

**South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority  
Minutes of the February 18, 2021 Meeting**

The regular meeting of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA” or “Authority”) took place on Thursday, February 18, 2020, via remote access. Chairman Borowy presided.

**Present:** Authority – Messrs. Borowy, Cermola, Curseaden, DiSalvo, and Ms. Sack  
Management – Mss. Collins, Kowalski, Nesteriak, Reckdenwald and Messrs. Bingaman, Donovan, Norris and Singh  
RPB – Mr. Slocum  
Public Member – Mr. Valadez  
Staff – Mrs. Slubowski

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Reckdenwald, RWA’s Senior Vice President of Corporate Services, reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

At 12:32 p.m., on motion made by Ms. Sack, seconded by Mr. Curseaden, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to recess the regular meeting to meet as the Audit-Risk Committee.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

At 12:44 p.m. Mr. Valadez withdrew from the meeting.

At 1:01 p.m., the Authority reconvened and Mr. Valadez entered the meeting.

Mr. Borowy stated that it would be appropriate to remove Item #7 from the Consent Agenda, *North Cheshire Update*, for further discussion.

On motion made by Ms. Sack, seconded by Mr. Curseaden, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to approve, adopt, or receive, as appropriate, the following items in the Consent Agenda, as amended:

1. Approved the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting.
2. Approved the capital budget authorization for March 2021.

**RESOLVED**, that the Vice-President of Financial Services is authorized to submit to the Trustee one or more requisitions in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$2,300,000 for the month of March 2021 for transfer from the Construction Fund for capital expenditures. Each such requisition shall contain or be accompanied by a certificate identifying such requisition and stating that the amount to be withdrawn pursuant to such requisition is a proper charge to the Construction Fund. Such requisitions are approved notwithstanding the fact that amounts to be withdrawn for a particular project may exceed the amount indicated for such month and year in the current Capital Improvement Budget but will not cause the aggregate amount budgeted for Fiscal Year 2021 for all Capital Improvement Projects to be exceeded. In the absence of the Vice-

President of Financial Services, the Vice-President of Asset Management is authorized to sign in her place.

3. Receive Capital Budget Transfer Notifications for March 2021.
4. Received the Monthly Financial Report for January 2021.
5. Received the Accounts Receivable Update for January 2021.
6. Received the Derby Tank Update.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

At 1:20 p.m., Mr. Valadez withdrew from the meeting.

At 1:25 p.m., the Authority voted to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations regarding the North Cheshire project. Present in executive session were the Authority members, Mss. Collins, Kowalski, Nesteriak, Reckdenwald, Slubowski and Messrs. Bingaman, Norris and Singh.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

At 1:32 p.m., the Authority came out of executive session.

Ms. Kowalski, RWA's Vice President of Financial Services, submitted a resolution to ratify a reduction in the Authority's long-term investment return assumption for the pension plans and Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association plan. On motion made by Mr. Cermola, seconded by Mr. Curseaden, the Authority voted to adopt the following resolution, with Ms. Sack abstaining:

**RESOLVED**, that the Authority authorizes lowering the expected long-term investment rate of return assumption from 7.0% to 6.75% for the pension plans and the Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association plan. The 6.75% will be used for the January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 valuation reports and, assuming no significant change in projected investment returns, will also be used for the May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 fiscal year-end actuarial reports.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Abstain

Ms. Reckdenwald reported no violations for the RWA's Code of Ethics for the period ended November 30, 2020.

Ms. Nesteriak, RWA's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, reported on activities over the past month, which included:

- Status of COVID-19 at RWA

- Status of State of Connecticut vaccination protocols
- Status of remote work protocols
- Disinfection and increased cleaning procedures

Ms. Kowalski provided an update of cash receipts and billing. She reported that the impacts of COVID-19 on cash collections are not as severe as expected but that there is still uncertainty of the effects of the pandemic and noted that the revised budget assumes a full back to normal in January. She stated that cash collections are being monitored weekly.

Mr. Bingaman provided an update on the following:

- Good-to-Great session as part of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan;
- Strategic priorities for Fiscal Years 2021-2022;
- RWA presented a letter of intent, including a deal structure, related to a potential lab acquisition;
- Kick-off of a new effort to increase our ability to appreciate differences across the RWA and to improve cultural competence and champion a more diverse, equitable and inclusive (DE&I) workforce. He stated that Ms. Reckdenwald is forming a working group called the Cultural Advisory Council to help shape the culture of the RWA. She received over 23 replies from employees interested in volunteering for the advisory committee.
- Madison Water project and partnering with Lawrence Ford, a Madison resident, acquaintance and entrepreneur, to donate touchless water fountains in schools and throughout the community. At 1:46 p.m., Mr. Courchaine entered the meeting.

Mr. Borowy read the following board resolution in appreciation of Mr. Norris, the RWA's Vice President of Asset Management:

**WHEREAS**, Ted Norris, with leadership, integrity and great distinction served as an officer of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) since January 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Ted brought uncommon insight, intellect and professionalism to his role; and

**WHEREAS**, Ted always demonstrated his deep commitment to the RWA's higher purpose, mission, vision, and STARS values; and

**WHEREAS**, Ted always had the best interests of the RWA's employees, consumers and communities at heart; and

**WHEREAS**, Ted led extraordinary achievements to the RWA, from engineering to environmental stewardship, the landmark construction of the Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant and the pioneering restoration of the Great Hill Tunnel and Pipeline; and

**WHEREAS**, Ted supported the Authority's Environmental Health & Safety Committee and the RPB's Land Use Committee and other committees as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, Ted generously contributed his time, energy and resources to a number of industry organizations including, AWWA, CWWA and the Water Research Foundation, as well

as community organizations, including the Greater New Haven Chamber's Economic Development Council, Connecticut Economic Resource Center and the United Way of Greater New Haven.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Authority Board formally acknowledges and extends its profound appreciation to Ted for his 30 years of dedicated service to the RWA and wishes him the very best in the future.

On motion made by Mr. Cermola, seconded by Mr. DiSalvo, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to approve the resolution.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

Mr. Bingaman, RWA's President and Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Nesteriak, provided a Distribution System Overview, which included:

- Risk, Resiliency & Redundancy Philosophy
- Risk Reduction
- Findings & Actions
- Short Term – Corrective Action Plan
- Long Term Focus Areas

At 2:38 p.m., Mr. Courchaine withdrew from the meeting.

Authority members reported on recent Representative Policy Board committee meetings.

At 2:40 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Cermola, seconded by Mr. DiSalvo, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to recess the meeting to meet as the Strategic Planning Committee.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

At 2:47 p.m., Mr. Slocum withdrew from the meeting and Mr. Donovan entered the meeting.

At 2:55 p.m., the Authority reconvened.

At 2:56 p.m., on motion made by Ms. Sack, seconded by Mr. Curseaden, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations and real estate matters. Present in executive session were Authority members, Mss. Collins, Kowalski, Nesteriak, Reckdenwald, Slubowski and Messrs. Bingaman, Donovan, Norris and Singh.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye

Sack            Aye

At 3:10 p.m., Mr. DiSalvo withdrew from the meeting and re-entered the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

At 3:27 p.m., the Authority came out of executive session and on motion made by Mr. Cermola, seconded by Ms. Sack, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Curseaden, Secretary