



MEETING

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Road

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

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Meeting minutes

**Motion by Tom Mack to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025, as presented.
Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.**

**Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025, as presented.
Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.**

III. Superintendent Update

a. Operations

- Water usage for September was down from August from 21.5 to 15 million. The overall usage is down 1.2 million from this time last year. This is most likely due to customers adhering to the odd/even irrigation restriction that was put into place in August.

b. Projects

- Washington Road Tank painting – The tank painting project for the Washington Road tank has begun. The blasting of the tank has been completed, and a primer coat has been done. The painting should begin in the next few days, which is right on schedule. The neighbors were contacted about the work before the project started.
- Limited flushing – RWD will not be doing a hard flushing this fall because of the Washington Road tank being offline. However, the water operators will still be flushing hydrants and that will start within

the next few days. Also, towards the end of the month, flushing will be done around the wellhead area on Garland Road.

- Metering upgrade – The District has approximately 700 meters remaining in the system that need to be replaced to the Kamstrup Meters. The goal is for another 250 to be completed before the end of the year. The intent is to finish replacing all old meters in the system by the end of next year. Progress is still being made on the installation of a collector for meter readings on the cell tower off Port Way.
- Other – The replacement tank mixer has been received for the Breakfast Hill Tank. The mixer was covered under a warranty. Aqueous will be installing the new mixer on October 9th and will also be doing interior tank cleaning (sediment removal) at the same time.

IV. Business Manager Update

a. Finances

- Business Manager Dyana Ledger emailed information to the Commissioners prior to the meeting regarding year-to-date expenditures and revenues. The District has just completed third quarter readings and bills are being prepared for mailing. The Commissioners did not have any questions or concerns about the financial reports presented.

b. 2026 Budget process and schedule

- The District will be starting the 2026 budget process. It was agreed that the Commissioners will be presented with a first draft of the budget in November for review. The District will be presenting its finalized budget to the Budget Committee towards the end of January.

V. Administrator Update

a. Treatment Facility Design

- Piloting and water quality testing of wells continues. Next step is to do additional bench scale treatment analysis using Blueleaf piloting.

b. Cedar Run well seal

- Seal is on order. Anticipate installation later in October. Once installed the well can be pump tested to analyze any improvements in quality and flow ability.

c. Garland Well backup well

- Wright-Pierce engineering was authorized to do additional hydrogeological work. Commissioners voted to approve \$101,250 for the work, which will include a subcontractor to perform drilling to locate the backup well.

d. Grove Road Landfill monitoring (with Commissioner Mack)

- Commissioner Mack reviewed his field work using terrain conductivity equipment that identifies areas where the landfill contamination plume is located. His draft findings showed the areas and also offered insight as to where an additional monitoring well

could be located to provide additional measure of the contamination in the area.

e. West Road test well

- Administrator Goetz and Commissioner Mack updated the commission on the ongoing work at this well site. Recent field work confirmed that the existing test well site is the best location for continuing efforts to permit an additional water source at this site. The work also further identified the orientation of the bedrock fractures in the area, which will be good information to have as the permit proceeds. The next step is to have an informational meeting with the NHDES and then proceed with the permit submittal process.

f. Rate Study

- Administrator Goetz updated the commission on the status of the rate study. An initial draft rate model has been developed by Underwood Engineers and reviewed by RWD staff. Future meetings with Chair Marion and RWD staff are expected soon. After that, Underwood will incorporate comments and update their rate model for presentation to the entire commission. The intent is to have new rates approved prior to January 1, 2026.

g. Climate Resiliency Study

- The NHDES and its engineering consultant continues with this work.

h. Seacoast Interconnection Study (Oct 15th public meeting at Pease NHDES, 6 pm)

- Administrator Goetz is the chair of the subcommittee overseeing the interconnection study and will be presenting an overview and findings of the study at this meeting together with NHDES and their engineering consultant, Underwood Engineers.

i. Drought Management Plan grant proposal

- Administrator Goetz will continue to work with attorney Romand on Water Restriction By-Laws. The intent is to present them at the next commission meeting.

j. NEWWA Conference highlights

- Administrator Goetz attended the recent annual meeting of the New England Water Works Association and went over some of the highlights, which included:
 1. A lot of presentations on PFAS treatment and piloting efforts
 2. A Town Hall discussion with water system managers about lessons learned and challenges at their water systems. These include:
 - a. Difficulty hiring, training and retaining good staff
 - b. Hire staff “before” you need them, because it takes a long time to integrate them into system operations. “We’ve always been proactive with our staffing. We’ve hired people 2 years before we needed them.”
 - c. “Being able to maintain the people you have already is really important. Be competitive. Losing someone for a dollar really stinks.”

- d. Need to get out in front of public regarding projects and water quality issues to gain early support. “Inform people along the way and be as proactive as possible.”

VI. Other business

None

VII. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel

At 10:25 a.m., Tom Mack moved to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

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

The Commission came out of non-public session at 11:05 a.m.

VIII. Future meeting schedule

1. Thursday, 10/30 - Thursday, 11/6 - Wednesday, 11/19 - Wednesday, 12/3 - Thursday, 12/18 (All meetings will be held at the Rye Water District Office, 60 Sagamore Rd., starting at 8:30 a.m.)

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Mack to adjourn at 11:06 a.m. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger