



MEETING

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Road

Commission Present: *Scott Marion, Rosalie Lopresto and Tom Mack*

Others Present on behalf of the District: *District Administrator Brian Goetz, Business Manager Dyana Ledger, Superintendent Arik Jones and Attorney Keriann Roman*

I. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Administrator Update:

a. NHDES response to letter regarding Grove Road Landfill permit

Commissioners reviewed the July 23, 2025, email letter response from the NHDES regarding the June 20, 2025, email letter from Administrator Goetz to NHDES questioning aspects of the recently renewed Grove Road Landfill permit. No direct response to that letter will take place at this time, however, district staff will work with consultants to continue to review the Garland well area monitoring wells and determine if the district should increase our sampling of monitoring wells and/or, install additional monitoring well locations to continue to identify and track the PFAS contamination coming from the landfill. Part of this effort will happen as part of the Garland backup well siting, included in the central treatment project.

b. Well work status

Administrator Goetz updated the commissioners about the ongoing work at the Cedar Run well. Data has been submitted from our consultant regarding the borehole geophysics. Administrator Goetz and commissioner Mack met with Wright-Pierce to discuss that data and next steps. Subsequently, Wright-Pierce submitted a work scope to continue that effort and work with well drilling vendors to have a well packer seal installed in the upper zone of the well with the intent of sealing off the upper waters that have higher total organic carbon, making the well difficult to treat. The commissioners agreed to the scope and continued efforts.

c. West Road test well status

The West Road test well borehole geophysics were reviewed and discussed by the commissioners. Wright-Pierce's recommendation after meeting with Administrator Goetz and Commissioner Mack was to perform additional electro resistivity testing around the well to better determine the fractures around the well. This information will be utilized to see if the current test well is in the optimum location. It will also yield useful information to respond to anticipated questions from the public and the regulators about the extent of the bedrock aquifer recharge area. The commissioners agreed to the additional work scope. Administrator Goetz said that he would also update the Rye Conservation Commission about the work.

d. Treatment design status

Preliminary design and piloting continues. The focus is on further sampling the sources of water for parameters that are not normally sampled for. These aren't regulatory compliance parameters but ones that might help in identifying proper treatment technologies for the bedrock well sources. The commissioners also discussed having an updated cost estimate for the treatment by the end of the year that can be utilized to break down the amount attributed to the iron/manganese treatment together with the additional cost the PFAS treatment and supply operations will impact the district.

e. Portsmouth request for additional water service along Breakfast Hill Road

Attorney Roman discussed Portsmouth's request for additional wholesale water from the district per the city's July 9, 2025 letter. Commissioner Lopresto noted that, if connected, the water that Rye would be delivered to these new customers is currently over the new EPA limit of 4 parts-per-trillion for PFOA and PFOS and that Portsmouth should note that when new customers connect. If the new customers were to connect after the district's treatment facility is completed, then this will not be the case. No vote was taken on this matter. The commissioners asked Attorney Roman to begin drafting an agreement that not only addresses these new connections, but also the wholesale water agreement that Rye has with the City of Portsmouth for water that we get from their system. This agreement should also mention that all customers served through this connection from Rye follow Rye's irrigation policies. Commissioner Lopresto asked that her reservations on providing water to Portsmouth for the new development be noted for the record.

There was further discussion with Attorney Roman regarding the NHDES letter relating to the Grove Road Landfill permit.

At 9:50 a.m., Tom Mack moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Legal. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

Roll Call: Rosalie Lopresto – Aye; Tom Mack – Aye; Scott Marion – Aye

The Commission came out of non-public session at 10:20 a.m.

Tom Mack moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

f. Portsmouth wholesale rate increase – 9% effective July 1, 2025

Portsmouth recently approved their FY26 budget, which includes a 9% increase in water rates for their customers. It is assumed that the wholesale rate that Rye pays to Portsmouth will also increase the same amount.

g. Rate study progress

Administrator Goetz and Business Manager Ledger met with Underwood Engineers to begin work on the rate study. The next couple of months will involve a lot of data analysis. The intent is to have a draft report from Underwood by early September so the district can discuss and implement rate changes prior to January 1, 2026.

III. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Jones gave a brief update on recent water pumping totals. He also updated the commissioners on recent operator work in the field.

IV. Other Business:

a. Operator interviews (five interviewed by Brian and Arik)

Administrator Goetz and Superintendent Jones gave an overview of the five candidates that they have interviewed so far. The commissioners agreed that the top candidate should be invited to the next commission meeting. Administrator Goetz will reach out to that candidate and follow up.

b. Community Power rates

Administrator Goetz spoke about an article he recently saw regarding an increase in Community Power rates. The commission asked him to reach out to Howard Kalet from the Rye Energy Committee for more information.

c. Logos and signs

Superintendent Jones presented an estimate to put the new RWD logo on the district's work trucks. The commissioners did not have an issue with the estimate of \$2,700 for the work.

d. LSLI Loan paperwork

Chair Marion signed the LSLI loan and grant paperwork requested by the State.

At 11:15 a.m., Tom Mack moved to adjourn. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.
Respectfully submitted, Dyana F Ledger