

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

**Minutes of June 18, 2020 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, June 18, 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
East Haven	Michelle Verderame
Guilford	Charles Havrda
Hamden	Stephen A. Mongillo
Killingworth	Jamie Mowat Young
Madison	Joseph Oslander
Milford	Richard Smith
New Haven	Naomi Campbell
North Branford	Peter DeSantis
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

**Regional Water Authority**

Anthony DiSalvo  
David Borowy  
Joseph A. Cermola  
Kevin Curseaden  
Suzanne Sack

**Management**

Larry L. Bingaman  
Linda Discepolo  
Rose Gavrilovic  
Rochelle Kowalski  
Beth Nesteriak  
Edward O. Norris III  
John Triana  
Premjith Lakshman Singh

**Counsel**

Bruce McDermott

**Office of Consumer Affairs**

Jeffrey M. Donofrio

**North Branford Land Conservation Trust**

David Sargent

**Absent**

Derby	Frank Pepe
Governor’s Rep.	Vincent M. Marino

**Staff**

Jennifer Slubowski

Chair Ricozzi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He reviewed the safety moment distributed to members.

**Minutes**

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Levine, the RPB approved the minutes of its May 21, 2020 meeting, as distributed, with 95 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
East Haven (6)	Absent	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

## Communications

Chair Ricozzi:

- Reported that the FY 2021 RPB Weighted Vote Computation has been distributed to members. There is a change to Milford, which has increased by 1 for a total of 11 weighted votes.
- Stated that members should email their committee choice to the board office no later than Wednesday, June 24, 2020.
- Communicated that the RPB will continue with virtual meetings for July and August. After August, the board will revisit this issue to discuss options for future meetings.

## Items for Consideration and Action

Chair Ricozzi recognized Mr. Mongillo, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for RPB officers. Mr. Mongillo reported that the Committee met earlier in the month to review RPB Bylaws and discuss the current slate of officers and potential candidates. The committee voted to recommend the current slate of officer for the upcoming year. He moved for adoption of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the following officers are hereby elected to serve for the year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, or until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified:

Chairperson:	Mario Ricozzi
Vice Chairperson:	Charles Havrda
Secretary:	Robert E. Harvey, Jr.
Treasurer:	T. Gregory Malloy

Mr. Jaser seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and the RPB adopted the motion with 95 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)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

Mr. Mongillo thanked the officers for their service to the board.

Mr. Eitzer moved for adoption 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 North Sleeping Giant Wellfield Chemical Improvements project, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, be and hereby is, approved in the form submitted to the meeting.

Mr. Rescigno seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and the RPB adopted the motion with 95 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)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye

East Haven (6) Aye                      No. Branford (8) Aye                      Gov. Rep. (1) Absent

Mr. Levine moved for adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”), on May 22, 2020, filed an Application to the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) for the approval of a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment to the Land Use Plan to create a new trail on Authority property in North Branford (“Application” or “Amendment”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Land Use Committee of the RPB reviewed the Application and recommends that it be accepted as complete and considered non-substantial without a public hearing required; and

**WHEREAS**, the RPB concludes that the Amendment is non-substantial and the proposed action is consistent with and advances the policies and goals of the RWA, has no expected impact on the public water supply, no conflict with the trail and the existing Land Use Plan designation of “Non-water System Land,” and no financial impact on the Authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the RPB hereby accepts the Application as complete and approves, without a public hearing, the RWA’s Application for a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment to create a new trail on Authority property in North Branford, filed May 22, 2020, in accordance with Section 18 of Connecticut Special Act 77-98, as amended.

Mr. Malloy seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and the RPB adopted the motion with 95 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)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

Mr. Levine moved for adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”), on May 22, 2020, filed an Application to the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) for the approval of a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment to relocate the Quinnipiac Trail on Authority property in Prospect (“Application” or “Amendment”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Land Use Committee of the RPB reviewed the Application and recommends that it be accepted as complete and considered non-substantial without a public hearing required; and

**WHEREAS**, the RPB concludes that the Amendment is non-substantial and the proposed action is consistent with and advances the policies and goals of the RWA, has no expected impact on the public water supply, no conflict with the trail and the existing Land Use Plan designation of “Non-water System Land,” and no financial impact on the Authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the RPB hereby accepts the Application as complete and approves, without a public hearing, the RWA’s Application for a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment to relocate the Quinnipiac Trail on Authority property in Prospect, filed May 22, 2020, in accordance with Section 18 of Connecticut Special Act 77-98, as amended.

