

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- **April 5, 2023**

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, met with the Commissioners to give an update on RWD projects. The work is complete on the vernal pools for the water source investigation project, which was done by Soil Scientist Marc Jacobs. A final report will be completed and forwarded along to Rye Conservation Commission, as well as NRCS. It is anticipated that further field investigation and test wells on the Brown Lane Farm property will continue later this summer. The point of entry building at the Garland well is moving along. The foundation is complete and the framer is now on site. It is anticipated that the building will be completed by summer.

Mr. Berg continued that the Wallis Road piping has been installed to Park Ridge. Valve clusters are being cut in at the intersection of Ocean and Park Ridge. A stop construction date is planned for Memorial Day weekend. The soil characterization for the Washington Road tank site is

scheduled for May 5th. The lead removal and tank painting project is planned to go out to bid in 2024.

IV. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for April

Superintendent Jones reviewed his monthly report and pumping chart for April.

- Pumping totals are down from this time last year. This could be due to several leak repairs in the system. It could also be from the stabilization of the effects of high usage during Covid, which is now dwindling off.
- Flushing of the system took place during the month of April and is now completed. The Portsmouth side of the system will be addressed in the next couple of weeks.
- Static and pumping levels of the wells are in good condition due to the amount of recent rainfall. The well levels are returning to more than average GPM flows.
- Most of the piping has been put in place for the point of entry project. The system is now operating on a single point of entry. The foundation footings and walls are in for the point of entry building. The electrical equipment has been ordered for the project. It's anticipated that the project will be completed on schedule.
- The new operator has completed his background check and drug testing. He is scheduled to begin work on May 8th.
- A new truck has been located for the District, which will be used in the field by the new operator. A Ford F-150 will be picked up next week from Londonderry Ford.
- The State monthly samples are being taken within the week. The samples for iron, manganese, HPCs and secondary bacteria were pulled last week. The results have not yet been received.
- The irrigation policy has been posted to the District's website. An irrigation system permit form is now being drafted.
- The annual leak detection via NH DES grant is moving forward with the same company who has done the work in the past.
- Craig Musselman, CMA Engineering, is working on further analyzation of the data from the landfill, which will be addressed at an upcoming town select board meeting. Several spreadsheets have been prepared with information with regard to properties connected to the RWD system for Mr. Musselman.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to accept the Superintendent's monthly report. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Report for April

The Commissioners reviewed the expenditure report for the month of April. They also reviewed the annual billing from April and initialed the billing report. There were no issues or concerns.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the cash flow report for April. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. Old Business

a. John Guilfoil Public Relations Contract

The Commission discussed whether RWD should enter into a public relations contract at this time. The contract presented to the District would cover four pieces of content a month. It's unsure at this time if the District even has four pieces of content to post each month.

Commissioner Lopresto noted that the District might not have the content now; however, there are some exciting things coming down the pike. That would be the time to really market what the District is doing. Right now, she doesn't think it's a need and the District should wait a year.

Chair Hickson suggested asking for more information and clarity on what is going to be provided from the public relations firm for the fee paid each month. He also suggested contacting the current website hosting company to get an estimate on what it would cost to update the District's website.

Motion by Scott Marion to table the public relations consulting proposal for further information. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VIII. New Business

a. PUBLIC HEARING – LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY GRANT – The purpose of the hearing is to consider acceptance and expenditure of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) in funds from NH DES for a Lead Service Line Inventory Grant.

At 10:28 a.m., Chair Hickson opened the public hearing for the lead service line survey grant. The NH DES grant will be used to conduct a survey of all water service lines from the road to the house to identify any lead in the service lines. It's expected that RWD does not have any lead in its service lines. If there are any lines identified, those lines would be replaced. RWD has records of every service line within the District. Lead service lines were used pre-1940's. The Water District started construction and water service connections to the distribution system in the 1950's and beyond.

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce, explained the reason for the grant and the process for identifying any lead service lines.

Chair Hickson closed the public hearing at 10:35 a.m.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the \$40,000 grant from DES to do the lead service line inventory. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No areas of concern for the Water District were noted.

X. Other Business

Commissioner Lopresto proposed a new mission statement for the Water District and presented it for the Commissioners review.

Chair Hickson and Commissioner Marion agreed with the proposed mission statement.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to change the mission statement of the Rye Water District to:
At Rye Water District, our mission is to provide the Rye Water District community with drinking water that meets all current federal and state drinking standards along with excellent customer service and environmental conservation.

Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

- Town spring newsletter article is due to Janice Ireland by May 15th.
- Commissioner Lopresto spoke to the Commission about philanthropy work. She would like to start “H2O Philanthropy” and would like the first recipient to be the Goss Farm and RCC with the donation of rain barrels.

There was discussion about whether or not RWD would be able to make public donations as a public entity. More information would be needed.

- Superintendent Jones and RWD is receiving the 2023 Source Water Sustainability Award from NH DES for exemplary work to institute water conservation measures to significantly reduce excessive water use. RWD worked with the Town of Rye to institute water use restrictions during drought periods.

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger