

**Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**April 16, 2020 Meeting
Transcription**

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, April 16, 2020, via remote access. Chairman Ricozzi presided.

PRESENT

RPB

Ansonia	Thomas P. Clifford, III
Beacon Falls	Peter Betkoski
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 Haven	Anthony Rescigno
Orange	Jasper J. Jaser
Prospect	Robert E. Harvey, Jr.
Seymour	Michael H. Horbal
West Haven	T. Gregory Malloy
Woodbridge	Mark Levine
Governor’s Rep.	Vincent Marino

Absent

North Branford	Vacant
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Regional Water Authority

Anthony DiSalvo
David Borowy
Joseph Cermola
Kevin Curseaden
Suzanne Sack

Management

Larry L. Bingaman
Linda Discepolo
Rose Gavrilovic
Rochelle Kowalski
Beth Nesteriak
Ted Norris

Counsel

Bruce McDermott

Office of Consumer Affairs

Jeffrey Donofrio

Staff

Jennifer Slubowski

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay, we're going to start since it's already 6:30. I don't see anyone else in the waiting room, so thank you all for being here. This is the regular meeting of the RPB Thursday, April 16th at 6:30. This meeting is being recorded, and the recording I believe is going to be transcribed and then posted to the website. So before you speak, you should state your name. Mine is Mario Ricozzi. I'm the chair for the record. The first item of business, which was page four, is the safety moment on COVID-19 prevention. And if you read through that, you'll see that washing frequently is the highest and best use of prevention or method for prevention. Is that correct, Michelle?

Michelle Verderame:

You are correct.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay.

Michelle Verderame:

[inaudible 00:03:22].

Mario Ricozzi:

So thank you to all the RWA staff that are working on keeping water in our pipes and coming out of our faucets so that we can do that. You know, sometimes we lose perspective on what we're doing here as a board and trying to assist that whole process. Now that we're in this Covid-19 situation and that's more and more important. Thank you all and all you guys for your time. The second item is the approval of minutes of March 19th meeting. If there could be a motion.

Tim Slocum:

So moved, Mr. Slocum, so moved.

Mario Ricozzi:

Tim moved, and second, please.

Greg Malloy:

I second it. Greg Malloy.

Mario Ricozzi:

Greg seconds. Okay, any additions, corrections, or discussion of the minutes?

Mario Ricozzi:

Hearing none, all in favor?

Various Speakers:

Aye

Mario Ricozzi:

Opposed? Anyone abstaining?

Richard Smith:

I will. Rich Smith. I was not there.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay. Anyone else? All right. Very good. So now this is the time of year when we get the communications, and we notify people of appointments that are ending and then a letter goes to your

town. So Peter and Brian, Michelle, Jamie, Naomi, Jay, and Vin. If you please let Jennifer know or let me know that you're still interested in wanting to continue so that we can kind of adjust the letter and say what a great job you're doing.

Jay Jaser:

Exactly.

Mario Ricoszi:

You won't get to see the actual letter, though so. But no, so we'd appreciate hearing from you as quickly as you can so that we can get those letters sent out.

Jay Jaser:

I'm on board for that. Jay from Orange.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay, [inaudible].

Brian Eitzer:

Brian. You know I'm fine just get me appointed. If they want.

Peter Betkoski:

Yeah, Jennifer. I'm on board. Peter Betkoski.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay, Peter, Brian.

Jamie Mowat Young:

Jamie. I'm on board, too, but I can tell you the first selectman I talked to a couple of days ago about this isn't expecting to be able to do a public hearing, so. You know, a town meeting to do the votes, so they don't know how they're going to deal with it.

Brian Eitzer:

You stay on until you're replaced.

Mario Ricoszi:

Everyone is appointed until a replacement is made.

Jamie Mowat Young:

Oh, so this could be until my eighties at this point. Thank you.

Mark Levine:

Does anyone have cell phone service or, you know, is it just horse and buggy?

Jamie Mowat Young:

I'm going to abstain.

Mark Levine:

All the towns are doing Zoom meetings.

Jamie Mowat Young:

I made that suggestion.

Mario Ricoszi:

Very good. So, if you haven't said anything, please speak up.

Michelle Verderame:

I'm on board. This is Michelle.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay. And Naomi?

Naomi:

Yes.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay, got it. Thumbs up from Vin. So, that is-that's everyone, Jennifer. Okay? Thank you very much.

Jennifer Slubowski:

Thank you.

Mario Ricoszi:

I appreciate your patience as we try to go through this. We have a reminder April 20th, which is Monday, will be a special meeting of the Land Use Committee and Consumer Affairs at 5:30. I believe the Zoom information went out today for that meeting and the agenda. And then on April 22nd, which is Wednesday at 5:00 will be the Finance Committee. So both of those are really surrounded the budget presentation. I think there's a couple of Land Use-or CAC has some items in addition to that, right Steve?

Stephen Mongillo:

Correct.

Speaker:

Yes.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay. That they have to do, but predominantly the main reason is the budget, so please attend one of those meetings. So either 5:30 Monday or 5PM next Wednesday, the 22nd.

Mario Ricoszi:

Items for consideration and action. Unless there's questions on what we've covered so far. So the first is the Finance Committee's recommendation regarding the North Sleeping Giant Project, and Tim, can I ask you for the finance committee's recommendation?

Tim Slocum:

You may, Mr. Chairman. This is Tim Slocum, and I will begin this with a motion-a resolution-I should say. Proposed resolutions dated April 16, 2020 whereas the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority on March 23rd 2020 filed an application with the representative policy board for approval of a project for North Sleeping Giant Wellfield Chemical Improvements and whereas the finance committee of the representative policy board reviewed the application and recommends that it be accepted by the RPB as complete and recommends that a public hearing be scheduled and conducted by a presiding member and whereas the RPB accepts the set application as complete and schedule set application for a public hearing in accordance with Special Act 77-98 as amended and the RPB bylaws and rules of practice.

Tim Slocum:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the RPB accepts the authority's application for approval of a project for North Seeping Giant Wellfield Chemical Improvements and determines to hold a public hearing on that application to be conducted by a presiding member on May 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM and resolved further that the chairperson is hereby directed to give notice of said hearing in accordance with section two of the rules of practice as amended.

Mario Ricozzi:

And that's in the form of a motion. Thank you, Tim. Is there a second to that?

Jay Jaser:

I'll second it, Mr. Chairman. Jay Jaser.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay. Any discussion? I will, if you notice there is no presiding member recommended. I figured if you all wait and see how Jamie makes out this evening, then we can see if anyone's interested in being presiding member or if we want to have a public hearing or wait until we can meet in person. So if you are interested, let me know, but wait until after the public hearing tonight. Jamie's going to do a great job.

Mario Ricozzi:

Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor say aye.

Various Speakers:

Aye.

Mario Ricozzi:

Any opposed? Any abstentions? Okay. Motion passes. Thank you very much. You should have in your package of the mileage form, so if you please fill that out and email it to Jennifer or somehow get it to her either mailed or and an email so that that can be processed.

Mario Ricozzi:

Also in the-in your package is the representative policy board first quarter compensation. If you recall last month when we met, I indicated that we-there was a-every five years there's a review of the cost of living, essentially, and that after the five years that was an increase. I think it was \$8.23 per meeting.

Mario Ricozzi:

I would ask that you consider holding that as a freeze on the \$8.23 until we kind of get through this so that we would leave the level at the same amount that it was the last quarter. I'll ask for you to consider that. If so, I'll ask for a motion to approve as substantially correct with the freeze on the increase.

Stephen Mongillo:

Mario, this is Steve.

Mario Ricozzi:

Steve, yes.

Stephen Mongillo:

You do that. This is not an amount that's going to break the bank. I mean, I don't know when we're going to spend it, whatever we're doing.

Mario Ricozzi:

Yes.

Stephen Mongillo:

I mean, you know it's symbolic, but it's not really that critical. So I'm, I'm personally not in favor of changing anything when nothing else is changing.

Mark Levine:

Is there any other group doing anything like that? Is the F-five member authority taking the hit?

Tony DiSalvo:

Yeah, we've had to stop adding increases for this year.

Mark Levine:

Well past the [inaudible 00:13:09] , well ours is only...

Tony DiSalvo:

Well, then again there were none offered, so.

Mark Levine:

The difference there is a substantial amount of money versus ours, and there are a lot of people, maybe not on this board, that are out of work. I haven't made a dime since March 17th my business has been closed.

Tony DiSalvo:

In what year was that Mark?

Mark Levine:

March 17th this year.

Tom Clifford:

If I could, Mr. Chairman.

Mario Ricoszi:

Yes, Tom.

Tom Clifford:

By virtue of the governor's executive order for no in-person meetings we are saving on our travel reimbursement.

Speaker:

Yay.

Tom Clifford:

So I want to note that. That will yield some savings.

Mario Ricoszi:

Absolutely.

Mark Levine:

All right. Why don't we leave this alone? Huh?

Jay Jaser:

Mr. Chairman?

Mario Ricoszi:

Yes, Jay.

Tony DiSalvo:

I'd like to speak in favor of taking the increase. I think it's important for our RPB to feel motivated.

Greg Malloy:

Thank you.

Tony DiSalvo:

No one's even smiling. I don't understand.

Mark Levine:

I appreciate that. [inaudible 00:14:20]

Mario Ricozzi:

Yes, Jay.

Jay Jaser:

Mr. Chairman, I haven't given this quite a bit of having seen it. And I don't know if there's a motion on the floor for the \$8.23.

Mario Ricozzi:

There is no motion at present.

Jay Jaser:

Because I, I really think as the RPB board, and we're the policy makers for the corporation.

Jay Jaser:

And we also put in place the five person authority, and they administrate and do a great job and, and the staffing and hiring with management. I think we should do something to show some leadership to help mitigate the, the next increase in rates to our consumers.

Mark Levine:

\$96 dollars is not going to make a change. 96 dollars won't make a difference.

Jay Jaser:

No wait a minute. Let me finish, please. So what I'm, what I'm looking to do is make a motion that would include the \$8.23, but we get one payment for subcommittee meetings and two payments for board meetings.

Mark Levine:

Oh, boy.

Jay Jaser:

And I think it-can I finish please? And if we could make the motion that we take one payment for all meetings and, and, and, and not accept the \$8.23 as well increase because I feel that we have to show some leadership in this, which really goes to lower our expenses. It all adds up, and with that it mitigates the increase through to our consumer, probably who's suffering very, very hard right now. And that would be my motion, Mr. Chairman.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay, there is a motion on the floor. Is there a second to the motion, which is to freeze the \$8.23 and make the monthly meeting count as only one meeting?

Jay Jaser:

One half.

Frank Pepe:

Mario, if we take this freezing, is everybody else-

Mario Ricoszi:

Who is speaking, please? Who is it that's talking? I can't--

Frank Pepe:

Frank, Frank Pepe.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay, Frank.

Frank Pepe:

I have questions. I don't mind. We take the freeze, that's fine, but is everybody else taking a freeze?

Mario Ricoszi:

No.

Frank Pepe:

That's the question I have. So is it just us, the board of representatives, or is it everybody? If it's everybody, that's fine.

Charles Havrda:

This is Charles. This is Charles Havrda. That would be my question, too. We heard that the five member authority doesn't have an increase anyway. What is management doing? We haven't heard anything specific at that end.

Mark Levine:

Five member authorities are not taking an increase, but they get 20 grand a year.