Discussion took place regarding maintenance and costs, and length of trail relocation in Prospect.

Mr. Horbal seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and the RPB adopted the motion with 95 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)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

At 6:52 p.m., Mr. Sargent withdrew from the meeting.

Mr. Slocum moved for adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 7W, which extended Executive Order 7S, Section 6 applicable to municipalities, to quasi-municipal corporations, extended the tax deferral and the interest rate reduction program to water charges among other types charges (e.g., sewer and electric), and which Executive Order ends July 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, management recommends extending the time period concerning abatement of interest (a zero interest rate) through December 31, 2020 and presented such recommendation at the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) Finance Committee meeting on June 8, 2020 and at the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee meeting on June 15, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the RPB Finance Committee and RPB Consumer Affairs Committee agreed to recommend to the full RPB management’s recommendation and concurs that this is the right approach in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic impacts.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the full RPB approves the continuation of the abatement of interest on arrears, authorizing a zero interest rate through December 31, 2020.

Mr. Horbal seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and the RPB adopted the motion with 95 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)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

## Reports

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Slocum, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the month to discuss the zero interest rate extension. He stated that the RWA is following what local communities are doing to help reduce the impact of COVID-19 on customers. Therefore, the committee recommended the extension to December 31, 2020. In addition, the committee also received an update from management on RPB approved projects.

**Land Use Committee** – Mr. Levine, Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the month and received a recreation program update from management. He reported that reservoir levels are at 96%, compared to 99% last year, with a historical average of 93%.

Discussion took place regarding the efforts to keep recreation permit holders and zoning changes on Skiff Street in Hamden.

**Consumer Affairs Committee** – Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met last week and discussed the zero interest rate extension with management. The committee agreed to recommend the extension to the RPB. The committee also received a report from the OCA on pending complaints.

**Nominating Committee** – Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the Nominating Committee, had nothing further to report.

**Authority/Management** – Mr. DiSalvo reported that at the Authority meeting earlier in the day, the Authority met as the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee.

Mr. Curseaden, Chair of the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee, reported on the meeting earlier in the day. The committee received an update from management on the Hamden Middle School Remediation project. He suggested that the update was informative and would be in the best interest of the RPB to receive the report at a future meeting.

Ms. Nesteriak, RWA’s Senior Vice President of Operations and Business Strategy, provided an update and answered questions regarding the status of operations at the RWA, which included:

- Zero cases of COVID-19 at RWA office
- PPE
- Phase one soft opening and employee resources
- 90 Sargent Drive/Treatment Plants status and cleaning
- Expansion of the Residential Assistance Program

Mr. Bingaman, RWA’s President and Chief Executive Officer, reviewed revenues and operating and maintenance expenses through May 31, 2020. He reported that at the end of the fiscal the projected maintenance test for FY 2020 is 129%, with no projected draw from the Rate Stabilization Fund. He stated that with only a couple of months into the pandemic, the impact on billed revenues and customers’ ability to pay is still unknown

He reported that reservoir levels are at 94% compared to a long-term average of 90% for this time of year.

Mr. Bingaman reported on a meeting earlier in the month with the Dean of School of Business at Southern Connecticut State University (“SCSU”) to discuss the status of the Public Utility Management Program, which included:

- Enrollment
- Recruitment efforts
- SCSU program staffing
- Final certification status

Chair Ricozzi acknowledged the OCA, Jeffrey Donofrio, who expressed his appreciation to the RWA for its efforts to help the consumers affected by the financial impacts of COVID-19

Chair Ricozzi wished everyone a Happy Father’s Day.

At 7:20 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Mongillo, seconded by Ms. Campbell, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

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Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Secretary

Attachment:

1. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Decision of the Representative Policy Board for the North Sleeping Giant Wellfield Chemical Improvements project.