

**RYE WATER DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting held via ZOOM  
**April 7, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

Tom Clifford, Commission Chair  
Ralph Hickson, Commissioner  
Art Ditto, Commissioner

**Others Present:**

Arik Jones, Superintendent  
Darren Prince, Asst. Superintendent  
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager  
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce  
Greg Smith, Wright-Pierce

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Clifford called the meeting to order via Zoom video conferencing at 9:00 a.m.

Statement by Tom Clifford:

As chair of the Rye Water District Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting by clicking on the following website address: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)  
ID #815 3650 0293 Password: 03870

Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the commission at: [ryewaterdistrict.com](http://ryewaterdistrict.com) go to the Meetings/Agenda page and click on the agenda for this meeting.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Roll call attendance of commissioners:

1. Tom Clifford
2. Ralph Hickson
3. Art Ditto

## **II. Wright-Pierce Update – Chris Berg**

**Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce**, gave an update to the Commissioners in regards to ongoing projects Wright-Pierce is working on for the Water District. Work is continuing on the Cedar Run replacement well project. Comments have been received from NH DES. Wright-Pierce will be responding to those comments over the next two months.

Commissioner Ditto noted that they need to make a decision as to what to do with the old Cedar Run well, as that is one of the responses needed in the DES letter. He knows there was some discussion at the last meeting about losing the capacity of the old well, even though it is marginal water quality.

**Greg Smith, Wright-Pierce**, replied that it is only going to get harder and more expensive to permit wells in the future because the N.H. regulations are getting tighter. This well is permitted for about 150 gallons per minute. The original Cedar Run well was permitted for 350 gallons per minute total. If the new well is continued to be called a replacement well, under those regulations it will allow for some flexibility to get a wavier for the protective radius. However, to keep the full yield, the original well has to be maintained as a backup well. Under the backup well requirements, there are more stringent controls for the protective radius. He commented that those are the two paths that will have to be considered.

Commissioner Ditto suggested a response to DES that the Rye Water District is reviewing their options at this time.

Commissioner Hickson stated that they will need to look at the demand on the system and what can be supplied.

Superintendent Arik Jones pointed out all the new development that is taking place in Rye. The system is in good shape right now, other than July and August, as far as supplying. However, down the road, they are going to need a higher quantity of water. Storage capacity may even become an issue. All of this will need to be taken into consideration when making a determination on what to do with the Cedar Run well.

Mr. Smith commented that they can also go back to the new source investigation. This may be another option for the District in the future.

It was agreed that the new source investigation will need to start again at some point. It was also agreed that all options need to be considered and discussed.

Mr. Berg noted that a progress meeting for the Garland pumphouse project is being held on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., at the well site with the contractor.

### **III. Superintendent's Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, Data Report and Bacteria Tests for March**

Superintendent Arik Jones gave his monthly reporting to the Commissioners.

- The March pumping totals are consistent with this time last year.
- All monthly samples have been drawn.
- Spring flushing will begin this week and continue to the end of the month.
- The generator at Cedar Run and Bailey is fully installed and operational.
- He is currently reviewing the proposed development plans for 31 units at the Hector's site on Route 1. He will be providing comments for the Planning Board. There is also a proposal for an addition at Evolve Memory Care, which will provide an additional 91 beds. At this time, water can be supplied. However, as more demand is being put on the system, it depletes the ability to supply during the July and August time frame. One factor that needs to be considered is the District's storage capacity, as the Breakfast Hill tank is not a storage tank. There is a limited range in which the system can maintain adequate pressure.

The Commissioners expressed their concerns in regards to the drain on the system with the recent proposed development; particularly, in the Route 1 area. They discussed the possibility of Aquarion Water providing the water for the new development site. The Water District is slated to provide water to Evolve, as they are already being provided by the District. There was also some discussion about the idea of the Water District buying bulk water from Aquarion to provide water to the new development.

Superintendent Jones agreed to speak with Carl McMorran at Aquarion Water and follow up with the Commissioners at a future meeting.

**Motion by Art Ditto to accept the Superintendents reports for the month of March.**

**Seconded by Ralph Hickson.**

**Roll Call: Art Ditto – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford - Yes**

**Motion passed**

### **IV. Approval of Minutes – March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of March 3, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Art Ditto.**

**Roll Call: Ralph Hickson – Yes; Art Ditto – Yes; Tom Clifford – Yes**

**Motion passed.**

**V. Portsmouth Water – Brian Goetz**

**Brian Goetz, Deputy Director Portsmouth Public Works**, met with the Commissioners to express his concerns about abnormally dry conditions and future drought conditions that may happen in 2021.

**VI. Cash Flow Reports**

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports for the month of March. There were no issues or concerns.

**Motion by Art Ditto to accept the cash flow reports for the month of March. Seconded by Ralph Hickson.**

**Roll Call: Art Ditto – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford - Yes**

**Motion passed**

**VII. Treasurer’s Reports for January & February**  
*Not available*

**VIII. Correspondence**  
*None*

**IX. Old Business**  
*None*

**X. New Business**

Chair Clifford noted that he read in the Rye Civic League Newsletter that five out of the seven septic systems on Marjorie Way have high nitrate readings. He is not sure how this affects the Water District.

Commissioner Ditto stated that those are advanced septic systems that pretreat the waste before it goes to the leachfield. There was an issue with the homeowners not knowing that the systems had to be maintained, which caused failures. This may be a legacy of that issue. There was a concern about the nitrates getting into the Garland well when they did the original hydraulic flow for that area. In looking at the groundwater flow direction, it runs parallel to Grove Road. It looks to go past the Garland well and not be drawn into it. He is not sure if they need to be looking at the sampling to be sure it is not showing up.

Superintendent Jones noted that they ran those tests last year. On initial review, there wasn’t anything that stood out as higher than normal in regards to nitrate.

**XI. Town Planning & Zoning Minutes**

There were no areas of concern in the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment meeting minutes for March.

## **XII. Other Business**

- **Annual Meeting Update**

RWD's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m., at the Rye Junior High. At this time, the intent is to hold the meeting outside on the school's grounds under tents. Social distancing will be followed and masks/face coverings are encouraged.

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

**At 10:19 a.m., Art Ditto made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 1-A:3, II (e) Legal. Seconded by Ralph Hickson.**

**Roll Call: Art Ditto – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford - Yes**

**Motion passed**

**The Commission came out of non-public session at 11:28 a.m.**

**Motion by Art Ditto to seal the minutes of the non-public session just held. Seconded by Ralph Hickson.**

**Roll Call: Art Ditto – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford - Yes**

**Motion passed**

### **Adjournment**

**Motion by Ralph Hickson to adjourn at 11:29 a.m. Seconded by Art Ditto.**

**Roll Call: Art Ditto – Yes; Ralph Hickson – Yes; Tom Clifford - Yes**

**Motion passed**

Respectfully Submitted

Dyana F. Ledger