



MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

Water District Office – 60 Sagamore Road

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

Others Present: *RWD Attorney Keriann Roman, District Administrator Brian Goetz, and Business Manager Dyana Ledger*

1. Call to Order

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – 10/30 & 11/06

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to approve the minutes of October 30th and November 6th as presented. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

3. High School Presentation – Rosalie & Brian

Commissioner Lopresto and Administrator Goetz gave a brief overview of the presentation they gave to Portsmouth High School biology students about public drinking water systems and Rye Water District in particular. The students were very receptive and asked a lot of good questions.

4. Financials – Dyana

Preparation of the 2026 budget continues, and a draft should be ready for the Commissioners to review at their next meeting. The billing system upgrade will take place in February/March 2026, just before the first quarter billing. Meter readings will start on December 5th, so fourth quarter bills can go out prior to year-end.

5. Project Updates – Arik

The water system has been winterized. The new collector for the Kamstrup meter reading system will be installed later this week at the Port Way cell tower. This will allow for full coverage of our water service territory and enable the transition to all customers being on that system by year-end 2026.

6. Weather & Supply Trends – Brian

Another drier than normal month in November. However, well levels are still doing better than they were in 2022. The recent snow is beneficial because it slowly melts and recharges the system aquifers.

7. Well Projects – Brian & Tom

The initial Cedar Run packer seal did not work. The District is currently working with consultants to utilize another type of seal. That work is not dependent on the weather. Once the material is available, the well service company can install it and the District will sample quality and quantity.

Test wells T2 and T3 have been sampled to assess their water quality for a potential redundant source to the Cedar Well.

Garland backup and monitoring well drilling is scheduled to occur early next week.

Commissioner Mack brought up the issue that the town's fueling station, located at the Grove Road DPW facility, is old and a risk to the Garland Well aquifer. The Commissioners discussed this with attorney Roman and directed her to draft a warrant article to bring to town meeting to replace and upgrade the station with the most protective technology. Attorney Roman said that a warrant article will require twenty-five signatures to go onto the town's warrant articles.

The West Road test well permitting submittal is moving forward. Wright-Pierce is working on a draft of that report, inventorying the private wells in the area and assessing the zone of contribution for the well. Three additional monitoring wells will be installed near the test well to allow for more detailed monitoring of water quantity and quality during the pumping test. These wells will be installed per the request of the NHDES.

8. Treatment Design Update – Brian

Preliminary design continues. Blueleaf will be on-site soon to perform additional bench testing of source waters to continue to assess treatment options for iron and manganese removal. The PFAS piloting is complete. Granular activated carbon is the likely selected filter media for our needs.

a. Louisville Water – GAC versus Powder Activated Carbon

Louisville's system is treating 131 million gallons of water a day via a surface water system. powder activated carbon is utilized in their treatment system because they are a surface water system. This method isn't something Rye Water District would utilize given the size and that the District is a groundwater system.

b. PFAS occurrence date from EPA

Administrator Goetz showed recent data from the EPA that updated the number of drinking water systems in the country that will be affected by the 4 part-per-trillion regulation for PFOA and PFOS. 12% of large systems are over the limit for PFOS and 11% are over for PFOA.

c. Iron/Manganese piloting and well testing

Superintendent Jones has put together an aeration system pilot at the Bailey well. Initial results appear to show that the iron and manganese precipitate out of the water when chlorine and aeration are applied together. Results of this testing will be reviewed as part of the preliminary design of our Central Treatment Facility.

9. Rate Study Update – Underwood Engineers

Keith Pratt and his associates presented their findings and recommendations for the rate study. The following is a summary:

Rye Water District's 2025 Water Rate Study outlines rate adjustments, projections, and recommendations for equitable water service charges.

Goals/Purpose

- Review rate design focusing on equity.
- Provide recommendations for 2026 rate adjustments.
- Estimate projections through 2030 based on anticipated water treatment plant (WTP) debt and operations.
- Review System Development Charges (SDCs).

Prior Rate Work & Background

- Previous studies conducted by Raftellis (2024) and Wright Pierce (2017).
- Current rates align with 2024 recommendations.
- General Fund supports 51% of the budget.

Existing Rates Consumption

- Current structure includes 50,000-gallon annual allotments with annual billing until exceeded.

Existing Debt Service

- 2014: \$2.6M for Route 1A.
- 2024: \$800k for Garland Road Pump House.
- 2024: \$799k for Wallis Road.

Proposed Debt Service

- 2030: \$13.95M for Water Treatment Plant.

Historical Rates Rate Adjustments

- Rates for various meter sizes from 2018 to 2025 show incremental increases, with 5/8" meter rates rising from \$130 in 2018 to \$146 in 2025.
- Rye's fixed charges are \$134 to \$146 lower than Portsmouth's.
- Rye's consumption charges vary by tier, with Portsmouth's higher for similar tiers.

Rate Design

- Recommendations include implementing AWWA meter ratios and switching to quarterly billing with a 12,000-gallon quarterly allotment.

2026 Rate Model Projections

- Budget: \$2,515,000; Revenue: \$2,534,000; District Generated: \$1,251,000; General Fund Generated: \$1,283,000 (51%).

Sample Bills Water Portion

- Projected bills for low and high residential users and a commercial account show varying increases from 2024 to 2026.

System Development Charge for New Services

- Charges based on meter size, with costs ranging from \$622 for 5/8" & 3/4" meters to \$4.29 per gallon for larger sizes.

Summary of Recommendations

- Update to quarterly billing and 12,000-gallon allotment.
- Increase water rates and implement AWWA meter ratios.
- Update SDCs and eliminate irrigation rates.
- Review model annually until WTP is operational.

The Commissioners agreed with the recommendation and discussed the process for implementing new rates with Attorney Roman. They also discussed implementing an odd/even irrigation schedule as part of the district's bylaws. Attorney Roman noted that a public hearing is necessary and then the Commissioners can take a vote at a meeting following that hearing. The Commission set a date of January 29, 2026, to hold the public hearing at the Rye Junior High School.

10. Non-Public Session per 1) RSA 91-A:3 (I) Legal

At 10:01 a.m., Tom Mack moved to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 (I) Legal. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto.

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

The Commission came out of non-public session at 10:45 a.m.

11. Encumbrances

Business Manager Ledger requested encumbrances in the amount of \$52,724 for the interconnection upgrade for 60 Sagamore Road to be paid to Ewing Electrical.

Motion by Tom Mack to encumber \$52,724 from 2025 for the interconnection upgrade for the 60 Sagamore Road pump station. Seconded by Rosalie Lopresto. All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by Rosalie Lopresto to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. Seconded by Tom Mack. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dyana F Ledger