



**RYE WATER DISTRICT
WORK SESSION
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Road**

Commission Present:

Scott Marion, Chair
Rosalie Lopresto, Vice-Chair (via Zoom)
Tom Mack (via Zoom)

Others Present on behalf of the District:

Brian Goetz, District Administrator
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Arik Jones, Superintendent

I. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the work session to order at 8:36 p.m.

II. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Arik Jones gave an operations overview for the month of February.

- The pumping totals are down from this time last year. The totals for this year are the lowest the District has seen in some time for February. One of the reasons for the decrease in totals would be because the District has located and fixed quite a few leaks over the past couple of years.
- The month of February brought significantly more precipitation from snow and rain as compared to last year; however, the environment is still in drought conditions.
- The water operators are working on replacing meters and getting prepared for the first quarter readings, which will happen by the end of the month. After that time, the operators will be prepping for flushing in April. Superintendent Jones will be working directly with the operators during the flushing this season to ensure a thorough flushing of the system.
- The recent main break on Ocean Boulevard was due to a fitting that broke apart. All repairs have been made, and paving has been completed.

III. Business Manager's Update

a. Financials

Business Manager Dyana Ledger reported that the audit for 2024 has been completed, and the financials have been closed for the year. The auditors are working on the final report for the District.

b. Billing system upgrade

The District's billing software is being upgraded by the current vendor gWorks. It's anticipated that the new software will be ready to launch sometime in the fall. The Business Manager and Administrator will continue to work with gWorks on implementing the new system.

IV. Administrator's Update

District Administrator Brian Goetz updated the Commission on district projects.

a. Treatment Facility

i. Design Contract

Underwood Engineering is working on a draft contract for the preliminary design of the treatment facility. Once the contract is received, it will be sent to Attorney Roman for review. The intent is to have the contract ready for the Commissioners to vote on at an upcoming meeting.

ii. Piloting

Administrator Goetz presented photos showing the piloting setup and explained the work that has been done to date for the testing of different medias for PFAS removal. Underwood Engineering has been providing guidance on the pilot project as the process moves along.

b. Well Projects

i. Water Supply

Administrator Goetz reviewed precipitation charts showing the monthly average versus actual. He noted that there was significantly more rain in January and March of last year. If the weather continues to be dryer than normal in March, it will be twelve straight months of below average precipitation. Fortunately, the well levels are holding right now, but they may start dropping this spring.

ii. Garland sources

The Central Road treatment project will include work to decide the best options for utilizing the three well sources in a sustainable manner. The District will be holding a workshop with Wright-Pierce and Underwood Engineer hydrogeologists, together with district staff and commissioner Mack, to decide the best path forward for these wells prior to final design of the treatment system. The anticipation is this meeting will occur in early spring 2025.

iii. West Road

Wright-Pierce has submitted a scope of work with fees for the West Road well permitting project. The District will move forward on the project if a favorable vote is received from the voters at the annual meeting.

c. Water Rates

Administrator Goetz has been in contact with Dave Fox at Raftelis to discuss their report from 2024. The District will be working on changes to the rate structure and looking at increases in the rates for the next budgeting season, which will also coincide with the upgrade of the billing system. Information on the costs of building and running the treatment facility will be taken into consideration when looking at the rate structure and future increases.

d. Water Efficiency Outreach (irrigation)

Administrator Goetz is planning an email blast and posting on the website to remind residents to keep water conservation and irrigation efficiency in mind when turning their irrigation systems on for the season. He will also be reaching out to some of the higher users about water usage as well as the irrigation companies that maintain these systems.

e. Emergency Notification

1. Create a Facebook page presence?

It was agreed to keep posting emergency notifications and other important information related to water supply and quality on the District's website. It was decided to not create a Facebook page at this time.

V. Annual Meeting Materials

a. Annual Report

Chair Marion agreed to review the draft annual report and makes comments for Administrator Goetz to finalize for printing the annual meeting books.

b. Powerpoint for meeting

The Commissioners have reviewed the Powerpoint prepared by Administrator Goetz and have made their suggestions for the presentation which will be shown at the annual meeting.

c. Posting and other notices

- i.** Website
- ii.** Email blast
- iii.** Electronic message boards

The warrant and proposed 2025 budget will be posted on the District's website and in two spots in town, including the Rye Middle School where the annual meeting will be held. Superintendent Jones will follow up on the electronic message board for meeting notification. An email blast from the website will also be sent.

VI. Other Business

- Next meeting date was scheduled for March 24th, 1:30 p.m. at the RWD office.

Adjournment

Chair Marion adjourned the work session at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dyana F Ledger