

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.