

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
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or
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AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1 Safety Moment
2. Public Comment: The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Residents and customers may address the Board.
3. RWA Strategic Update: Dr. Andrew Whiskeyman - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(A)(B), pertaining to trade secrets and commercial and financial information.*
4. Meet as Audit-Risk Committee: T. Cort
 - 4.1 Approve Minutes – February 26, 2026 meeting
 - 4.2 Risk Management Update Memorandum– *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in possible executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(19)(i)(ii), pertaining to security risk.*
 - 4.3 FY 2027 Committee Work Plan
5. Meet as Environmental, Health & Safety Committee: M. Ricozzi
 - 5.1 Approve Minutes – March 26, 2026 meeting
 - 5.2 Interim Legislative Session update
 - 5.3 Water Quality Issues update
 - 5.4 FY 2027 Committee Work Plan
6. Act on matters arising from Committee meetings
7. Consent Agenda
 - 7.1 Approve Minutes - April 23, 2026 regular meeting
 - 7.2 Capital Budget Authorization - June 2026
 - 7.3 Monthly Financial Report –April 2026
 - 7.4 Accounts Receivable Update – April 2026
 - 7.5 Consider and act on exemptions from public bid for FY27
 - 7.6 FY27 Strategic Planning Committee Work Plan
 - 7.7 FY27 Strategic Plan Initiatives & Global Metrics
 - 7.8 LUC Special Topic: Madison Slash Wall/CAES Experimental Area
 - 7.9 RWA Rules and Regulations – Proposed Changes
8. Reports on RPB Committee meetings
9. Finance: R. Kowalski
 - 9.1 Consider and act on 41st Series Resolutions – POS and Supplemental Resolution
10. Updates: S. Lakshminarayanan
 - 10.1 Monthly Business Highlights: S. Lakshminarayanan
 - 10.2 *AWA Update: S. Lakshminarayanan and R. Kowalski - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(A)(B), pertaining to trade secrets and commercial and financial information.*
11. [RECESS AUTHORITY MEETING TO ATTEND RPB MEETING]
12. Consider and act on resolutions to approve FY 2027 Budget and authorize filing with Trustee

*Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or by conference call. To view meeting documents please visit <https://tinyurl.com/4bdsdscw>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email at jslubowski@rwater.com.

**RPB Member (J. Jaser) is excused at Item 10.2*

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
Environmental Health & Safety Committee

March 26, 2026

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Environmental, Health & Safety Committee (“Committee”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”) took place on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access. Chair Ricozzi presided.

Committee Present – Messrs. Ricozzi, Borowy, Cort and Curseaden, and Ms. LaMarr

Committee Absent – Ms. Sack

Management – Mss. Kowalski and Calo(R), and Messrs. Lakshminaryanan, Hill(R), and Singh

RPB – Ms. Young

Staff – Mrs. Slubowski

4. MEET AS ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

4.1. APPROVE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 20, 2025

On motion made by Ms. LaMarr and seconded by Mr. Cort, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its meeting held on November 20, 2025.

Borowy	Aye
Cort	Aye
Curseaden	Absent
LaMarr	Aye
Ricozzi	Aye
Sack	Absent

At 12:35 p.m., Mr. Curseaden entered the meeting.

Chair Ricozzi stated that four updates were included in the Committee meeting package: Business Continuity/Safety update, Recreation Activity update, Physical Security update, and the Deer Hunt update. Members should have reviewed the memorandums and be prepared to discuss questions. He noted that he would provide a quick review of each topic.

4.2. BUSINESS CONTINUITY/SAFETY UPDATE

The recent update incorporated highlights from the 2025 Risk and Resiliency Assessment, which included updated vendor contacts, employee phone trees, and advancements in disaster response capabilities, particularly through enhancements to the Customer Information System (CIS). These CIS upgrades feature cloud-based services, AI-assisted chatbots, and plans for live agent chat functionalities to improve customer support during emergencies. Additionally, RWA conducted a Wildfire Scenario Tabletop Exercise to bolster operational resilience. Chair Ricozzi noted his attendance at the exercise on March 25th and highlighted the expertise shown by staff during the exercise. He stressed the vital need for knowledge transfer and succession planning.

The updates also included health and safety initiatives highlighting RWA’s focus on reducing its Days Away or Restricted Time rate to 1.8 by improving accident investigations, enhancing new-hire training, and increasing hazard recognition. The Safe Start Training program, launched in 2025, has successfully reduced incidents among first-year employees, with zero injuries reported among participants as of February 2026.

