

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.
Rye Town Hall – 10 Central Road**

Commissioners Present:

**Scott Marion, Chair
Rosalie Lopresto, Vice-Chair
Tom Mack**

Others Present:

**Brian Goetz, RWD Administrator
Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce**

I. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Welcome Brian Goetz

Chair Marion welcomed new Water District Administrator Brian Goetz.

III. Approval of Minutes

- **August 20th**

**Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the minutes of August 20, 2024, as presented.
Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.**

- **September 4th**

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of September 4, 2024, as presented.
Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

IV. Chris Berg, Wright Pierce

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, met with the Commissioners to give an update in regard to ongoing projects for the District. He noted that the meeting with the Rye Conservation Commission to discuss the water investigation work at the Brown Farm Lane property went well. The brush cutting at the property is going to start the end of this week. Maher Services is

working on revising their proposal for the drilling work related to the test well. It's anticipated that the quote and scope of work will be more in line with the quote from Capital Well. He pointed out that there's a possibility of using less matting. Right now, the quote covers 1,000 ft of matting. There will definitely be a need for matting across the causeway. There is also the culvert area and the well head area that needs to be addressed. There will also be sediment and erosion control that will be required to be installed as well. He noted there has been discussion about what is going to be used. There is an opportunity to put some plates down, as opposed to matting, which could potentially reduce costs.

Mr. Berg continued that an SRF loan application has been submitted to the State for the lead service line replacement project. As part of the Lead Service Line Inventory project, notification to the property owners who have unknown components in the service lines are due to go out in November. The District does not anticipate finding lead service lines in the system because of the construction history. However, the District does not have the documentation to support the general assumptions for about 250 services out of 1700 services. It was noted that this is only on the utility side of the system. All customer side service lines have been identified. The District just needs to confirm the material for the 250 utility service lines to meet the State's standard. The SRF loan will need to go to warrant at the District's annual meeting and follow the public hearing process.

Superintendent Arik Jones explained that the 250 unknown service lines have to be dug up and identified. The SRF loan will cover the expense for the work to be done, which has a 71% principal forgiveness component.

V. Superintendent's Report and usage data for the month of September

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed the usage data for the month of September and gave a report on monthly tasks.

- The District pumped about 16 million gallons last month due to lack of precipitation. This amount falls in line with the 17 million gallons that was pumped in August. The high use day on September 10th was due to an electrical event that transpired at the Booster Station.
- Superintendent Jones and Mr. Berg will be giving a presentation about boil orders and chlorination at the NH Drinking water Expo & Trade Show on Thursday, October 24th.
- The water operators are working on fall flushing. The flushing will take place three days during the week over the next month. Flushing should be completed by the end of October. A list of the neighborhoods with flushing dates will be posted on the District's website (ryewaterdistrict.com).
- Soule will be starting brush cutting on October 3rd at the Brown Lane Farm property. The trails will be closed to the public over the next two days for the work.
- The District has replaced about 240 meters this year to the Kamstrup meters.

- Leak detection was recently performed by American Leak Detection through a NH DES Grant, which the District has been able to get almost on an annual basis. Throughout the system, there was only one leak detected on Grove Road. The District will be addressing the repair as soon as possible.

VI. Administrator's Report

RWD Administrator Brian Goetz noted that he has been working with the Superintendent and Business Manager over the past couple of days. He has been observing the operations of the system and gathering information on ongoing projects. He has been reviewing past test well reports and looking at treatment options that have been proposed by Wright-Pierce in their past work. Former RWD Commissioner Art Ditto has also been to the office to share his insight and experience with the District.

With regard to the test well, Administrator Goetz commented that just getting access to what is potentially there is the best way to go for the moment, instead of going with a full production well that may not prove out. On the treatment side, he is looking at some of the trends with manganese and iron. He has been reviewing some of the past reports for the previous design piloting and the recommendations. He continued that some of the trends in the Cedar Well have not been ideal. He knows that alternatives to that well have been pursued. Although the Bailey Well has iron and manganese, it seems to be a steady state and is more in line with the 2009 report. In doing another piloting, it would be six to nine months before deciding where to go with the design of the system. His thought is to possibly pursue treatment of the Garland Well and Bailey Well with the thought that future expansion could occur for the Cedar Well. The District could also be concurrently looking for alternate water. It may be such that the Cedar Well remains as a backup and not fully part of the active system. Administrator Goetz explained that the treatment would be a revisit of the 2009 design. The only revision that he sees would be the activated carbon for the PFAS treatment. He continued that if the Cedar Well becomes a treated source it's going to take a lot of power and a whole process that's more operator intensive, which could be more costly. He will be providing more thoughts on his review to the Commission in the near future.

