

**Representative Policy Board
Nominating Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority**

**June 3, 2020
Meeting Transcription**

A special meeting of the Nominating Committee for officers of the Representative Policy Board ("RPB") of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority took place on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via remote access. Chairman man Mongillo presided.

Present: **Committee Members:** Naomi Campbell, Stephen Mongillo, Tim Slocum, Michelle Verderame, and Jamie Mowat Young
Office of Consumer Affairs: Jeffrey Donofrio
Staff: Jennifer Slubowski

Stephen:

Jeff, it's 5:30 and I offered to act as a temporary chair until we elect someone here. So I'll call the meeting to order. And the first item on the agenda is to elect the committee chair. So I will take nominations for.

Tim:

I nominate Steve Mongillo.

Jamie:

I second.

Jamie:

I second it.

Jeff:

[crosstalk 00:02:48]

Stephen:

You didn't even have to take a step back on zoom to do that.

Tim:

And I'm unmasked.

Stephen:

Are there any other nominations? All those in favor, I guess it's unanimous.

Tim:

Yes. Aye.

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Naomi:

Aye.

Michelle:

Aye.

Stephen:

Thank you. Item two is the safety moment. And I thought this one was real interesting. I hadn't considered this in a while, but if you haven't seen it, it's about one flooded basements and the potential for electrocution. If there are any wiring in your house, that's in it. So something to be aware of. Let the professionals handle it.

Stephen:

Our third item is to review and discuss the Bylaws concerning the appointment of officers. Jennifer sent this out. Does anybody have any comments on this? Is everybody take a look at this?

Stephen:

We do have some term limits and it's kind of interesting this time around, all of the current officers have emailed us ahead of time and indicated their interest in continuing to serve. And Jennifer has noted that all of them are capable in terms of the term limits for serving again. So that's in the background.

Stephen:

So far the only person that has asked to be considered for a position is Mark Levine. There is no open position. So I guess let's stick with the Bylaws first. Are there any comments on the Bylaws?

Jamie:

I have a question and I'm not sure it's not... I just don't understand it. Under section 3.8, the term limits, it indicates that there's limits on consecutive terms. Can someone, I don't think it's happening this time but it could happen, let's say someone who had served their full limit on consecutive terms and took a year off. Could they then come back and serve again? If they've served four consecutive terms, let's say as a committee chair, or three consecutive terms as vice chair, can they take a year off and then come back and do it again? Or is it three and you're done?

Stephen:

No, you can come back. That's happened already I believe. Term limits are sort of good and bad. Sometimes they work opposite the way you think they're supposed to. The motivation for this was to just not have someone stay in a position forever and also to give everybody a chance to have that responsibility if they wanted it, but it doesn't limit anybody coming back after they're off for a year.

Stephen:

There's also a difference between the RPB board and the committee chairs, which is committee chairs are four years, the RPB board is three years. And I'm looking at term limits in here, it says that one, I guess, there is a possibility of an additional consecutive year?

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Jeff:

Yes.

Jamie:

Yeah.

Stephen:

So I guess that was put in there so that if in fact there is a reason for someone to continue, the board has the option of being able to do that.

Tim:

In the event someone has served say, for example as the vice chairperson for three terms, and then the next go around comes up and there's a vacancy for or there's multiples for president or chairman whatever, that former vice chair could serve? Could be nominated? Or would that person not be able to because they'd already stood as an officer of some kind? Do you know the answer to that? It doesn't seem like they'd be precluded.

Jamie:

[crosstalk 00:00:07:23].

Stephen:

I'm not sure I understand your question.

Tim:

Well say for instance [inaudible 00:07:28] You don't understand my question?

Jamie:

Do you mean that if they finish out a term, a prior term of someone who passed away or something does that count as full term?

Tim:

No. Say for example everyone had served three consecutive terms this go around.

Stephen:

Okay.

Tim:

Okay. So the former secretary or treasurer who couldn't serve another term, would they be eligible to be nominated for chairman?

Stephen:

A different position? Of course. [crosstalk 00:08:01].

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Tim:

Right, a different position. So there's nothing to preclude them from that?

Stephen:

Yeah.

Tim:

Okay. I didn't see anything that would, I just wanted to be sure.

Stephen:

The situation that I can see is if a chairman had two years left and the vice chairman was up, but he was interested in the chairman spot, could he be nominated for an additional year so that he would be able to stay on until a time when someone, when the chairman left. Something like that.

Stephen:

There were several things possible within the current rules, but it seems pretty flexible because you can serve on it in a different position. Or after a year of serving, serve again in that same position.

Tim:

Okay.

Stephen:

So we have term limits, but they aren't really that restrictive. Jeff, any comments on that?

Jeff:

No, I think you nailed it. The intent that I read in 3.8 is that an officer's term really can't exceed four consecutive years. That officer during that four year term, or even subsequent to that four year term, is nominated or appointed to a different officer position. Then that starts the four year maximum consecutive years all over again.

Jeff:

And [crosstalk 00:09:48] that and I've seen it in the 12 years that I've been OCA. I've seen it a couple of times where somebody serves the max, takes a year off or more and then comes back. So I think there is a lot of flexibility and I think that's appropriate given the unusual nature of the structure of the RPB and its committees.

Stephen:

In the past, some of the chairman have served a long time, including myself. I was on Consumer Affairs for probably six or seven years, but I wasn't keeping anybody else from doing it. It was nobody else really wanted it either. So sometimes that's the case too. But it's good to spread it around. And you do have a responsibility on this board, so in different ways. So it's good to get the experience.

Stephen:

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Any other questions, concerns on the Bylaws? We can move into item four, which is the potential nominees. I would start by saying that all of the current officers that have served well, they've all indicated an interest in continuing. I'm not quite sure what we do with that. And Mark's request. He didn't really... I know Mark likes to be on the Executive Committee and he certainly has taken an interest in the Water Authority over time. He didn't ask for a specific position. So I don't know that we could consider him for one or if we even want to consider anybody considering the current slate is interested in serving again.

Stephen:

The other question I would throw out to the committee is, do we want to ask one more time if anybody's interested? Is there any value in that? Jennifer you already asked people, right, if they were interested?

Jennifer:

I did, yeah. Mark was the only one who replied.

Stephen:

What are the other considerations in terms of time? How much time do we have to make this decision?

Jennifer:

Well there's going to be a recommendation at the RPB meeting. So we have until probably the week of [crosstalk 00:12:20]

Stephen:

June you're thinking about?

Jennifer:

Yeah. At the June meeting.

Stephen:

Okay, so that's coming up fairly quickly.

Tim:

Yeah. I think we can probably make a determination, don't you think Steve?

Stephen:

Yeah. That's... I'm just asking

Tim:

I'm just thinking that that Mark probably registered an interest probably out of, the lack of maybe he didn't know how long everyone's been serving just to express a willingness to serve.

Stephen:

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The issue for him is he's reached his term limit as far as being chairman of the Land Use Committee.

Tim:

Oh, I see.

Stephen:

See. So he was interested in moving to something else. However, there isn't anything else open and I'm not in favor of taking somebody out of a job [crosstalk 00:13:06]

Tim:

No, I agree.

Stephen:

If everybody else agrees with that, with no one else expressing an interest, we could develop a resolution to just re-nominate the current slate of officers.

Tim:

I would move that resolution.

Naomi:

Do we have the current slate of officers available? [crosstalk 00:13:31]

Stephen:

Yes. Well Jennifer sent an email to you about everybody's current role and their time in office?

Jennifer:

This is the slate here.

Jamie:

So this would be the third year in the respective roles for three of them and the second year for Mario?

Stephen:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Naomi:

Right.

Stephen:

I think Mario is doing a super job.

Tim:

Oh yeah.

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Jamie:

I agree.

Naomi:

I agree.

Jamie:

Let me just-

Stephen:

I'm glad he's interested in staying on.

Jamie:

I think all four seem to be, from what I can tell, we haven't had any issues yet that I'm aware of anyway. I'm sure Jennifer puts out a lot of fires, but out of due respect to Mark with the Land Use, we don't do the committee chairs. That happens in the individual committees, right?

Stephen:

Right. That won't happen until July.

Naomi:

Right.

Stephen:

But he won't be able to serve again. Someone else will become the Land Use chairman in July.

Jamie:

Okay.

Tim:

How long has he served Steve?

Stephen:

Four years.

Tim:

Okay. I only ask because you said you had served six years as Consumer Affairs because no one else wanted to bother. So I suppose that potential exists in Mark's case.

Stephen:

It does but now we have the term limits.

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Tim:

Oh, I see. So prior to that, you were not term limited?

Stephen:

No.

Tim:

I see.

Stephen:

It's probably because of me that we have term limits.

Stephen:

It's funny, over at the WPCA when the organization was put together, we have term limits on the board positions and they did it because they didn't want New Haven to dominate the board. So as it turned out, I was chairman and I had to step down because of the term limits and a New Haven representative replaced me. The term limits worked exactly opposite the way that they were intended.

Jamie:

So I don't know what the appropriate etiquette here is, but should we reach out to Mark, one of us individually, just to have a conversation with him before minutes become public from this meeting?

Tim:

Oh, I would think that would be a Steve's job.

Naomi:

Right.

Jamie:

Oh, okay. I second that.

Tim:

You know what, I just think that's reasonable. That's an expectation of the chair. Right?

Stephen:

Since you've expressed an interest, I'd be happy to do that. But you know, as we've sort of decided here, I guess, we have an intention to re-elect the current members, unless there's any further discussion about that. And we can develop a resolution and present it at the next meeting. And other than connecting with Mark, I don't see a need to have another meeting.

Jamie:

Steve, you run an efficient meeting.

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Tim:

[crosstalk 00:17:17] There is a motion on the table. I did move the slate as presented.

Stephen:

Okay. We can consider that that motion is as a resolution. Is there a second to that?

Naomi:

I second that, Naomi.

Stephen:

Naomi seconded it. There and everyone in favor.

Jamie:

Aye.

Michelle:

Aye.

Stephen:

So it's a unanimous decision of the nominating committee?

Tim:

Yes.

Stephen:

Jennifer, can you draft that up for us?

Jennifer:

Yes, I'll do that and I'll send it out you to review.

Stephen:

Okay.

Jennifer:

Okay.

Stephen:

So we have no future meetings and unless there's something else to talk about we can adjourn.

Jamie:

It was great serving with you Steve.

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Stephen:

For this extensive meeting and heavy, deep subject matter.

Tim:

And I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Jamie:

Second.

Stephen:

All in favor?

Group:

Aye.

Stephen:

All right. We're adjourned. Thank you very much.