In FY 2027, RWA will continue to focus on business continuity and safety measures by incorporating lessons from emergency exercises, updating response plans, enhancing redundancy in critical supplies, expanding safety training, and leveraging predictive modeling and advanced technologies.

Committee members discussed activities, training, individual development plans, and employee engagement and/or interest in other positions.

4.3. RECREATION ACTIVITY UPDATE

Chair Ricozzi reported that the recreation update detailed the RWA's planned recreational and environmental activities for the 2026 summer season. These include boating, trail inspections, educational nature walks, fishing events, and youth programs. Sustainability efforts focus on recycling fishing materials, while staff will also engage in community outreach through events like the Water Wagon.

Committee members discussed the need for more data and trail grooming.

4.4. PHYSICAL SECURITY UPDATE

Physical Security upgrades included:

- Access controls, cameras, and fencing improvements planned fiscal years 2026 and 2027.
- Police staffing
- Transition to State Police frequency by July 2026 to improve inter-agency communication.
- Accreditation status
- Increased calls for service from 2024 to 2025.
- Layered security approach with patrols, access control, surveillance, and law enforcement partnerships.

4.5. DEER HUNT UPDATE

Chair Ricozzi reported that the Deer Hunt update outlines an upcoming presentation that will be reviewed with the Representative Policy Board Land Use Committee on April 8, 2026. Included in the presentation will be details of the 2025 controlled archery-only deer hunt, which is part of the Connecticut Forestry Division's strategy to manage deer population and support forest regeneration.

Discussion took place regarding deer hunt strategy, methods of hunting, overpopulation, and deforestation.

At 12:52 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Curseaden and seconded by Mr. Borowy, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Borowy	Aye
Cort	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
LaMarr	Aye
Ricozzi	Aye
Sack	Absent

Mario Ricozzi, Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
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<http://www.rwater.com>

To: Authority Environmental, Health & Safety Committee
Mario Ricoszi - Chair
David J. Borowy
Todd Cort
Kevin J. Curseaden
Catherine E. LaMarr
Suzanne C. Sack

Cc: Sunny Lakshminarayanan, Interim President and CEO
Elizabeth Calo, GM - HR

From: Nicoletta Blevins, Government and Community Relations Manager, Communications

Date: May 15, 2026

Subject: 2026 Legislative Issues Update

2026 Legislative Session Overview: RWA Impact

The 2026 legislative session (February 4 to May 6) resulted in 33 of the tracked 97 bills passing both chambers, with several carrying direct operational implications for the Regional Water Authority (RWA). Most notably, HB 5249—which would have restructured the Authority Board to shift majority control to the Aquarion Water Authority (AWA)—died in the House without a vote.

Key Operations & Regulatory Impacts

- **DEEP Discharge Permits:** Changes to the proposed statewide discharge permit (particularly regarding hydrant flushing) remain pending. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is expected to clarify whether a revised permit will be issued or if a June 1 public hearing will proceed.
- **CTDOT Encroachment:** Proposals that would have required utilities to obtain Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) encroachment permits and assume liability for privately owned service lines within the State Right of Way were removed from the final legislative agenda. However, CTDOT reportedly continues to request utility signatures.
- **Inland Wetlands Training:** New legislation directs DEEP to train inland wetlands commissions on riparian area protection, reflecting the work of the Riparian Buffers Working Group, on which the RWA successfully secured a representative

- **Water Quality & Infrastructure:**
 - Establishes rapid response requirements for hydrilla and other invasive species.
 - Requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to set PFAS action levels for water bottlers.
 - Expands DPH's enforcement authority to impose civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for unlicensed professional services, including water operators.
- **Workforce Development:** Creates a new certification pathway for apprentice water operators.

H.B. 5249: AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF A WATER COMPANY (*oppose, died*)

- The legislative proposal sought to repeal portions of the RWA charter and restructure the 11-member governing board to give the AWA majority control with six seats to the RWA's five. The substitute language would also have placed the new AWA under the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). Although the bill advanced out of the Energy and Technology Committee, it never went to a vote in the House of Representatives.