Charles Havrda:

What is management doing? Is management doing any freezing, or are they keeping everybody employed, or any furloughs, or what's happening there?

Larry Bingaman:

Well, that could be a story. Tony, you want to address that?

Tony DiSalvo:

No, go ahead, Larry.

Larry Bingaman:

The authority hasn't approved the budget yet, which will be done following the RPB final review and comments, but there are recommendations within that budget to mitigate expenses in fiscal 21, and all I can say at this point is that it would require personal sacrifices on the part of the entire management and employees of the RWA.

Charles Havrda:

Okay. [inaudible 00:18:52] that then did Jay's motion get a second?

Various Speakers:

No.

Charles Havrda:

Okay. Then I would simply make a motion that we, we simply freeze it without the other complications to simply freeze it until we get through this.

Brian Eitzer:

This is Brian. I would tend to agree. I'll second the motion that we freeze. My comments would be simply that I took this job as a service to the town. I didn't even know I was going to get compensated for sitting on the board and that was a super pleasant surprise. I think as a leader you have to show leadership, and I'm still employed at my agency and I don't need an extra \$8 for coming to one of these meetings. And I am all in favor of showing leadership to people that we realize this is going to be a hard time for everybody, particularly employees, and if the money can go back to the employees who are going to be hit hardest, that's what I'm all for.

Mark Levine:

This is Mark Levine. I'll second the \$8.

Mario Ricozzi:

Brian already did. Any further comments on the freeze?

Stephen Mongillo:

Yes, yes. This is Steve Mongillo. Just for clarity--Jay had proposed also not taking double for our (??) meetings. Are we-

Mario Ricozzi:

That did not get a second. The motion on the floor is agreed on the increase that was effective, I think, January.

Stephen Mongillo:

Okay.

Mario Ricozzi:

Further discussion on that?

Richard Smith:

This is Rich Smith. I just want to be sure I'm following the discussion. I support freezing \$8 but-and like Brian-I didn't take, I didn't take this to be compensated, but are we tying the freeze back, just philosophically, are we, does this have something to do with the virus? I'm missing the thread of leadership and \$8 and rate increases. Could somebody just tie together what, what, what it is we're arguing for here? What and how it relates to consumers and jobs and viruses if that's the-

Charles Havrda:

The phrase in my mind is the reason I made the motion is that obviously this pandemic-over and above all of the health issues that we're, we're in right now-it's also going to have a financial impact on all of us personally, but for our job tonight on the water authority and, and I think if management and the five member authority are, are, are looking at substantial changes in the budget in having to reduce them for all of these reasons that that's why I propose the motion.

Richard Smith:

So does it require some commitment from management to say that the, the \$8. 23 cents that we're deferring is going to be redirected to some noble cause, or we're just saying freeze it and anecdotally we think somehow it ends up in a good place?

Charles Havrda:

I think by freezing it, it simply demonstrates our commitment to the authority and the financial health of it. You know, where the money goes, the budget's too far away to answer that question at this point in time. It's just a savings.

Frank Pepe:

Mario, I have one more question.

Mario Ricoszi:

Yes, Frank.

Frank Pepe:

I kind of-I don't need the \$8, but if we're going to freeze all the member of the boards and the five panel board, are we putting a freeze on hiring and everything else all the way down the line in the future?

Mario Ricoszi:

I think, Frank, on Monday or Wednesday of next week, there's a plan for an executive session that we'll discuss parts of that.

Frank Pepe:

Yeah.

Mario Ricoszi:

So.

Frank Pepe:

And those are management decisions.

Mario Ricoszi:

Yes.

Tim Slocum:

May I just make a comment?

Mario Ricoszi:

Ah, yes, Tim, go ahead.

