

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

Minutes of August 20, 2020 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, August 20, 2020, via remote access. Chair 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 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 M. Marino

Regional Water Authority

Anthony DiSalvo
David Borowy
Joseph Cermola
Kevin Curseaden

Management

Larry L. Bingaman
Rochelle Kowalski
Beth Nesteriak
Edward O. Norris III
Jeanine Reckdenwald
Premjith Lakshman Singh

Counsel

Bruce McDermott

Office of Consumer Affairs

Atty. Jeffrey Donofrio

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.

Minutes

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Pepe, the RPB approved the minutes of its July 16, 2020 meeting as distributed, with 102 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)	Aye	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Aye	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye

Communications

Chair Ricozzi:

- reported that the Nominating Committee for Authority member, effective January 1, 2021 will consist of Messrs. Clifford, Malloy, Rescigno, Slocum and Ms. Verderame, with Mr. Malloy as Chairman. He thanked all the members who volunteered.
- highlighted a thank you card to the board, received from Ms. Discepolo, relaying her thanks to the board.
- provided an update on RPB member reappointments.

Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Slocum, Chair of the RPB Finance Committee, reported that the committee met earlier in the month to discuss various model scenarios with management.

Land Use Committee – Mr. Betkoski, Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the committee met earlier in the month at Lake Bethany and received an update on the harvest project from RWA’s Forester, and a dam update from RWA’s engineers. He also stated that the committee received a land and invasive species update. Mr. Betkoski reported on the status of the removal of the water chestnut at Furnace Pond; the project is completed.

At 6:37 p.m., Mr. Marino entered the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding RWA’s agreement with Cheshire Land Trust, Olin option, and status of RWA’s recreation trails.

Consumer Affairs Committee – Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee, reported on the committee meeting from July, which included a presentation from management on the customer experience strategy. The OCA reported on two customer complaints.

The committee also met earlier in August and received a monthly billing conversion update from management. The OCA reported on one customer complaint.

Discussion took place related to AMI and monthly billing including cost efficiencies and benefits, operational improvements, customer experience, process efficiencies, and internal transfers.

Chair Ricozzi thanked the Authority for sharing the information with the RPB in order to enhance the customer experience.

Executive Committee – Chair Ricozzi reported that the committee met earlier in the month to discuss RPB member memorials, virtual meetings and the RPB Dashboard Report.

Authority/Management – Mr. DiSalvo reported on the Authority meeting earlier in the day. He stated that the Authority met as the sole member of the Claire C. Bennett Watershed Fund (“Fund”). Mr. Stone, the Fund’s President, provided an update on the Fund’s progress and challenges for the upcoming years. The Authority also approved three recommended reappointments of three directors for a three-year term: Messrs. DiSalvo, Geballe and Scott.

He also reported that the Authority received a PipeSafe marketing update and discussed the future of RWA as part of the strategic planning committee.

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Mr. Bingaman reported that as part of the PipeSafe marketing update, the RWA will be forwarding information to RPB members before its launch in September.

Ms. Nesteriak, RWA's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, provided an update of COVID-19 at the RWA, which included:

- Three phase re-opening
- Self-certification application
- Operational plans and procedures
- Travel advisory procedures

Mr. Bingaman thanked the Return to Work Committee, headed by Mss. Nesteriak and Reckdenwald, for their leadership and work in preparing for the safe return of employees.

Mr. Bingaman reported that at the Authority meeting earlier in the day, the Authority approved a resolution to approve interim financing for a draw down note, which will be included as part of the agenda at the RPB's September meeting.

Mr. Bingaman reported on the Authority meeting earlier in the day. He reviewed revenues, operating and maintenance expenses for the month ended July 31, 2020, and stated the projected maintenance test for FY 2021 is 114%, with a projected shortfall of \$9.7m. He noted that there is continued uncertainty of the financial impact of the pandemic on RWA's revised and reduced operating budget, which may be influenced by a resurgence of the pandemic later this year.

He also reported that reservoir levels as of August 18, 2020 were 78%, compared to the long-term average of 77%.

Discussion took place regarding daily draft, labor relations, reduced water use, collections, and the status of the distribution system.

Chair Ricoszi acknowledge Attorney Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, who had nothing to report.

At 7:26 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Secretary