



**RYE WATER
DISTRICT**

**COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Road**

Commissioners Present: *Chair Scott Marion, Rosalie Lopresto, and Tom Mack* (remote)

Others Present: *District Administrator Brian Goetz, and Superintendent Arik Jones*

1. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of January 29, 2026, as presented.
Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.**

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2026, as amended.
Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

**Motion by Scott Marion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2026, as amended.
Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

3. Annual Meeting Documents & Posting

The Commission reviewed the annual meeting documents and signed the 2026 Warrant for posting. The warrant and budget will be posted at Rye Junior High, Town Hall, Water District office, and on RWD's website.

4. Emergency Response Plan

District Administrator Goetz presented the updated Emergency Response Plan, which was required by NH DES to be completed by March 2026. Commission signatures are required for the plan, and it will then be submitted to DES. Hard copies of the plan will be available at the RWD office, and at the Garland site, as well as electronic access. This document can also be accessed through the Geographic Information System (GIS). After review, the plan was signed for NH DES submittal.

5. Meter issue for 210 Locke Road

Administrator Goetz gave an update to the Commission about the meter malfunction at 210 Locke Road. He submitted information on charges that should be refunded back to the customer. He also submitted a copy of Kamstrup's (meter vendor) memo which shows what they determined to be the issue. The data shows that the meter has been over registering water usage since October 2023, due to a Kamstrup firmware update. The meter at the home has been replaced with a new meter and the recent usage shows that the calculation has returned to normal. Administrator Goetz confirmed that he is still working with the meter vendor on reimbursement to the District.

Motion by Scott Marion to issue a refund of \$11,306.50 to Brian Delanunta, 210 Locke Road. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

6. Administrator's Update

- **Water Supply & Precipitation Update**

Despite recent snow storms, conditions continue to be extremely dry, as recent storms only produced about 1.5 inches of precipitation for February. The current 12-month precipitation is almost 20 inches below normal. The U.S. Drought Monitor puts the region in the moderate to sever drought category. However, well levels have dropped lower than they have in the last five years. Spring precipitation and weather will be important and hopefully, we will get something close to normal and avoid continued drought conditions.

Administrator Goetz presented a proposed Odd-Even Water Use Schedule as an ongoing practice within the District. Customers with odd numbered street addresses can irrigate between midnight to 8:00 a.m. or 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Customers with even numbered addresses can water under those guidelines on even days. Customers needing an exemption, such as horse/agricultural farms or essential businesses, can request an exemption from district staff by submitting a schedule that will work for them.

Some minor edits were made to the document. It was agreed that once the edits are made it will be circulated to the Commissioners for a final view, posting and customer outreach.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the updated irrigation schedule as amended. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

- **Central Treatment Facility Update**

Administrator Goetz provided an update and timeline for the project. Recent bench testing of alternative treatment options for iron-manganese removal were not successful. The next step is to pursue biological treatment options. Underwood Engineers is setting up site visits for Rye staff to tour biological treatment facilities in Massachusetts in early April. Piloting of this process, if found to be viable, will be needed. Design of the facility will now focus on the PFAS filters with the intent to phase the iron-manganese treatment as an add-on to the construction of the new facility, or something that can be held off to a later date if blending continues to be an option for the district.

Underwood will work concurrently on designing the operations center, with the intent to bid that part of the project this fall for winter construction so that the temporary office space and storage units can be relocated prior to 2027 construction of full WTF.

7. Superintendent's Update

- The water operators continue to work on updating/replacing meters in the system. Approximately 70 meters have been replaced since the beginning of the year.
- Water usage for February is consistent to what it was last year at this time. No abnormal issues have been seen in the tracking of the system.
- New water operator Molly O'Neil continues her training under the supervision of the Superintendent. She worked on the Emergency Response Plan, as well as updating the ARCGIS. She has also been calling customers to schedule and organize meter replacements. Molly will be attending Water Operator 1 classes in March. She has become a great addition to the District staff.
- Wright-Pierce has been working with the District on updating the GIS and the Lead Service Line project. At this time, the District doesn't really have any unknown lines; however, DES still requires a 20% visual validation. That project will continue to move forward. In the future, RWD will be using the GIS as the platform for the District's work order system with the goal of having all information on properties available in one place.

8. Policy Update

Administrator Goetz reviewed the updates to the Employee Policy. A change was made to the work hours for field operators to go to a straight 8-hour workday, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with two 15-minute breaks during the day. There will be no unpaid break for lunch. Employees will be permitted to eat while working. The other change to the policy addresses the accumulation of vacation time to do away with half day accruals and only track full days after year 10 of employment.

Motion by Scott Marion to approve the updated Employee Policy dated March 3, 2026. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

9. Other Business

3M Settlement – Administrator Goetz informed the commissioners that the state has announced that disbursement of 3M PFAS settlement funds will be forthcoming soon. Once he gets that confirmation from the state he will forward to all the commissioners.

Adjourn

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.