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Russell A. Peterson, Treasurer
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Richard E. Boston, Trustee
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Administration
Donald D. Neumann Jr., Superintendent
Noah Emery, Assistant Superintendent
Patrick M. Desrosiers, Financial Manager
Zachariah Mein, Resource Protection Mgr.

November 24, 2026

To Our Valued York Water District Customers,

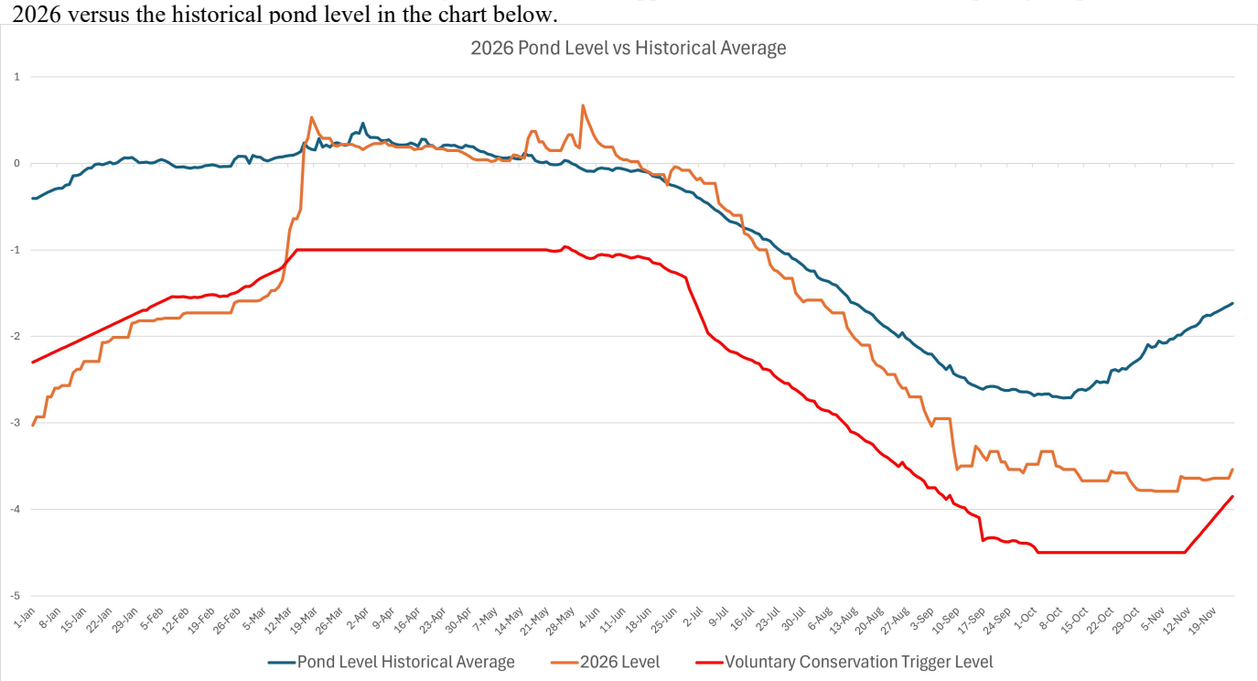
Re: The Status of Our Water Supply

You may have seen the recent Portsmouth Herald article on November 5th or stories on the news about the Kittery Water District's water supply concerns. They describe low reservoir levels, a mandatory conservation order, and a pause on new connections. Several of you have contacted us with questions so we wanted to share this notice with anyone else who may have concerns with our water supply.

We are experiencing the same prolonged drought conditions as our neighbors in Kittery. This is a serious concern, and we are watching it closely. With that said, as of November 23rd our water supply levels are just above our voluntary conservation trigger levels. We feel that the changes we made to our irrigation policies at the beginning of 2026 have aided in this effort. Local irrigation contractors and customers with irrigation systems abided with our new requirements below which we feel aided in keeping our reservoir just above voluntary conservation levels.

- Properties can only irrigate on an even/odd schedule based on their property address,
- New irrigations must be installed with smart controllers and rain sensors to optimize efficiency,
- New developments with 3 or more units are not allowed to install irrigation systems on public water

Even though our supply is above our voluntary conservation level, if we don't receive a significant amount of rain soon, we may need to trigger mandatory requirements. This is because October is typically when our supply begins refilling for the winter season but we haven't received enough rain for this to happen. This can be seen when comparing the pond level in 2026 versus the historical pond level in the chart below.



In addition to this year's change to our irrigation systems requirements, the district hired a consultant to begin groundwater exploration on the District's various properties to determine if a sufficient source of groundwater may be found that could help offset the increased summer demands.

We are monitoring reservoir levels regularly and will share updates if conditions change. If levels fall below the trigger points, we will notify you promptly and explain any additional steps.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our office at 207-363-2265. As conditions change we will also post updates on our website or Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued partnership in protecting our shared water supply.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Neumann Jr.

Donald D. Neumann,
Superintendent