

Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026

I. Call to order

Chairman Miner called the regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1 to order on January 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Rensselaer County Legislature Conference Room.

II. Roll call

Chairman Miner conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Bott, Dambrose, Lewandusky, Lourinia, Mainello, Masone and Poletto. Commissioners Rockwell, and Dolgin were not in attendance. Others present: Harry Tutunjian, Jaime Thomas, Derrick Gardner, Jared Kline and Jason Wheeler.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Masone led the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:31 pm.

IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Commissioner Lewendusky motioned to approve the September 24, 2025 meeting minutes followed by a second from Commissioner Masone. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Reports

Staff Issues –

1. The District has begun recruiting candidates for the following positions:
 - a. Assistant Maintenance Supervisor
 - b. Instrumentation, Controls and Electrical Technician
 - c. Processing Technician II

Commissioner Lewendusky inquired about the salaries for the aforementioned positions, to which Mr. Kline replied he did not recall the exact salaries but gave approximations of \$73,000 for the assistant maintenance manager, \$78,000 for the electrical technician, and \$52,000 for the processing technician position. Mr. Wheeler made note that our current Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Molesky, who handles much of the purchasing for the District, is retiring.

Aeration and Miscellaneous Projects – Utilization Plans have been approved for all contractors working on the aeration project. The first disbursement request was submitted and is pending approval.

The District has received a proposal from AMAHA Electrical to replace the plant medium voltage feeder conduit. Mr. Wheeler stated that the proposal was to be broken down into multiple sections in the event funds were not available to complete the medium voltage feeder conduit run in its entirety at this time. Mr. Wheeler further commented that he believes the best path forward for the District would be to complete the conduit in its entirety, and that he would be working with the County Legislature to gauge the feasibility of doing so.

The District has recently had its blended sludge holding tanks insulated with spray foam to help mitigate the effects of feeding the digestors cold sludge during the winter months. The application was not to the satisfaction of plant direction, and CFI is being asked to work with their subcontractor to come up with a solution to improve the quality of work.

Start up of aeration tanks #3 and #4 is now slated for mid-February. Currently, the tank #2 B bay mixer is out of service, and a diesel pump is being used to agitate the mixed liquor.

Mr. Wheeler commented that there may be some additional projects coming down the pipeline, but he has very little information to share on them at this time. Commissioner Lourinia asked what he may be referring to, to which Mr. Wheeler replied there may be a leak in one of the digester membranes which is causing methane to vent to the atmosphere, but requires further investigation. Commissioner Poletto added that if there is anything the District requires the Commissioners support on to let them know as soon as practical. Chairman Miner stated that he hopes to hear more on the potential issue by next meeting.

Dryer & Misc. Project Update – The 6,000-gallon building #8 grease decant tank was replaced with a 4,300-gallon tank in order to facilitate replacement. RCSD met with Siemens and CDM to discuss. RCSD requested that the tank be replaced with a 6,000-gallon tank per contract.

RCSD experienced screen tearing with the new vibratory screener. The unit was not properly balanced and the weight was not distributed evenly on the springs. RCSD has since ordered replacement screens and the vibratory screener is now operating as intended.

Siemens has requested RCSD sign-off on the dryer project and accept ownership.

Siemens Piping Project – The gravity thickener pipe was replaced. Mr. Wheeler indicated some concessions were made regarding the dimensions of the new pipe relative to the old pipe. In order to accommodate for that Siemens agreed to supply a series of valves and sensors to insure the old pipe could be used in the event of a restriction in the new pipe.

Kiliaen’s Landing Project – A kickoff meeting was conducted on September 5, 2025.

Biosolids RFP – A pre-proposal meeting was held at the facility on November 5, 2025 at 10:00 am. Proposals were due by December 5, 2025 at 3:00 pm. RMI and Denali submitted proposals. RMI was the low bidder. The contract between RMI and the District is currently being drafted.

Grit and screenings RFB – County Waste and Precision both submitted bids for the removal of the District’s grit and screenings. County Waste was the low bidder.

VI. Old Business- None

VII. New Business- None

VIII. Open Discussion- Mr. Wheeler indicated that the Commission will have the opportunity to thoroughly review the 2025 budget and revenue report during the February meeting. For the February meeting, please park on the lower level and enter through the 1st floor doors. Parking at the upper lot will be prohibited, along with entering through the second level doors.

IX. Next meeting: February 25, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Rensselaer County Office Building 99 Troy Rd. 2nd floor Conference room.

X. Adjournment- Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:08pm following a motion from Commissioner Poletto and a second by Commissioner Mainello.

Minutes submitted by: Jared Kline