Tim Slocum:

Thank you very much. I'm not sure we've ever committed much debate as this debate is to our whole operating budget. That's just an observation, and it's not a reason for not to have this conversation, but I bet if Mr. Ricoszi had anticipated it, he never would've mentioned a thing. I could be wrong, Mario, I'm not a mind reader. That's my comment.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay.

Tim Slocum:

Thank you.

Mark Levine:

[inaudible 00:23:29] question Mark Levine.

Mark Levine:

I agree.

Mario Ricoszi:

All right. There are no further comments? All in favor?

Various Speakers:

Aye.

Mario Ricoszi:

Opposed? Abstaining?

Jay Jaser:

Mr. Chairman, I'll abstain.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay.

Jay Jaser:

Jay from Orange.

Mario Ricozzi:

Very good, Jay. Yes, I didn't realize it would take that long, Tim. So you have two minutes for your finance committee meeting. Report.

Tim Slocum:

Well it's going to be \$8 short. Well, the bottom line is, our last finance committee dealt mostly with the resolution that we just approved. And of course, Rochelle did bring us up to date on the balance sheet, revenues, expenses and things like that, which are largely included in our minutes. And I'm sure if she's present this evening, she may be bringing us up to date. So that was about it, Mario. It's a pretty quick and dirty meeting.

Mario Ricozzi:

Thank you very much. Mark, land use?

Mark Levine:

I don't have it in front of me, but I know that our land use was held on Tuesday and that we had a discussion with... Correct me if I'm wrong, Amy...Amy...

Greg Malloy:

Vasquez.

Mark Levine:

How could I forget that [inaudible], and she gave me a very informative talk about the hazardous waste material that we produce as a company, what we do with it, and how we take care of it and make sure that we are following all the requirements by the State and Federal Government. Very, very informative. And then we had a report about how we're doing with [inaudible] and when we need the water we use. Well, again, I don't have my notes in front of me because my printer died. But the other thing was our water. I don't even know what our water supply is like Larry, do you have that? Okay, I'm sorry. I don't know. I think it was 89%, I'm not sure. I think it was 89%, and we had more water last month, and we didn't need it actually, which is good. So I'm sorry, I don't have my papers in front of me only because my printer died. And thank you. Do you have any questions?

Mario Ricozzi:

Steve? Consumer Affairs?

Stephen Mongillo:

Consumer affairs will meet on Monday as you mentioned. It's our regular meeting, but it's also a joint meeting with the Land Use Committee to have a presentation on the budget. So I would just mention to all the Consumer Affairs members that after the budget presentation, you do stay for, for our meeting. We didn't have a quorum last time. So we have a few things to take care of. Also, if there's any members

from finance who would like to join us because that's a better night for them, they're welcome. And I want to let Michelle know although she may not drive down my street, but there's a heart on my door, and I appreciate everything that everyone in the medical communities do.

Michelle Verderame:

Thank you so much.

Mario Ricoszi:

Very good Steve, thank you. The executive committee, because there were troubles trying to get our, a couple of meetings going on zoom, we, we've pretty much focused on our meetings and how we were going to hold them and tonight is somewhat successful so far. We're going to a public hearing, so that was the gist of it. But I do want to thank Jennifer. Not only has she given training to, I think most of us and how to use zoom, but she's made herself available for us to try and connect into these special meetings, and she had a session with Jamie and myself the other day so we can go through the public hearing and how that would hopefully work smoothly. So she's really put in a great effort. So I want to thank her personally for that.

Mario Ricoszi:

And the next item is actually the authority and management, but we've spoken too much. So Tony, if you don't mind holding on until after the public hearing because I'd like to start that since we don't have people coming and going. And I'd like to adjourn... I'm sorry. I would like to recess... Thank you. I'd like to recess our meeting as the RPB a monthly meeting and it's going to go into the public hearing on the Branford Hill service area improvements.

Mario Ricoszi:

We tracked them... Noticed...

Mario Ricoszi:

If you are required before we get started, [inaudible] depending on the outcome of the public hearing and comments, so please ask all your questions that you can. We have on our agenda potentially acting on this application this evening. So everyone's got their glass of water and their coffee; they're all set to go. I'll turn this over to Jamie as the presiding member. Jennifer, you have the recording going for the hearing, correct?

Jennifer Slubowski:

That's correct. It's all set.

Mark Levine:

Anybody in the waiting room?

Jennifer Slubowski:

No, there's nobody in the waiting room.

Jamie Mowat Young:

So there's nobody from the public currently online outside of the members?

Jennifer Slubowski:

No. There's not. Not right now.

[RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING]

Mario Ricozzi:

Thank you Jamie. Very good job. Very, very good. That was our first public hearing with virtual, so it came off without a hitch, which is great. Thank you. Reconvene the regular meeting of the RPB at 7:48 and I will turn it over to Mr DiSalvo for the authority management report.

Anthony DiSalvo:

Thank you Ricozzi, we have two committee reports that we'd like to pick up on. One that we didn't get a chance to report on last month. That was Kevin's environmental health and safety. This is pre-COVID time, Kevin?

Jennifer Slubowski:

Tony, Kevin had to leave to go to another meeting.

Anthony DiSalvo:

Oh, okay. So we will pass on that once again. We met today in the compensation and pension committee and Suzanne has a report on that. Is Suzanne here?

Suzanne Sack:

Got it. Can you hear me okay?

Anthony DiSalvo:

Yeah. Good, thanks.

Suzanne Sack:

Very good. I hope this finds everybody well. We met today the pension and benefits committee, and Jeff Bauer and Albert Craten, creator of angel, presented the pertinent summaries of the January 2020 valuation reports, assumptions and contributions that will be used for the full year 2021.

Suzanne Sack:

The discount rate used for calculating the contribution for all the plans remains at 7%. The arc for the pension plans in the January 2020 valuation reports is \$3,171,243. The recommendation for the full fiscal year for 2021 VBA contribution is the actuarial recommended cash contribution of \$1,885,418.

Suzanne Sack:

We also met with Morgan Stanley to review the quarterly performance of the pension and the VBA plans. Returns for the quarter ended on March 31st, 2020 for the pension and the VBA plans, and reported to be a negative 13.09% which is 14.84% less than the actual return for the quarter of 1.75%.

Suzanne Sack:

Returns for the 12 month period from March 31st, 2019 to March 31st, 2020 is a negative 5.22% or 12.77% less than the actuarial return for the quarter of 7%. As a reminder, the return for the 12 month period December 2018 to December 2019 was 18.84%. For the period June 1, 2019 from April 15th, 2020 fiscal year to date, the return was approximately negative 1.01%.

Suzanne Sack:

Morgan Stanley has discussed asset allocation and first quarter portfolio changes given the market environment, the amount of our contributions and other factors, and that's it for my report, Tony, unless anybody has any questions.

Anthony DiSalvo:

Thank you Suzanne. Questions from folks?

Anthony DiSalvo:

Needless to say. This was a difficult time in both Suzanne and Rochelle spent a great deal of time with our pension advisors, sort of weathering the portfolio and the moves to be made within it. I think they've done an exceptional job and have managed to keep us from sliding very far.

Anthony DiSalvo:

It's amazing when you consider that this was the steepest drop that has ever occurred in stock market history, deepest over the shortest period of time, even worse than the great depression. So we've done very well I think in total.

Anthony DiSalvo:

We've spent a great deal of the time dealing the COVID's impact upon our organization. Larry and the management team have been working hard, not only on budget, to which you'll see soon, but also on the way in which the organization functions and the communication to employees. We may not have much to say about that today, but know that we've been focusing on that largely. Larry, are there other things that you want to talk about today.

Larry Bingaman:

Yeah. A couple of things, I thought I would have Beth do a quick overview on where we are vis-a-vis the COVID-19 impact on the organization, and then I'll do a quick financial update, so Beth?

