

Van Buren, Maine Water District-Asset Management

Van Buren is a small rural community in the St. John Valley in northern Maine.

The town has a population of 2200; the Van Buren Water District serves the whole town.



Van Buren: Gateway to the St. John's Valley

The Van Buren water system has sustainability challenges with an older distribution system which has a lot of original 6 inch cast iron piping. The system experiences many winter main breaks and has a high unaccounted for water loss. Since the 1960's like many rural communities, Van Buren has experienced a population decline. Over the next 15 years it is estimated the population may decline by as much as 25% which will impact the water districts customer base and capital necessary for future upgrades and repairs.

As part of the necessary improvements to the water system, the District financed a new storage tank in 2015. The Van Buren Water District needed to evaluate the complete system inventory for age, condition, consequence of failure and replacement cost to continue to plan for future additional upgrades.

RCAP Solutions assisted the Van Buren Water District by first conducting a needs assessment to guide efforts with the development of an Asset Management Plan. RCAP Solutions assist with the analysis of the results and development an Equipment Replacement Cost Schedule and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). RCAP Solutions then delivered a Board training of the results.

Associated with these activities, the system's decision makers have the necessary information to resolve and identified needs for effective utility management and sustainability. The district board can plan for future operational efficiencies along with a long-term financial outlook utilizing the CUPSS asset management software. Later in 2016, RCAP Solutions will follow-up with the District as to how they are implementing the CIP to their budget and rate setting processes.