

**Representative Policy Board  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Minutes of March 23, 2023 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at the office of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and remote access. Chair Ricozzi presided.

**PRESENT**

**RPB**

Ansonia	Thomas P. Clifford III
Beacon Falls	Peter Betkoski
Bethany	Brian Eitzer
Branford	Mario Ricozzi
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**

Cheshire	Timothy Slocum
Derby	Frank Pepe

**Regional Water Authority**

David Borowy  
Kevin Curseaden  
Catherine LaMarr  
Suzanne Sack

**Management**

Larry L. Bingaman  
Dennis Donovan  
Jim Hill  
Rochelle Kowalski  
Sunny Lakshminarayanan  
Premjith Lakshman Singh  
Elizabeth Calo  
Tara Augur

**Counsel**

Raquel Herrera-Soto

**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.

**Public Comment**

Chair Ricozzi offered the opportunity for members of the public to comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

## Minutes

On motion made by Mr. Clifford, seconded by Ms. Young, the RPB approved the minutes of its February 23, 2023 meeting as distributed, with 96 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Aye	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)	Absent	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Aye

## Communications

Chair Ricozzi noted that the special budget meetings to review management's FY 2023 Capital and Operating Budgets are scheduled on:

- 1) Monday, April 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., at the joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee and Finance Committee; and
- 2) Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., at the regular meeting of the Land Use Committee.

Both meetings will include an executive session to answer questions regarding commercial enterprises. All RPB members may attend either, or both, meetings.

RPB members should have received an email from the Nominating Committee with draft Criteria for review and comment. Suggested edits should be submitted to the board office or Stephen Mongillo, Chair of the RPB Nominating Committee, by Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

## Items for Consideration and Action

Mr. Marino 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 the 2023 Rate Application, dated January 3, 2023, which copy is attached hereto, be and hereby is, approved in the form submitted to the meeting.

Mr. Jaser seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and, the RPB approved the resolution, with 93 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Nay	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Aye	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)	Absent	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Aye

Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, stated that at the Committee meeting earlier in the week, the Committee voted to recommend an hourly rate increase for the Office of Consumer Affairs ("OCA"). He stated that the OCA began in 2008 and received one small increase in 2018. Atty. Donofrio approached the Committee in February to discuss an increase. Mr. Mongillo stated that since his start date in 2008, the OCA has been judicious and has never exceeded its budget, provided excellent service, and

has always offered valuable opinions. For the reasons stated, and on behalf of the Consumer Affairs Committee, he moved for approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that based on the recommendation of its Consumer Affairs Committee, the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RPB”) hereby approves a rate adjustment to the agreement with Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio of Ciulla & Donofrio, LLP, the RWA’s Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA), to increase the OCA’s rate to \$300 per hour, effective April 1, 2023.

Mr. Rescigno seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and, the RPB approved the resolution, with 96 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Aye	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)	Absent	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Aye

Chair Ricozzi stated that at the Authority meeting earlier in the day, the Authority voted to recommend management’s Asset Purchase Application to the RPB.

## Reports

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Ricozzi, RPB Chair, reported on the Finance Committee meeting earlier in the month. The committee met with RWA’s auditors from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to review the FY 2023 audit process. Management also provided an update on RPB approved projects.

The next regular meeting is on Monday, April 10, 2023 and the special meeting to review the FY 2024 budget is on Monday, April 17, 2023. All members are welcome to attend.

**Land Use Committee** – Mr. Betkoski, Chair of the RPB Land Use Committee, reported that the committee met earlier in the month and received an update from the RWA’s resident bee keeper. The committee also received land updated and an invasive species update.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

**Consumer Affairs Committee** – Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met twice since the last RPB meeting. In February, the committee received an update from management on the RWA’s deer hunt program.

In March, the committee met and received an environmental education update from management. He also stated that the OCA reported no pending consumer complaints.

**Nominating Committee** – Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the RPB Nominating Committee, reported on the meeting that took place earlier in the month. The committee met to discuss the process required to fill the vacancy on the Five Member Authority.

**Authority/Management** – Mr. Borowy, Chair of the Authority, reported that at the Authority meeting earlier in the day, the board appointed two new directors to the Claire C. Bennett Watershed Fund. He thanked RPB members for their support of the 2023 Rate Application approved earlier.

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Mr. Curseaden, Chair of the RWA's Environmental Health and Safety Committee, reported on the Committee meeting earlier in the day. The Committee met with management to receive an update on invasive species. The committee also received a Health & Safety Initiatives update to advance workplace safety.

Mr. Curseaden, Chair of the RWA's Commercial Business Committee, reported that the committee met earlier in the day in executive session to discuss a proposed application. The Committee also reviewed its FY 2024 work plan.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President and Chief Executive Office, reviewed revenues, operating and maintenance expenses for the month ended February 28, 2023 and stated the projected maintenance test for FY 2023 is 126%, with no shortfall. Contributing to the higher coverage is a higher interest earnings and water revenues. Also contributing is lower than budgeted PILOT and debt service expense related to DWSRF timing. The RWA continues to monitor the overall economic environment and customers' ability to pay. He also reported that raw water storage levels as of March 13, 2023, were 93%, compared to the long-term year average of 87%

Mr. Eitzer inquired about the cost of the new EPA rule on PFAS. Management will update the Authority and the RPB when the information is available.

At 7:13 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Charles Havrda, Secretary

Attachment:

1. Final Decision, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Representative Policy Board for approval of the Application for the 2023 Rate Application.