

Buckfield Village Corporation Asset Management Plan, Maine

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The Buckfield Village Corporation is located in rural Oxford County, Maine. North Pond, located north of Buckfield, serves as a water supply for the town of Buckfield. The water system maintains 180 connections that service approximately 600 customers. The district owns most of the undeveloped land around the pond, which creates a remote setting for good source water protection. Access to North Pond is available only by permissive trespass, since there is no developed public access for boats. Although shallow, North Pond water quality is above average.

As part of necessary improvements to the water system, the District financed an upgrade in 2015-2016 for \$377,117 to the storage tank and mixer which was originally installed



in 1960. The project rehabilitated the 56 year old 300,000 gallon Loring Hill standpipe to maintain service life longevity. The project enhanced water quality and ensured compliance with the Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Rule (DPB). The system also has many cast iron and galvanized pipes which will need to be replaced over time. The distribution system has less than 5% water loss which is exceptional considering the age of the system. The system users recognize the importance of maintaining the water district's assets and support the capital improvements planned by the board.

RCAP Solutions assisted the Buckfield Water District by conducting a needs assessment to guide the efforts of an Asset Management Plan. RCAP Solutions assisted with the development of the system inventory and reviewed the attributes with the superintendent utilizing

the Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS) asset management software.

RCAP Solutions will provide the results including an Equipment Replacement Cost Schedule and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to the Board in February 2017.

The Buckfield Village Corporation decision makers have the necessary information to identify needs for effective utility management and future upgrades. By implementing the CIP in their budget and rate setting process, the district can avoid a rate shock to the users and maintain future sustainability.

The Replacement Cost Schedule procured through this process is shown below. Capital expenditure for the following fifteen years is minimal and allows the district time to plan for remaining infrastructure upgrades.

PROBLEM:

If receiving a Maine SRF loan, systems are required to complete asset management training and develop an asset management plan to help with financial sustainability. Buckfield received funding for a compliance project and needed to plan for the imminent replacement of outdated infrastructure.

SOLUTION:

RCAP Solutions, a national leader in asset management, conducted a needs assessment, collected system inventory and attributes, and using EPA's CUPSS software, created an asset management plan that Buckfield can use to ensure they have adequate funding to pay for future required system upgrades and they will not have to rely on state and federal grant and loan dollars but can be financially viable on their own.

FUNDING SOURCE:

EPA pass through
Maine SRF

