

**Representative Policy Board
Executive Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
via remote access

MINUTES

Special Meeting of Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: **Committee Members** – Mario Ricozzi, Bob Harvey, Charles Havrda, Jay Jaser, Peter Betkoski, Stephen Mongillo, and Tim Slocum

OCA - Jeffrey Donofrio, Esquire

RPB Staff: Jennifer Slubowski

Chair Ricozzi called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Mongillo, seconded by Mr. Slocum, and unanimously carried, the committee voted to approve the minutes of its March 16, 2022 special meeting.

At 5:04 p.m., Atty. Donofrio entered the meeting.

Committee members discussed the status of COVID at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) and expected dates for hybrid meetings to resume. Chair Ricozzi stated that there has been a recent uptick in cases and expects that virtual meetings may continue until spring. Committee members commented on the need for in-person meetings, public attendance, weekly cleanings, upcoming flu season, concerns with the RWA’s lobby closure, and status of meetings at district municipalities and local and federal courts.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to revisit the topic at the January 2023 Executive Committee meeting.

The Committee held an informal discussion on the meeting of the New Haven Environmental Advisory Council (NHEAC), which took place on September 7, 2022. Mr. Vitko, the RWA’s Environmental Planning Manager, along with Mr. Mongillo, Ms. Campbell, and Atty. Donofrio, were present at the meeting. The topic was to discuss water conservation efforts surrounding an ad aired by the RWA of leaf blower use as one alternative for water conservation. In addition to the ad, the NHEAC questioned and appeared misinformed on RWA’s practices related to rate structure, water use, and mandates.

Atty. Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, discussed the NHEAC’s presumptions about the RWA’s lack of concern on other matters and commented on the need for water sales and rate increases to fund infrastructure needs and capital projects.

Chair Ricozzi stated that the RWA is in the process of preparing responses to the NHEAC’s questions concerning its rate making structure as well as other concerns. Committee members noted that they would like the opportunity to review the questions and responses.

The committee reviewed the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's (RWA) projected FY 2023 Representative Policy Board (RPB) application schedule, which included:

- Route 34 Derby, CT – as an expedited review
- Lake Saltonstall Water Treatment Plant (LSWTP) Electrical Improvements and Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant Electrical Improvements
- 233 Skiff Street, Hamden. Waiting for more information from the Hamden Town attorney
- Beech Street & Poms Lane, North Branford, CT sale
- Route 80 Pressure Reducing Valve Relocation
- Raynham Hill

Chair Ricoszi also reported that the LSWTP electrical improvements would be partially funded through the Congressional Direct Spending. The RWA has also submitted Drinking Water State Revolving Fund applications for the Route 80 PRV and Raynham Hill projects.

Discussion took place regarding expenditures, affordability, water use decline, and delinquencies. Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee, stated that the topic should be discussed further at a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and the Consumer Affairs Committee. Mr. Slocum, Chair of the RPB Finance Committee will contact management to request data for a possible joint meeting in December.

The committee discussed upcoming agenda items and RPB issues related to:

- Public participation at RPB meetings
- Open RPB committee meetings and joint committee meetings
- Length of RPB meetings
- Authority member and officer term limits and possible board expansion
- RPB meeting procedural governance

It was the consensus of the committee to meet in January to reassess the COVID status and discuss in-person meetings.

At 6:35 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Mario Ricoszi, Chairman