

**Representative Policy Board  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Minutes of March 18, 2021 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, March 18, 2021, via remote access. Chair Ricozzi presided.

**PRESENT**

**RPB**

Ansonia	Thomas P. Clifford III
Bethany	Brian Eitzer
Branford	Mario Ricozzi
Cheshire	Timothy Slocum
Derby	Frank Pepe
East Haven	Michelle Verderame
Guilford	Charles Havrda
Hamden	Stephen Mongillo
Killingworth	Jamie Mowat Young
Madison	Joseph A. Oslander
Milford	Richard Smith
New Haven	Naomi Campbell
North Branford	Peter DeSantis
North Haven	Anthony P. Rescigno
Orange	Jasper J. Jaser
Prospect	Robert E. Harvey, Jr.
Seymour	Mike Horbal
West Haven	T. Gregory Malloy
Woodbridge	Mark Levine
Governor’s Rep	Vincent Marino

**Absent**

Beacon Falls	Peter Betkoski
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**Regional Water Authority**

David Borowy  
Anthony DiSalvo  
Kevin Curseaden

**Management**

Larry L. Bingaman  
Beth Nesteriak  
Rochelle Kowalski  
Edward O. Norris III  
Jeanine Reckdenwald  
Premjith Lakshman Singh  
Will Henley  
Josh Tracy

**Counsel**

Bruce McDermott, Esq.

**Office of Consumer Affairs**

Jeffrey Donofrio, Esq.

**Staff**

Jennifer Slubowski

**Call to Order**

Chair Ricozzi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Safety Moment**

Chair Ricozzi reviewed the Safety Moment handout distributed to members.

**Minutes**

On motion made by Mr. Clifford, seconded by Mr. Jaser, the RPB approved the minutes of its February 18, 2021 meeting as distributed, with 102 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Absent	Hamden (10)	Aye	Orange (3)	Aye
Bethany (5)	Aye	Killingworth (2)	Aye	Prospect (1)	Aye

Branford (6)	Aye	Madison (6)	Aye	Seymour (1)	Aye
Cheshire (4)	Aye	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Aye	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Aye

### Communications

Chair Ricoszi noted that the special budget meetings to review management's FY 2022 Capital and Operating Budgets are scheduled to take place:

- 1) At the Joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee and Land Use Committee meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., and
- 2) At the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

All RPB members are invited to attend either meeting.

### Items for Consideration and Action

Mr. Levine moved for approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Decision of the Representative Policy Board with respect to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's Application for a Project to Construct Improvements at the West River Water Treatment Plant located in Woodbridge, which copy is attached hereto, be and hereby is, approved in the form submitted to the meeting.

Mr. Slocum seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and, the RPB approved the resolution, with 102 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Absent	Hamden (10)	Aye	Orange (3)	Aye
Bethany (5)	Aye	Killingworth (2)	Aye	Prospect (1)	Aye
Branford (6)	Aye	Madison (6)	Aye	Seymour (1)	Aye
Cheshire (4)	Aye	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Aye	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Aye

Mr. Slocum moved for approval of the following resolutions:

**WHEREAS**, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (the "Authority") proposes to issue its Bonds which may be issued as Project Loan Obligations delivered to the State of Connecticut (the "Bonds") in accordance with Special Act 77-98, as amended, of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut (the "Act") and the Water System Revenue Bond Resolution, General Bond Resolution, adopted by the Authority and approved by the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (the "RPB") on July 31, 1980, as amended and supplemented (the "General Bond Resolution"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Act authorizes the Authority to issue its bonds from time to time but subject to the approval of the RPB.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The RPB hereby approves the issuance of the Authority’s Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$17,500,000).
2. The Bonds may be issued as obligations in one or more series pursuant to the General Bond Resolution and a supplemental resolution to be adopted by the Authority for each series of Bonds, each of which shall specify the amount of the Bonds, the purposes for which the Bonds are to be issued, the date or dates, maturities, sinking fund installments if any, interest rates, series, denominations, form, redemption prices, security provisions and such other details of the Bonds as the Authority shall determine in accordance with the limits established by the General Bond Resolution and hereby.
3. The purposes of the Bonds shall be (I) to finance or refinance the cost of certain capital improvements to the water system of the Authority including improvements to the West River Water Treatment Plant consisting of (a) the construction of three new dissolved air floatation (DAF) basins within a new DAF building to the south of the existing filter building; (b) the replacement of the hypochlorite system with an on-site hypochlorite generation system with a brine or salt silo, day tank, metering pumps, and two on-site sodium hypochlorite generators; and (c) electrical service upgrades including new utility service, new transformer (furnished by UI), new exterior switchgear and automatic transfer switch with walk-in enclosure and new emergency stand-by generator; (II) to provide funds for deposit to the Capital Contingency Fund and the Debt Reserve Fund, as necessary pursuant to the General Bond Resolution and as permitted by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and (III) to pay costs of issuance (the “Project”).
4. The Bonds may be sold by negotiation as serial or term bonds with stated maturities and may be sold in a private or direct placement to a bank or the State of Connecticut.

Discussion took place regarding state issued grants, alternative funding opportunities, and potential infrastructure bill.

Mr. Jaser seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and, the RPB approved the resolution, with 102 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Absent	Hamden (10)	Aye	Orange (3)	Aye
Bethany (5)	Aye	Killingworth (2)	Aye	Prospect (1)	Aye
Branford (6)	Aye	Madison (6)	Aye	Seymour (1)	Aye
Cheshire (4)	Aye	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Aye	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Aye

## Reports

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Slocum, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported on the committee meeting earlier in the month. The committee met with the existing team of RWA’s auditors from BlumShapiro, now known as CliftonLarsonAllen. The auditors met with committee to review the FY 2021 audit and procedures. Management provided an update on RPB approved projects.

**Land Use Committee** – In Mr. Betkoski’s absence, Mr. Harvey reported that the RPB Land Use Committee meeting earlier in the month. He stated that the committee met with Mr. Brown and Mr. Paxton of the Eli Whitney Museum to discuss its background, educational programs and museums relationship with the RWA.

**Consumer Affairs Committee** – Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee, reported on the committee meeting last month. The committee met with the Dean of Southern Connecticut State University Business School to receive an update on the Public Utilities Management Program.

The committee also met earlier in the week to receive an update of the RWA’s Community Liaison Program from the RWA’s Manager of Corporate Communications.

**Nominating Committee** – Mr. Malloy, Chair of the RPB Nominating Committee, reported on the committee meeting earlier in the month. Committee members are scheduled to meet next week with candidates for one final interview for the position of New Haven Authority member. The committee expects to have a recommendation for the RPB at its April meeting.

**Executive Committee** – Mr. Ricozzi, Chair of the RPB Executive Committee, reported on a meeting earlier in the month. The committee met in executive session to receive an update from management on non-core business. The committee also discussed the RPB Self-Assessment Survey and decided to revisit the survey once the pandemic is over. The committee also discussed possible in-person meetings post-COVID.

**Authority/Management** – Mr. Borowy, Chair of the Authority, reported on the Authority meeting earlier in the day. He stated that the Authority met as the Non-Core Business Committee and the Environmental, Health & Safety Committee.

Mr. Curseaden, Chair of the Non-Core Business Committee reported on the committee meeting earlier in the day. The committee spent much of the meeting in executive session to discuss opportunities and challenges of possible acquisitions. Management also provided a PipeSafe roadmap for committee members.

Mr. Curseaden, Chair of the Environmental, Health & Safety Committee reported on the committee meeting earlier in the day. The committee received a presentation from management on the Water Chestnut Harvest. The committee also reviewed its FY 2022 work plan.

Mr. Borowy reported that at the Authority meeting earlier in the day, the Authority received an overview of the quarterly financial report from management. The Authority also approved an application for recommendation to the RPB for a property disposition in Hamden.

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

- Employee health metrics
- Return to Work committee
- Operations and remote work

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA’s President and Chief Executive Officer, reported on the Authority meeting earlier in the day. He stated that the board voted to approve the establishment of a commercial enterprise subsidiary called RWA Commercial Enterprises, LLC. All commercial acquisitions will fall under the holding company, as an added layer of protection.

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The Authority also renamed the Non-Core Business Committee. Going forward the committee will now be known as the Commercial Business Committee. He reported that Ms. Kowalski, the RWA's Vice President of Financial Services, is working with counsel to file the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President & Chief Executive Officer, reviewed revenues, operating and maintenance expenses through February 28, 2021, and stated the projected maintenance test for FY 2021 is 117%, with no shortfall, at the lower revised operating and maintenance budget. He stated that there is still considerable uncertainty of the financial impact of the pandemic.

He also reported that reservoir levels as of March 15, 2021, were 93 %, compared to the long-term average of 87%.

Chair Ricoszi acknowledge Attorney Donofrio, OCA, who had nothing to report.

Mr. Henley, the RWA's Aquatic Resource Scientist, and Mr. Tracy, the RWA's Invasive Species Management Technician, provided a presentation on the Water Chestnut Infestation and Harvest at Furnace Pond, which included:

- History of the Water Chestnut
- Pre and Post Harvest
- Prevention
- Summer 2020 Harvest
- Equipment, Disposal, Monitoring
- Future and Drone Mapping Initiatives
- Project Costs

Discussion took place regarding annual maintenance, seasonal growth, machine inquiries, control ability, land invasive species, personnel, species origin and native environment.

Mr. Henley reported that the RWA has applied to the State of Connecticut for an aquatic invasive species grant. The paperwork has been filed and he expects a response in April.

At 7:32 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Secretary

Attachment:

1. Final Decision, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Representative Policy Board for the Application for Approval of a Project to Construct Improvements at the West River Water Treatment Plant.