

NEW LONDON-SPRINGFIELD WATER SYSTEM PRECINCT Commissioners Monthly Meeting

March 3, 2025

PRESENT: Kenneth Jacques (Chairman), John MacKenna (Commissioner), Rip Cross (Commissioner), Rob Thorp (Superintendent), Maggi Winn (Office Manager)

Others in Attendance: Rich & Karen Epstein, John Ellis, Joesph Kubit, Janet Kidder, Thomas Carley, Margaret Blank and Desmond Kager of Underwood engineering.

Chairman Jacques opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Presentation by Underwood Engineering on the Asset Management Plan for Water Distribution

Margaret Blank and Desmond Kager from Underwood Engineering attended the meeting. A representative from DS was expected but canceled. The meeting proceeded without her, and she will review the materials later.

- Accounts payable & payroll, Reviewed & Approved
- Meeting Minutes 02/03/2025, Commission Cross motioned to approve the minutes with mentioned corrections, seconded by Commissioner MacKenna seconded the motion, motion passed 3-0.
- Income and expenditure report year to date, reviewed.

Staff Changes

Maggi has taken over Rhonda's position, which has been upgraded to full-time. Rhonda remains as a consultant. This change was discussed during the budget hearing.

Budget and Financial Challenges

The precinct requires more time for financial audits due to increased state demands. The budget is not fully approved yet, and more pages will be added once it is finalized.

- Strategic Planning Grant,
Commissioner Cross motioned to accept the Strategic Planning Grant, Commissioner MacKenna seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0.
Project #: SPL-053

The New London-Springfield Water System Precinct, by authorization of the Commissioners, is pleased to accept the Strategic Planning Grant awarded to the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct per your letter dated December 20, 2024. The New London-Springfield Water

System Precinct plans to provide a match of 50% of the awarded grant amount of \$30,000.00 out of our unassigned fund balance.

The NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau will need, signed grant agreement including exhibits, certificate of vote of authorization, and Insurance binder.

Colby Point Evaluation update:

Dan Tinkham and Barry Miller will evaluate Colby Point to determine its future viability. Test wells will be drilled, and the evaluation will take about ten weeks.

Salary and Benefits Adjustments

Due to increased costs, salary and benefits will be adjusted. A step system for employee compensation is being considered for next year.

- Rate Increase
Water Rate Increase

To offset increased operating costs, a \$10 increase per billing period to the base rate is proposed. This will generate additional revenue without depending on water usage.

There was also a recent increase in the overage rate from \$2.21 to \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons over 10,000 gallons. There was a suggestion to further increase rates to discourage high usage, but it was noted that financial deterrents have not been effective.

Water Usage and Metering

The discussion covered water usage patterns, metering, and the maintenance of water meters. The meter replacement program is continuing, with meters that are reaching the end of their useful life and being replaced.

- Superintendent's Report was reviewed.
Job Posting for Water Operator

A new job posting for a water operator was discussed. The posting will be shared on Granite State Rural Water, the organization's website, and potentially the town's website.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

The meeting covered infrastructure issues, including road conditions affected by logging trucks and the need for repairs. Eversource was mentioned as responsible for some of the damage.

- A question was asked by Karen Epstein about the status of the Housing Appeals Board, she had heard the mediation had ended. Commissioner Jacques advised "No updates have been received from the attorney, or the Housing Appeals Board."

Budget Article Changes

The budget article related to Colby Point was discussed with changes made to the wording due to a misunderstanding about a state grant. The final budget reflects the correct figures.

Morgan Pond Backup System

The meeting addressed the backup water system at Morgan Pond, clarifying its purpose and functionality in emergencies. The infrastructure is in place for emergency water supply.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

Respectfully submitted

Maggi Winn