize themselves with the challenges involved. Mr. Brooks said that conservation measures leaned heavily toward economic measures that favored the wealthy and penalized the poor and that special attention to the rate structure must be paid to minimize that effect. Ms. Richard said that with a lack of availability there was a limit to how much water an individual was entitled to regardless of whether or not they had the ability to pay for it. Mr. Buffum expressed concern about the legal aspects of limiting water usage. Mr. Brooks pointed out that if an individual felt the limits were too severe they would sink a private well. Ms. Richard said that it was important to determine which properties within the watershed were of critical importance to maintenance of groundwater levels and put a strategy in place to acquire the development rights to those properties. Mr. Brooks said that land acquisition is budgeted and matched with state funding for watershed protection.

3c. Funding. Ms. Richard said that she had received a grant application package from EPA and that it was similar to the USDA

application process. She said that the EPA contact, Mark Spinale, had expressed an interest in visiting the island. She said that the grant in question could represent only 55% of the cost of the project. She said that EPA was amenable to using USDA money as match and that she would check with Dave Delisle to see if that was feasible from USDA standpoint.

4a. Correspondence.

Letter from Portsmouth finance office invoicing district for road work. Ms. Richard said that she had informed them that they were billing the wrong entity.

4b – 2006 calendar. Ms. Richard gave board members a tentative meetings calendar for the coming year and asked them to be prepared to approve at the next board meeting.

5. Mr. Buffum moved for adjournment to executive session, seconded by Ms Richard, approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Patricia Richard
Clerk