H.B. 5551: AN ACT CONCERNING PROCEEDINGS OF THE SITING COUNCIL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING CERTAIN UTILITY EXPENDITURES (*oppose, died*)

- This bill would modify provisions concerning the Connecticut Siting Council, including by modifying its membership, establishing the Consumer Counsel as a party in proceedings and modifying submission and notification requirements for council applications. Section 6 would eliminate references to the definition of utility under Section 16-1 on various ratemaking provisions.

Because these provisions historically apply only to investor-owned utilities, there were concerns that this revision sought to extend ratemaking restrictions to municipal and regional water companies. The goal was to cap the rates of the newly formed AWA. Ultimately, the bill died in committee.

S.J.R. 36: RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS (*oppose, died*)

- This resolution would amend the Constitution of the State to establish an individual right for every resident to access clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems, and a safe and stable climate. This amendment emphasizes that these rights are inalienable and may be directly invoked and enforced by residents. This resolution is strongly opposed by several different parties. It is likely to reappear next year.

H.B. 5334: AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS (*support, passed*)

- Rather than establishing mandatory riparian buffers, the legislation was revised to require DEEP to hire staff to provide training to inland wetlands commissions on the importance of protecting riparian areas. This change reflects the work of the Riparian Buffers Working Group, where the RWA successfully secured a representative to ensure utility perspectives were included in the final recommendations.

H.B. 5153: AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RELATED STATUTES (*support, passed*)

- Water Discharge Permits: Clarifies that, for any DEEP-issued water discharge permit or related regulations, the term “discharges from public or private drinking water treatment systems” explicitly covers wastewater generated during routine potable-water system work. This includes: (a) draining water storage tanks or water lines for maintenance or hydrostatic testing; (b) raw or treated water released from process sampling points, including online analytical equipment; (c) leakage or bleed-off from treatment equipment; and (d) periodic hydrant flushing.

General Permits: Broadens DEEP’s authority to use general permits in place of individual permits when the agency determines—both individually and cumulatively—that an activity has minimal environmental impact, and states that determination in the public notice. The expanded general-permit authority does not apply to: (1) solid waste activities already under an individual permit, (2) resources recovery facilities, (3) biomedical waste facilities, (4) solid waste disposal areas, or (5) municipal solid waste composting facilities.

Open Space & Watershed Acquisition Program: Streamlines the program by resolving administrative barriers to conservation closings, allowing conservation language to be placed directly in deeds with DEEP easement protections, and enabling projects to close more quickly and efficiently.

H.B. 5518: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER STATUTES (*concerns, passed*)

- The legislation strengthens public health safeguards by standardizing drinking water monitoring and aligning state contaminant thresholds with federal EPA standards. While state law currently requires water bottlers to conduct annual source testing for PFAS and unregulated substances, this bill directs DPH to publish a formal monitoring schedule with specific acceptable levels. This framework ensures consistent oversight and strict adherence to federal environmental standards across all approved water sources.

To ensure the integrity of these testing processes, the bill significantly enhances state oversight of environmental laboratories. It eliminates current DPH discretion, replacing the existing laboratory registration framework with a strict mandate for full DPH certification for all testing facilities. Furthermore, the legislation expands regulatory accountability to encompass both laboratory owners and operators, requiring each certification to explicitly define authorized analytes and approved testing methodologies.

Finally, the measure addresses industry workforce needs by creating a supplemental pathway for operator certification. DPH is now authorized to certify apprentice operators for water treatment, distribution, and small water systems. To qualify, individuals must complete a Department of Labor-registered apprenticeship program and pass the required state examination. This new pathway effectively expands the talent pipeline

without altering or disrupting the state's existing operator training and certification programs.

H.B. 5464: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (*opposed, problematic language stripped*)

- Proposed statutory changes would have required utilities to obtain CTDOT encroachment permits for any work occurring within the State Right of Way (SROW), even in situations where the utility neither owned the affected infrastructure nor had any contractual relationship with the contractor or property owner. Because SROW boundaries often extend several feet onto private property, many customer-owned curb stops, laterals, and service lines fall within the SROW. Under the proposal, utilities would have been responsible for signing the permits and, by extension, assuming liability for ensuring that installation, paving, backfill, and other construction activities on privately owned infrastructure met CTDOT standards.

These provisions were ultimately removed by the legislature's Transportation Committee after significant concerns were raised by utilities and other stakeholders. However, despite the legislative outcome, CTDOT has reportedly continued to request utility signatures on encroachment permits, an issue that may require continued monitoring and coordination with affected utilities.