Beth Nesteriak:

Sure. Good evening everyone. Hope this finds everyone well. Just a quick update. It seems like forever ago that this started, but happy to report that while we've had one employee test positive, that happened in early March, he's made a full recovery and back to work. That one illness did require about 20 to 25 people to go into isolation, so they've all been released since then and currently we only have two employees in that remain in isolation for either exposure to a family member or them themselves having symptoms.

Beth Nesteriak:

So overall we're fairing well. We continue to meet as an incident command group twice weekly, which is usually followed up by a weekly email to all of our employees on the actions and updates that's going on throughout the company.

Beth Nesteriak:

Of recent news. Not sure that any of you have been down on Sergeant Drive lately, but if you have, you'll notice that there is a drive through test site that's being set up at 60 Sergeant Drive, that's the old Gateway College. It's a site that's being sponsored by CVS and we are expecting about a thousand cars per day to go through that site. As a result, staff were on scene yesterday to help with cross connection inspections. They were using the hydrants for some water for port-a-potties as well as we had discovered a leak on the fire service that we helped repair yesterday. So they're actually going to be driving through the Jordan's property and going through the Gateway College for the testing perspective, so it definitely makes things a little bit closer to home when you drive by.

Beth Nesteriak:

In terms of operations and how we're doing overall, most of our back office staff is working remotely. Our 90 Sergeant Drive building is still remains close to the public. We are taking appointments for developers and other necessities.

Beth Nesteriak:

We do have RWA police manning the front driveway just in case we do get visitors. We have also displayed a sign in the front parking lot to notify the customers that our building is closed, our lobby is closed and also just on a more positive note, we have turned our lights red in support of our first responders, so if you do drive by our building, our front lights are red.

Beth Nesteriak:

We are working actively on keeping the building clean for those employees that do need to report. So we're doing a mid day wipe downs as well as a nightly cleanings and then more serious kind of Clorox treatments on a somewhat regular basis.

Beth Nesteriak:

Our customer service department has staff that are reporting remotely and they're continuing to expand those capabilities. Most of our field staff are working, we're maintaining social distancing. We are doing things like keeping one man in a truck where we might have two, we have provided staff with masks as well as a cloth and have fitted a certain employees with N95 respirators in the event that we do have to respond to an emergency in a customer's home.

Beth Nesteriak:

Our most critical staff that have to have been able to maintain operations is obviously our treatment plant operators. We've gone to split shifts there and we're also segregating staff and keeping the same groups together and that remains true for a lot of our operations.

Beth Nesteriak:

We've also set up our control room is another very critical piece of our operations. We've been able to create remote work sites for some of those operators to again help minimize exposure and our lab also

is reporting daily but has again split into two different shifts to minimize our risk. And like I said at the beginning, most of our back office staff is being able to telecommute and work remotely. So with that I'd be happy to take any questions

Larry Bingaman:

Okay, thank you Beth. From a financial standpoint, after 10 months of actual results through March 31st, our operating revenues are under budget \$827,000 which is less than 1%, and that's due to total water revenues being under budget by about 1.4 million primarily due to lower than anticipated water billings.

Larry Bingaman:

Other revenues are over budget by about a half a million dollars and this is all of our outside lab and our pipe safe programs.

Larry Bingaman:

Operating and maintenance expenses are under budget by about \$4.8 million, which is about 9% of the budget and 3 million of that is permanent or deferred savings, so the efforts of the organization to cut expenses and save is starting to have some results.

Larry Bingaman:

We are currently projecting a coverage of 114% with no draw. You might recall that in March, I had reported that we were anticipating a coverage of 118%, we've obviously revised that downward based on anticipated lower billings due to the Coronavirus, but the fact that we've been able to keep coverage at 114% is due to lower debt service as well as a lower O and M and pilot, which have contributed to the elimination of the draw, and we'll certainly be in a better position next week during the budget discussions to provide you with more information on our fiscal 21 budget and some of the actions that we will be taking that we touched on tonight.

