

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- March 1, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

- March 22, 2023

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Election of Officers: Chair & Vice-Chair

Motion by Scott Marion to nominate Ralph Hickson as chair. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to nominate Scott Marion as vice-chair. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.

IV. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce: Project Updates

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce Engineering, gave an update to the Commission in regards to ongoing projects for the District. RWD has an opportunity with DES to receive a Lead Service Grant in the amount of \$50,000. The grant can be used to develop a service line inventory for the District. DES has approved RWD for two of the three sustainability grants, which were submitted in December. The amounts awarded under each grant is \$50,000. The Commission just needs to decide which two projects they would like to move forward.

It was agreed by the Commission to use the grants for the office booster pump station project and the Garland Road water main to connect high service to low service zones.

Mr. Berg noted that the draft letter to NRCS for water source at Brown Lane Farm is ready for the Rye Conservation Commission's review. He is waiting to hear back from RCC on their thoughts before submitting the letter to NRCS. The intent is to have Marc Jacobs at the property this spring to do the mapping of vernal pools.

The Wallis Road water main replacement has started again for the spring. The next step in the project is to do directional drilling from east of Appledore toward Odiorne. The intention is to get as much work done on this project before Memorial Day. Some additional work may be needed in the fall to finalize the work.

Referring to the water tank painting project, Mr. Berg commented that additional soil characterizations are required for the area around the tank. The soil work should be moving forward within the next month. The painting is potentially on the docket for bidding early next year. Mr. Berg continued that Wright-Pierce will be working on a draft document for the Level of Service project. The document will address key performance indicators and how RWD measures against the goals based on input from the public, as well as from a regulatory standpoint. The document should be ready later this month. The water rate study is being worked on as part of the Asset Management Plan. The intent is to have the rate study ready for review in May.

Mr. Berg noted that State Revolving Fund (SRF) applications are due in early June. This is a low interest loan opportunity for projects RWD would like to move forward. It was agreed that the Brown Farm Lane water source and the treatment plant would be good projects to put forward, along with the tank painting project.

V. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for March

Superintendent Arik Jones presented his monthly report, and data charts for the month of March.

- The pumping totals are down for the month of March in comparison to the same time frame last year.
- The point of entry project at Garland is about three-quarters complete.
- Required monthly samples for the system for March came back clear, as well as no identifiable plate counts for the wells. The PFAS samples for quarter 1 have been

received and are as anticipated. Quarter 3 is usually where higher PFAS values are seen because of the higher usage during the summer months. Quarter 1 is where lower values are seen.

- A second interview is being conducted in the next few days for the open water operator position.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Superintendent's report for March. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Cash Flow Reports for March

The Commissioners reviewed the monthly cash flow reports for the month of March. They also reviewed the Treasurer's reports for the months of January and February. There were no issues or concerns noted.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's report for January. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to accept the Treasurer's report for February. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

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

VII. Correspondence

- a. Letter rec'd Karen Andronaco, Partners Bank and response from Amy Thibodeau, RWD Treasurer

The Commission agreed with the Treasurer's proposal to move RWD's general fund account back to TD Bank and to leave the escrow accounts with Partners Bank.

Motion by Scott Marion to move the general fund to TD Bank in accordance with the recommendation of the Rye Water District Treasurer. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VIII. Old Business

- a. **Cross Connection**

The Commission voted to accept the Cross Connection Policy at a previous meeting. The Cross Connection now needs to be signed by the Commissioners.

IX. New Business

- a. **Cellular Lease Renewal Contract**

A renewal lease for TD Mobile was received for the Commissioners review. The cellular equipment is located on the Breakfast Hill water tank. It was agreed to send the lease to Attorney Quinn for his review.

b. Seacoast Drinking Water Commission

The Commissioners discussed who would be representing the Rye Water District on the Seacoast Drinking Water Commission moving forward, as Art Ditto previously held the position. Commissioner Hickson agreed to be the new representative for the District.

c. Aquarion/Portsmouth Water

There was discussion about inviting Brian Goetz from Portsmouth Water and Jenn Mates from DES to a meeting to discuss the possibility of receiving Portsmouth water to serve homes within the Rye Water District. There was also discussion about following up with Aquarion Water about their proposal to acquire the Water District. It was agreed to invite Brian Goetz and Jenn Mates to a meeting with the Commission on May 17th. Aquarion Water will be invited back in to speak with the Commission on May 31st.

d. Resident question about a five-member commission

A question was raised at RWD's Annual Meeting about the possibility of having a five-member commission. Under RSA §38:18, the board of commissioners shall consist of three or more citizens of such municipality for vested management, control, and direction of the district. The Commission agreed that at this time, the three-member commission works well for the District and it should be kept as is.

X. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns noted.

XI. Other Business

a. Public Relation Firm

Business Manager Dyana Ledger will reach out to John Guilfoil Public Relations to ask them to meet with the Commissioners at their meeting on April 19th.

XII. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Legal

At 11:15 p.m., Scott Marion made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (e) Legal. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

Roll Call: Scott Marion – Aye; Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Ralph Hickson – Aye

The Commission came out of non-public session at 11:35 p.m.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:45 p.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger