South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

Environmental Health & Safety Committee

Minutes

September 24, 2026

A special meeting of the Environmental, Health & Safety Committee of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority ("RWA") took place on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at Aquarion Water Authority, 835 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut and via remote access. Chair Ricozzi presided.

Members Present – Messrs. Ricozzi(R), Borowy, Cort, and Curseaden, and Mss. LaMarr and Sack
Management –Messrs. Freda, Lakshminarayanan, Hill(R), Singh(R) and Delvecchio(R), and Mss. Kowalski and Calo(R)
AWA – Ms. Teixeira
RPB – Mr. Mongillo(R)
Staff – Mrs. Slubowski(R)

4. MEET AS ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair Ricozzi called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

4.1 APPROVE MINUTES – MAY 28, 2026 MEETING

On motion made by Ms. LaMarr and seconded by Mr. Curseaden, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its meeting held on May 28, 2026.

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

4.2 INVASIVE PLAN AND AQUATIC SPECIES UPDATE MEMORANDUM

Mr. Lakshminarayanan, RWA President, provided an update on the RWA's invasive and aquatic species, stating that the RWA has managed invasive species across its 28,000-acre watershed to protect water quality and wildlife habitats since 2018 at over 5,800 infested acres, and treated nearly 750 acres total targeting invasive species such as Japanese barberry, stilt grass, and oriental bittersweet.

The staff has used initiatives to manage invasive plant species using eco-friendly methods to reduce reliance on traditional chemical treatments. The projects included mechanical removal, thermal treatment, and targeted herbicide applications in select areas. Early results have been positive, and staff will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of each method.

Mr. Lakshminarayanan commented that the Lake Whitney area is challenging and may require a different approach.

4.3 FORESTRY MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEMORANDUM

Mr. Lakshminarayanan reported on forestry management registry and compliance activities. He also highlighted grant-funded watershed conservation and habitat management initiatives designed to support invasive species control, enhance wildlife habitat, and advance forest management efforts across RWA watershed lands.

4.4 RAW WATER SUPPLY/MINIMUM STREAM FLOWS/SAFE YIELD/AVAILABLE WATER

Mr. Lakshminarayanan reported that that mandatory water releases, proposed in 2019, officially went into effect on September 6, 2026 and are essential to keeping downstream ecosystems healthy, especially during high-demand periods when the reservoir does not naturally overflow. These managed releases supply vital oxygen to the water, protect wildlife habitats, and mimic natural river flows.

He noted that release requirements vary based on watershed conditions, water use, and system needs. The Authority manages multiple release sites throughout the watershed, some of which require operational adjustments in response to seasonal and environmental conditions, while others maintain consistent releases with minimal intervention.

As of August 2026, approximately 90% of the required streamflow release plan was approved by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, reflecting significant advancement toward full compliance.

At 1:22 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Borowy, and seconded by Ms. LaMarr, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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

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Mario Ricozzi, Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.