Administrator Goetz spoke about H.R. 7944, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act. The intent of the legislation is to protect water systems from being a responsible party as a generator of disposals that are generated through the treatment process and limit the liability to public water systems. NH Water Works is asking for letters of support for H.R. 7944 from water systems throughout New Hampshire.

The asked Administrator Goetz to draft a letter of support.

VII. Business

- a. Maher Well estimate details compared to Capital Well estimate (sent by Greg Smith)**

The Commission reviewed the estimate details for Maher Well submitted by Wright-Pierce. Maher Well will be revising their quotation and submitting it to the District for approval.

b. RCC meeting Brown property brush cutting timeline/letter to Patricia Brown

Chair Marion agreed to draft a letter to Patricia Brown giving an update on the source investigation work at the Brown Farm Lane property. Commissioner Mack will review the draft.

c. Monthly financial review/submission of information to Town Finance Department

The Commission reviewed the financial update sheets submitted by Business Manager Dyana Ledger. There were no issues or concerns. It was confirmed that the District has submitted all necessary forms to the NH Department of Revenue Administration required for the Town's overall tax rate setting for 2024.

d. Heated porta potty estimate vs other options

There was some discussion about options that might be available for the porta potty facilities at the Garland Well for the water operators. Superintendent Jones has found a unit that would work for the situation at a cost of \$3,500. The Commission agreed to have him move forward with the best option for the site and the operators.

VIII. Other Business

a. Office renovation update

The renovation of the District's office at 60 Sagamore Road is completed. The office has new flooring, and all offices have been painted. Other improvements to the office include the repair of the exterior entryway overhang, and new interior LED lighting fixtures. The District Administrator is working on setting up his office and is working with tech support on computer setup.

b. Add Administrator Goetz to the RSB agenda for introduction

The Commissioners agreed to attend the Rye Select Board meeting on Tuesday, October 29th to introduce Administrator Goetz.

c. Parsons Creek Watershed Technical Committee with FB Environmental – RWD employee/commissioner participation vs concerned Rye citizens

There was some discussion about the committee being formed by FB Environmental to address bacteria issues in the Parsons Creek Watershed. FB Environmental has been hired by the Town to conduct bacteria testing and monitoring for the Watershed.

Commissioner Mack commented that FB Environmental is forming a technical advisory committee, so they would be looking for technical input. He doesn't think the Commissioners should be on the committee as representatives from the Rye Water District. He continued that this is a beach and watershed issue. Although the Rye Water District is interested, he doesn't think they should be associated with it, as residents may think that RWD may have some contribution to the problem.

Danna Truslow, hydrologist in attendance, commented that FB Environmental has looked for the source of bacteria over the years. They have done fairly significant testing, and they continue to monitor. She doesn't think there is much understanding of where the bacteria is coming from still. She is willing to sit in on the committee meetings and report back to the Water District.

Commissioner Lopresto will send the committee contact information to Danna Truslow.

After further discussion, the Commission agreed that there should not be a representative from RWD on the committee; however, anyone can attend as a concerned citizen on their own behalf.

d. Public Comment

Hugh Lee, 220 Pioneer Road, requested information on RWD's current budget and updated revenues for 2024 that have been submitted to DRA as part of the tax rate setting process.

Business Manager Ledger agreed to provide this information to Mr. Lee.

Art Ditto, 6 Fern Avenue, commented that the Washington Road tanks should be washed to help upgrade their appearance.

Superintendent Jones replied that the Water District has entered into a tank maintenance contract, which will go into effect after the annual meeting if the 2025 budget is approved. The contract addresses long-term servicing, inspections, and maintenance of the tanks on Washington Road.

- **Next meeting: Wednesday, October 16th, 8:30 a.m.**

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Marion to adjourn at 3:14 p.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dyana F Ledger