

**RYE WATER DISTRICT  
MEETING**

February 2, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.  
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.

**Commissioners Present:**

**Ralph Hickson, Chair  
Art Ditto**

**Others Present:**

**Arik Jones, Superintendent  
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager  
Selectman Phil Winslow**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- January 12<sup>th</sup>

**Motion by Art Ditto to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021, as presented. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

**III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce**

**Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce**, gave an update to the Commissioners regarding ongoing Rye Water District projects. The sustainability grant applications have been submitted to DES. The District should hear back by the end of February on whether those were accepted and what project will be moving forward. The District put in applications for water auditing, strategic planning and asset management. These grants are no match grants. There is \$50,000 available for strategic planning and \$100,000 for asset management. Mr. Berg noted that once the District knows what funds may be awarded, a scope of work can be put together for each project. Under the asset management scope, some of the work would be a water rate study, review of asset management and revision/updates of asset management plans currently in place. The District could take a much more in depth look at the water rates by hiring a consultant who specializes in rate structures for municipalities. A rate structure analysis will fit into the asset management grant guidelines. Mr. Berg noted that the strategic planning is mostly related to source development, whether it be looking for new sources or increasing the reliability of existing sources. It is anticipated that the grants will be funded in April or May of this year.

Mr. Berg spoke in regards to other grants and funding through the State that may be available for other District projects.

The water source investigation work will continue in the spring for the conservation property located off West Road. One of the first projects will be vernal pool identification, which can only be done within a short timeframe in the spring. The District will follow up with Rye Conservation Commission in regards to their plans for vernal pool assessment.

The Garland well upgrade project is scheduled to be completed this spring. A special application has been submitted to the Drinking Water Trust Fund for the Wallis Road main replacement, which will be considered at the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. A representative from the District will be attending the meeting with Mr. Berg to present the project to the Trust Fund Board.

The design work for the Washington Road tank painting project will begin in the spring, after the annual meeting. The Emergency Response Plan has been completed and has been submitted to the State and EPA for certification. The design work for the booster pump station at 60 Sagamore Road will begin this year. Wright-Pierce will work on a preliminary design and scope of work which can be submitted with the SRF application this year.

**Superintendent Arik Jones** reported that he has received a draft interconnection agreement from Aquarion Water for the Route 1 corridor. The existing water main on Route 1 is owned by Aquarion Water. The District has included funds in the 2022 budget to purchase the water main with the funds being reimbursed by the project developers for the old Hector's site and Benchmark. The developers have agreed to give RWD an easement area on their property for a future interconnect control building. The interconnection agreement is directed towards emergency connections. The sale of water would need to be discussed and is not something that is anticipated to happen in the near future.

There was some discussion in regards to the timeframe for the water connections for the two projects on Route 1 (old Hector's site and Benchmark). It is unsure if the interconnection agreement and water main purchase will be completed by the time the developments need to connect to water. It was agreed that Superintendent Jones will speak with Carl McMorran from Aquarion Water to see if there is a way to set up interim access to the water main.

Commissioner Ditto recommended that they go over current and future projects in more detail in March or April, so the District can be more precise in planning for the Town's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The District could also make better use of that information for its own planning purposes.

A public hearing is being held on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at the Rye Junior High for the Wallis Road water main replacement project. A snow date of March 9<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled. Chris Berg will be presenting the project for the Water District.

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

Superintendent Jones presented his monthly report and data charts to the Commissioners for the month of January.

- The pumping totals are consistent with the January 2021 totals.
- Bacteria samples are being pulled within the next two days for February.
- Maher Services is replacing the pump and motor at Bailey Brook well. They should be completed with their work by the beginning of next week. After that time, a pump flow test will be completed and samples will be drawn. It is anticipated that the well will be back on line by February 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The District is still waiting for the delivery of the new Ford truck.
- The NH Labor Board has returned to the District for reinspection. The District has passed all requirements. It was noted that the chemical rooms are non-occupiable space, nor is the pump room. Chemical identification is required for interior and exterior doors at the pump house. A written list of chemicals has been submitted to the Fire Chief, along with the Material Safety Data Sheets. The Fire Chief will be providing a lock box for the exterior of the building, so those sheets will be available before entry.

**Motion by Art Ditto to accept the Superintendent Report for the month of January.  
Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

#### **V. Cash Flow Reports for January**

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports for the month of January. No issues or concerns were noted.

**Motion by Art Ditto to accept the cash flow report for January.  
Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

#### **VI. Treasurer's Report - December**

The Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer's reports, along with the Business Manager's reconciliations, for the month of December. There were no issues or concerns noted.

**Motion by Art Ditto to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of December 2021.  
Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

#### **VII. Correspondence**

*None*

#### **VIII. Old Business**

##### **a. Interconnect Service Agreement – Aquarion**

*The Commissioners received a copy of the draft agreement and will review for future discussions.*

**IX. New Business**

*None*

**X. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes**

*There were no issues or concerns noted.*

**XI. Other Business**

**a. Budget Committee Meeting**

*The Commissioners will be presenting the Rye Water District 2022 Budget to the Budget Committee at their February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.*

**b. Annual Meeting & Public Hearing**

- **The Rye Water District Annual Meeting is being held on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at the Rye Junior High.**
- **A public hearing is being held on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Rye Junior High for the Wallis Road water main replacement**

**c. March Newsletter – due Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Superintendent Jones has drafted an article to submit to the Selectmen's Secretary by the due date.*

**d. Annual Report**

*Superintendent Jones will begin drafting the annual report. Copies will be emailed to the Commissioners for review and edits.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Art Ditto to adjourn at 10:57 a.m. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger