

**RYE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING
Wednesday, July 5, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Rd.**

Commissioners Present:

**Ralph Hickson, Chair
Scott Marion
Rosalie Lopresto**

Others Present:

**Arik Jones, Superintendent
Dyana Ledger, Business Manager**

I. Call to Order

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- June 7, 2023

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of June 7, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Scott Marion. All in favor.

- June 7, 2023 – Non-Public Minutes

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the non-public minutes of June 7, 2023 as written. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Motion by Scott Marion to seal the minutes of the non-public minutes of June 7, 2023. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

III. Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce – Project Update

Not present, but will be attending the site walk following meeting with RCC.

IV. Superintendent’s Monthly Report, Pumping Chart, and Data Report, and Bacteria Tests for June

Superintendent Arik Jones reviewed his monthly reports and pumping charts for the month of May.

- The usage totals are down significantly from this time last year because of the heavy rain over the last few months.
- The lead and copper samples have been completed. A total of forty-one samples were taken from households. Out of all samples, only two came back with a detection of lead, with only one of those above the MCL limit of .015 ppm. The copper MCL is 1.3. The property with the higher lead detection also had the highest copper detection at 1.30. The other properties fell well below the MCL. Superintendent Jones confirmed that he will be following up with the homeowner in regards to the testing and what may be causing the detection of lead in their system.
- The major pipe connections for the point of entry were completed last week. The chlorination machine is running and chlorination tablets have been ordered. Samples have been pulled and results should be received within the next few days. The point of entry building should be running within the next two weeks.
- Over the past couple of months, there have been quite a few leaks in the Fairhill/Ocean Blvd area. The leaks were due to regular wear and tear, as that area tends to be quite wet and boggy.
- DES will be conducting a leak detection survey for RWD within the next few weeks. This work is being done through a grant received by DES.
- The replacement for the Breakfast Hill tank mixer has been received and will be installed by divers soon.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the Superintendent's report for the month of June. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

V. Cash Flow Reports for June

The Commissioners reviewed the cash flow reports and expenditure graphs for the month of June. No issues or concerns were noted. There was some discussion in regards to the possibility of instituting an on-call wage program. It was agreed that the Business Manager should follow up with the Town Finance Director to see if there is a program that the Public Works Department follows for on-call personnel. There was also discussion about whether the superintendent position should be a salaried position, instead of an hourly position as it is currently. More information is needed for further discussion at a future meeting.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the cash flow reports for the month of May. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

VI. Correspondence

a. Rye Planning Board – abutter's notice for 33 Sagamore Road

An abutter's notice was received for the property at 33 Sagamore Road owned by Bluestone Properties, LLC. The property is going before the Planning Board for an extension for approvals received from the Board for the property which is now a dirt parking lot used for The Atlantic Grill Restaurant. The Commissioners agreed that they did not have any issues with the project or request for an extension.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

Commissioner Lopresto noted that she spoke with Attorney Don Price, who works at the NH Consumer Advocate Office. Attorney Price was also involved with the Public Utilities Commission. His advice was that the Commission should not hold a public meeting with Aquarion, until the RWD Commission has met with the District's attorney. Commissioner Lopresto commented that she's not sure if the District's attorney has any experience with mergers and acquisitions. Within that field, there are subsets. She pointed out that Attorney Price said there could be many legal questions that will come up at the meeting that the Commission may not be able to answer. If a meeting is held, the Commission needs to have information on what would happen to the sale proceeds, whether it's a merger or acquisition, and other information; such as, water rates.

The Commissioners agreed that Superintendent Jones should reach out to Attorney Quinn before moving any further with Aquarion.

IX. Town Planning and Zoning Minutes

No concerns or issues were noted in the Planning Board or ZBA minutes.

X. Other Business

The Commission reviewed the supplemental loan agreement received from DES Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund to finalize the Garland Road pump house project.

Motion by Scott Marion to authorize Ralph Hickson to sign the supplemental loan agreement for project #DWGT-54. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Chair Hickson recessed the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The Commissioners will reconvene their meeting at the Brown Lane Farm site walk with the Rye Conservation Commission.

Meeting reconvened at Brown Lane Farm at 11:03 a.m.

RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SITE WALK MINUTES
July 5, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair McFarland at 11:03 AM.

Rye Conservation Commission members present at site walk: Chair McFarland, Vice Chair King, members Danna Truslow, Joe Tucker, Jeff Gardner, Karen Oliver, Mike Garvan, Clerk Susan Shepcaro.

Also present: Selectman Tom King, Land Use Assistant Kara Campbell, Greg Smith and Christopher Berg (Wright Pierce Engineering), Ralph Hickson, Scott Marion, and Arik Jones (Rye Water District), Mr. Jones arrived at 11:27. Tom Mack, Rye resident.

II. SITE WALK

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) conducted a site walk at the Brown Lane Farm property with the Rye Water District (RWD) and Wright Pierce to review the two potential well sites.

RCC member Jeff Gardner inquired about a trench being dug in the property access area for utilities. Wright Pierce's Christopher Berg responded affirmatively. Mr. Berg said a trench would travel from the parking area, through the two (2) fields and down the woods road. The trench would contain both power and signal utilities and a water pipe. Mr. Berg said a utility easement will be necessary. Vice Chair King reiterated that the access must remain pervious and not paved.

RCC member Garvan asked if a culvert will be used to get the heavy equipment over the wetlands. Mr. Berg said timber pilings will most likely be used. They will hold the drill rig. They were used at Cedar Run to get heavy equipment over Bailey's Brook.

RCC member Oliver reiterated that the work will be done in the winter when the ground is frozen. Mr. Berg stated that truck ruts will be less likely with frozen ground, but Wright Pierce will remove ruts should they occur.

RCC member Oliver also asked how wide the access road would be. Mr. Berg stated that the road would be 8-feet to 10-feet wide to allow for a pickup truck, the drill rig, and maintenance equipment. Mr. Berg stated a 20-foot high clearance is needed, and up to 12-foot wide access at drilling sites.

Vice Chair King asked if pedestrians will still be able to use the trail while work is being done. Mr. Berg responded negatively, stating it is too risky with work going on. Discussion ensued, it was mentioned that pedestrians could use the trail that cuts off to the east and, also, that the property could be accessed from the south at the SELT trails on North Road in North Hampton.

Member Shepcaro asked how long the work will take. Mr. Berg responded about 3 to 5 months.

There are two potential well sites: Target 1 and Target 2. Wright Pierce stated that Target 1 is their first choice.

The area of disturbance at Target 1 has been marked off with orange tape. Wright Pierce's Greg Smith stated that the saplings in this area will need to be removed. Mr. Smith stated that drill cuttings will either be removed from the site or put on top of the soil and eventually covered with loam and reseeded.

A step test will be conducted to determine water yield as well as water quality. Mr. Smith estimated it would take about a month to get the samples back. Vice Chair King reiterated her preference is that each well site be tested separately, removing the equipment after the first one, and bringing it back in if it is necessary to drill the second test well. Mr. Berg noted that it would be more expensive to leave the equipment there and that the drilling company was busy and wouldn't want the equipment to be idle.

Chair McFarland noted a metal tank in the vicinity of the Target 1 area. RWD commissioner Hickson requested that RCC request that the workers remove it while they are in the area.

RCC member Truslow asked how the well area will be restored after the disturbance caused by drilling. Mr. Smith stated that the area will be loamed and seeded. RCC member Shepcaro recommended a natural conservation seed mix. RCC member Garvan recommended plantings. RWD Commissioner Marion suggested the seed mix. The importance of immediately seeding with a conservation seed mix was discussed. The conservation mix will keep invasive species from taking over the disturbed area. Additional plantings and bushes can be added in a later phase of the project. The final recommendation will come from RCC.

RCC asked if a fence or building will be required around the well. Mr. Berg stated that a chain link security fence will be used. Vice Chair King asked if there will be a building of any sort near the well. Mr. Berg responded negatively, stating that much further down the line a building would likely be sited nearer the entrance to the woods or in the field. Mr. Berg also stated that if there is a building, it will not be visible from the Browns' home or from West Road.

Mr. Berg stated that if the work is less than a day, an NHDES permit is not needed.

Mr. Berg stated that at Target 1, the entire 400-foot well protection radius is on town land.

Member Gardner asked how these two sites were chosen as options. Mr. Berg said the conductivity test was run on the trail.

Target 2 is located closer to the entrance of the trail. The area of disturbance was not flagged with orange tape; however, it is about 8-feet east of the flag near the trail. There is a pond adjacent to Target 2. RCC agrees with Wright Pierce that Target 1 is a less environmentally impactful option than Target 2.

Wright Pierce and the RWD acknowledge that RCC requires that only one test well be drilled at this time. After the first test well is drilled other options may be discussed if necessary.

RCC member Garvan commented that this project is not typical of the projects that come before the commission. Generally, an applicant presents a complete engineering plan for consideration. Here the RWD is presenting a plan for the test drilling and not a complete plan that includes the construction of a functioning town well. The final phase is only being partially addressed and the commission needs to know as much as possible about the impacts of the final phase. Mr. Marion had mentioned that a final design costs money and may not be needed if the test wells are not productive enough to be viable as a town water source. That is understood, but the commission does not want to be in a position where it

doesn't know if there are impacts in the final phase that would cause the commission to negatively view the project.

Vice Chair King will send site walk minutes to Brown family.

Next steps will be for Rye Conservation Commission to send site walk minutes to Rye Water District and Wright Pierce by Monday, July 10 or Tuesday, July 11. RWD and Wright Pierce will attend July 13, 2023, RCC meeting, after which a final letter will be sent to NRCS.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The site walk meeting was closed by Chair McFarland at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Shepcaro", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Shepcaro, Clerk

The Rye Water District Commissioners adjourned their meeting at 12:05 p.m. after the site walk with the Rye Conservation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger