

Prudence Island Water District

Minutes of meeting: August 19, 2006

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.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Phillip Brooks to approve the minutes of August 5, 2006, with an amendment to the discussion regarding well monitoring to correct a statement regarding possession of keys to locking mechanisms on Pier Rd and Goulet wells. Motion seconded by Mr. Hanson, approved unanimously.

Administrative: Bank statement showing operating fund balance of \$11,145.48.

Ms. Richard said that it was time to pay rent for building in which meetings were held in the amount of \$550.

Ms. Richard said that Ray Gallison would provide contact information for Jeff Gofton to resolve the issue of Rural Development Council funding.

Mr. Buffum returned the check written to him for district web hosting, restating his intent to donate the cost.

Technical: Phillip Brooks reported that he now had keys for the monitoring wells.

Funding: Nothing to report.

Correspondence: Letter from USDA requesting update of contact information and changes to language of non-discrimination policy for program participants.

Other business: Harry Sterling of Prudence Island Planning Commission regarding a survey of island residents. NBNERR will be undertaking the survey as part of their management plan. Mr. Sterling and Bob Marshall of Prudence Conservancy have suggested to NBNERR that a phone survey would be more appropriate than a written survey. Mr. Sterling suggested that parts of the survey be “sponsored” by the district as well as NBNERR, the Planning Commission and the Conservancy. He said that a meeting on the matter, as well as other issues relevant to the groundwater task force, had been tentatively scheduled for Aug. 27. He also suggested that an island census be carried out several times a year because no accurate estimates were currently available. He pointed out that the Portsmouth Town Council would be meeting on August 30 and that it would provide a good opportunity to educate the public on water issues. Mr. Buffum said that a survey that was too comprehensive might discourage people from participating. Mr. Sterling said that a properly conducted phone survey had the potential to streamline that

process. Ms. Richard asked for a timeline for the district to compose survey questions. Mr. Sterling said he would like to have the questions by the Aug. 27 meeting. Ms. Richard asked if a funding mechanism was in place to conduct a phone survey. Mr. Sterling said that NBNERR was compelled to carry out a survey but did not know how much money was available for the purpose. He pointed out that the “deer survey” carried out by NBNERR did not provide adequate identification of participants, rendering the data statistically unreliable and that a phone survey would have a much slimmer statistical margin of error. He said that he envisioned a mailing letting the public know that the survey would be conducted. Ms. Richard said that the public might perceive certain demographic questions as intrusive. She said that current demographic data furnished by the government was suitable for the district’s plans. She said that some of the questions on the deer survey would be useful for the district in terms of how people used their land, because they give an indication of types of water usage. She said that the district had a water quality survey that might have useful questions on it, and that it might also be useful for the district to know how many private wells existed within the district. Mr. Buffum concurred that information about land usage and private wells would be helpful. Mr. Brooks pointed out that metering would give the district a much better overview of water usage.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Patricia Richard, Clerk