S.B. 321: AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EXCAVATION PROJECTS (*monitored, passed*)

- Sets advance notice requirements for telecommunication service providers or broadband Internet access providers building any underground facility in the state's public highways, streets, or other public rights-of-way. Under the bill, the amount of advance notice and who it must go to (the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT)) depends on the project's length and location.

H.B. 5333: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF STRIPED BASS FISHING, A WORKING GROUP CONCERNING THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM, AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISH PASSAGES (*concerns, passed*)

- Amended to establish the non-harvested species conservation program working group, which includes a water utility representative, staffed by DEEP. The amendment clarifies how donations to the non-harvested program must be deposited and allocated. The amendment makes procedural changes regarding petitioning DEEP to require a safe, timely, and effective fish passage to be installed at any hydroelectric dam that is not subject to federal regulation.

S.B. No. 335: AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS
(concerns, passed)

- Prohibits residential rental agreements from requiring that tenants pay for utilities if there is no separate meter used to measure utilities delivered exclusively to their dwelling unit. (Existing law also prohibits rental agreements from requiring that tenants pay a heat or utilities surcharge if these costs are otherwise included in the rental agreement.)

The governor has yet to act on bills supported by the RWA and passed by both legislative chambers. In Connecticut, if the legislature has adjourned, the governor has 15 calendar days to sign or veto a delivered bill; otherwise, it automatically becomes law without a signature.

Water Quality
PFAS Program & Emerging Issues Update
Environmental Health & Safety Committee
May 2026



Water quality - PFAS - Update

- Current monitoring follows required data collection cadence
- Only South Cheshire Well Field will require treatment based on current regulatory limit requirements
- Powder Activated Carbon treatment pilot has been approved by CTDPH; installation in progress
- Class Action Suits Continue – RWA updates water chemistry and expense data quarterly
- Lab working on additional PFAS certifications
- PFAS regulation under review by EPA; expected to modify initial requirements.

Water quality - Emerging Issues

Topic	Description	RWA Impact
Affordability	Water Sector requesting permanent establishment of Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program	2020-2023, RWA received @ \$1M (program expired in 2023). Return would assist RWA customers.
Cybersecurity	Industry-specific requirements via Water Risk & Resiliency Organization as preferred option	RWA active in this area; WRRO plan would allow for utility flexibility
Fluoridation	HHS developed taskforce to review community fluoridation benefits	None; CT to codify fluoridation practices to be followed
PFAS – CERCLA Exemption	Congressional Act proposed to indemnify water/wastewater utilities	Expected to pass with bipartisan support
LCRI Regulation	Under review by EPA; AWWA and others granted a Judicial Review	Some form of regulation will apply; depends on EPA and DC District Court
M/DBPR	Revision to existing regulation; can add compounds, set min Cl2 residual	May establish tougher compliance standards, increase distribution system management practices

RWA Environmental, Health, and Safety Committee FY2027 Work Plan

The Committee shall review, provide oversight of and monitor (a) the RWA's environmental, health and safety policies, practices and actions; (b) trends and emerging issues at the legislative, regulatory and judicial levels concerning environmental, health and safety issues that affect the RWA, along with its positions and responses with respect thereto; and (c) Maintain an explicit, visible and communicated commitment to Business Continuity/Emergency Preparedness.

Aug '26

- Invasive Plant and Aquatic Species Update (memo)
- Forestry Management Update (memo)
- Raw Water Supply / Minimum Stream Flows / Safe Yield / Available Water (Executive Session Presentation & Discussion on use of the available water supply)

Nov '26

- Haz Waste Update (memo including 2026 usage numbers, financials and look into the future)
- Deer Management Update (memo showing trends and recommendations for changes)
- RWA (possibly compare & contrast with AWA) Best Practices in Safety (Executive Session Presentation & Discussion covering employee, physical assets, and risks)

March '27

- Emerging Issues in Water Quality (memo - including PFAS, LCRR, micro-plastics)
- Distribution System Asset Management (memo - including age & condition of piping & appurtenances, valve exercising program, hydrant exercising program)
- Water Supply Dam Update (Executive Session Presentation & Discussion including Dam Safety, condition, and Lake Whitney Dam update)

May '27

- Proposed FY28 Work Plan (memo)
- Interim Legislative Update (memo)
- Water Quality Update (Executive Session Presentation & Discussion including any issues with water quality and possibly include AWA within same discussion)