Larry Bingaman:

So Mark, as of Tuesday our total storage was 99% compared to a longterm average of 92%.

Mark Levine:

[crosstalk 01:27:55] as a way with that?

Larry Bingaman:

Longterm average of 92% and the storm that we had on Monday brought anywhere between an inch and a half to three inches of rain across the system. So we have about 3.4 inches of rain through mid April and that compares to a long term average of 1.7 inches. So that's obviously had a tremendous beneficial impact on the system.

Mark Levine:

Unbelievable. Unbelievable. We've got plenty of water. We got... somebody has to drink it.

Larry Bingaman:

We got to sell it. So everybody turn your faucets on at night, turn your neighbors on. When you visit somebody's home, leave the faucet running, so we're ready.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay. Thank you very much.

Larry Bingaman:

Thank you. That's it for management's report.

Mario Ricozzi:

All right. Anything else Tony?

Mario Ricozzi:

Tony We can't hear you.

Anthony DiSalvo:

I know, I was muted. No, that'll be all Mario.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay, thank you very much. Jeff, did you have anything?

Jeff:

No, other than we need to lobby governor Malloy to make car washes be included as essential businesses.

Tony DiSalvo:

Barbers barbers barbers.

Larry Bingaman:

And then everybody has to run their car through twice.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay. So the next item and the final item of business that was on our agenda would be a potential final decision on the application on the Branford Hill Service Area Improvements. And if Jamie is still willing to speak to everyone, I'd ask if she would propose a resolution.

Jamie Mowat Young:

Thank you. I'd like to propose the following resolution. Branford Hills Service Area Improvement application dated April 16, 2020. Whereas the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority on February 24th, 2020 filed an application to the representative policy board or RPB, for approval of a project to complete the Branford Hill Service Area Improvements application.

Jamie Mowat Young:

And whereas the finance committee of the RPB reviewed the application and recommended that it be accepted as complete, the RPB consider the application and render a decision on the same evening as the public hearing.

Jamie Mowat Young:

And whereas at its March 19, 2020 meeting, the RPB concluded that the application was complete, determined to hold a public hearing on April 16th, 2020 and considered rendering a decision on the same evening of the public hearing.

Jamie Mowat Young:

And whereas on April 16th, 2020 the RPB held a public hearing in accordance with the rules of policy and procedures as amended and as modified by governor Ned Lamont's executive order 7B dated March 14th, 2020 and whereas as a result of the public hearing, the RPB determined the application and proposed action is necessary and consistent with the policies and mission of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority is not likely to have adverse effects on the environment and is in the public interest.

Jamie Mowat Young:

Now therefore be it resolved that the RPB hereby approves the authorities application for a project to complete the Bradford Hill Service Area Improvements filed February 24th, 2020 in accordance with section 19 of Connecticut Special Act 77-98 as amended.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay. That's in the form of a motion. Is there a second?

Greg Malloy:

I'll second.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay, Greg Malloy?

Greg Malloy:

Yes.

Mario Ricozzi:

Thank you. Comments or discussion? No one, I don't see anyone raising their hands, okay. I will say that we are going to look at the rules, I believe Ted and Rose are going to join us when we do that to look at potential ways of avoiding this in the future.

Mario Ricozzi:

We've discussed some tonight, so we should be looking at that soon and I don't see any other comments then I'll say all in favor?

Various Speakers:

Aye.

Mario Ricozzi:

No opposed? In that case, the ayes have it. No abstentions I take it. All right. Unless there's any further business. I want to thank you all for putting up with me tonight and for this year, and I will see you all on Monday or Wednesday of next week.

All:

Thank you.

Jamie Mowat Young:

Thank you Mario.

Mario Ricozzi:

The meeting's adjourned at 8:04.