

**Representative Policy Board  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
November 19, 2020  
Meeting Transcription**

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, November 19, 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         |
| 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  
Joe Cermola  
Kevin Curseaden  
David Borowy  
Suzanne Sack

**Management**

Larry L. Bingaman  
Beth Nesteriak  
Rochelle Kowalski  
Edward O. Norris III  
Jeanine Reckdenwald  
Premjith Lakshman Singh  
Amy Velasquez  
Anna Collins  
Tara Augur

**Counsel**

Bruce McDermott, Esq.

**Absent**

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| Derby | Frank Pepe |
|-------|------------|

**Office of Consumer Affairs**

Jeffrey Donofrio, Esq.

**Staff**

Jennifer Slubowski

Mario Ricozzi:

So, 6:30, I'll call a meeting to order. A reminder that the meeting is being recorded and will be transcribed, I believe, Jennifer, right?

Jennifer:

That's right.

Mario Ricozzi:

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For posting on the website. And if you wouldn't mind using your name when you speak up. I'm Mario Ricozzi.

Mario Ricozzi:

The first item of business is the Safety Moment. There's a theme of COVID-19 complacency and staying safe. Last month, I didn't think I'd be saying this, but wash your hands, mask up, keep your distance, don't hug... I saw today we had an over 6% positive rate and over 800 people in the hospital. Michelle, I hope you're doing okay there.

Michelle:

So far, so good. It's not as bad as the first time.

Mario Ricozzi:

Right.

Anthony DiSalvo:

What's happening?

Jennifer:

I don't know.

Mike:

Let's move on.

Anthony DiSalvo:

Is Mario still on the line?

Brian Eitzer:

Yeah he's there.

Naomi:

We may have lost him.

Jennifer:

He's connecting to audio.

Mario Ricozzi:

I'm back. Sorry. I didn't move or anything. I don't know. So the approval of the minutes is the next item on the agenda. There's a motion.

Stephen Mongillo:

[inaudible 00:05:50]

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Naomi:  
Second.

Mario Ricozzi:  
Motion and second. Any additions, corrections, amendments to the minutes?

Anthony DiSalvo:  
Nope.

Mario Ricozzi:  
Hearing none, all in favor?

All:  
Aye.

Mario Ricozzi:  
Any opposed? Any abstaining? Okay.

Mario Ricozzi:  
Next we're into communications and there's a code of ethics form that was in your packet. Return that to Jennifer by December 7th if you can. I think that date will work for you, Jennifer?

Jennifer:  
That's right.

Mike:  
[inaudible 00:06:38] December 4th.

Mario Ricozzi:  
4th yeah.

Jennifer:  
As long as I get it early December it'll be good.

Mario Ricozzi:  
There was also an updated roster of the RPB members in your packet, so if you see anything that's incorrect, please let her know anything that's updated. Good evening Mr. Clifford.

Mr. Clifford:  
Good evening.

Brian Eitzer:  
Jennifer would you prefer the form or can we just email you the two certification lines?

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Jennifer:

Either is fine.

Brian Eitzer:

Okay because I'm [crosstalk 00:07:11]

Jennifer:

Either is fine. If you can send me the form that's the best, but I know not everybody has ...

Brian Eitzer:

Okay I got it. I can print out a copy and send it to you.

Jennifer:

Okay.

Brian Eitzer:

What address to send it to? Just you?

Jennifer:

You can send it to the water authority. Yeah.

Brian Eitzer:

Okay.

Anthony DiSalvo:

Can you fax it?

Mario Ricoszi:

Brian, can you send a PDF of the form?

Brian Eitzer:

Yeah, I can send a PDF. I can scan it in.

Mario Ricoszi:

Why don't you do that? That was Jeanine has a copy of it for her files and records.

Brian Eitzer:

Okay. I'll do that tonight [crosstalk 00:07:49] as soon as we're done here. Jennifer, can we fax it to you?

Jennifer:

Yes, you can fax them.

Brian Eitzer:

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What's the number?

Jennifer:

I'll send you my number.

Brian Eitzer:

Okay. Thank you.

Jennifer:

Okay?

Anthony DiSalvo:

[inaudible 00:08:03]

Mario Ricozzi:

It's another piece of communications we have upcoming presentations on risk, resiliency and redundancy. The finance committee, I believe, is scheduled for that presentation in December. And I believe Consumer Affairs may be considering that for either December or January. So I'll bring this up so that, once the schedule comes out, if you are not able to attend one meeting, if you'd attend the other. It's especially for the Land Use committee members, so please try to attend one of the meetings.

Stephen Mongillo:

Mario, this is Steve, I don't know if that will be on our agenda for December or January yet.

Mario Ricozzi:

Right. I understand. So we have to work that out.

Stephen Mongillo:

Okay.

Jeanine Rectenwald:

Did you say, Mario, this is Jeanine, that you want the Land Use members to attend either the Consumer Affairs or the Finance committee? [inaudible 00:09:12] that we were suggesting or that we need to have it in our committee meeting?

Mario Ricozzi:

You should attend one or the other. I think Land Use probably has enough on their plate.

Jeanine Rectenwald:

Okay. Thank you.

Stephen Mongillo:

And finance is doing it in December?

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Mario Ricoszi:

Yes.

Stephen Mongillo:

Okay.

Mario Ricoszi:

That is my understanding.

Stephen Mongillo:

Okay.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay? So, Jennifer, as soon as you get confirmation, if you'd send an e-mail out to everyone?

Jennifer:

Okay. I'll do that.

Mario Ricoszi:

Thank you. Any other communications?

Jennifer:

I think that's it.

Mario Ricoszi:

If not, then items for consideration and action. Peter Betkoski?

Peter Betkoski:

Yes. Yes. Good evening everyone [crosstalk 00:10:07]. Go ahead, Chairman.

Mario Ricoszi:

No, go right ahead.

Peter Betkoski:

Sorry I interrupted. My brother always gives me hell for that. Anyways. Peter Betkoski, chair of Land Use Beacon Falls. In form of a motion of the representative policy board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, November 19, 2020, proposed resolution. Non-substantial amendment to the Land Use Plan modification of the current procedure for the future renewable economic resource projects. Whereas the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority RWA on September 21st 2020 filed an application to the representative policy board RPB for the approval of the non-substantial amendment to the Land Use Plan, to modify the current procedures for future renewable economic energy, resource projects, applications or amendments; and whereas the Land Use committee of the RPB reviewed the application recommends that it is accepted as complete and consider non-substantial

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without a public hearing required; and whereas the RPB concludes the amendment is non-substantial and the proposed action is consistent with the advances of the policy and goals of the RWA.

Peter Betkoski:

The modification will streamline procedures to avoid redundant steps and increase the clarity of the process. Modify the procedure will not have any adverse impact on the water supply, modifying the procedure. The creation of a de [minis 00:11:53] category will have a positive financial impact. Now therefore, it be resolved that RPB hereby accepts the application as complete and approves without a public hearing the RWA's applicant for the approval of the non-substantial amendment to the Land Use Plan to modify the current procedures for the future renewable economic energy resource projects filed September 21st, 2020 in accordance with section 18 of the Connecticut Special Act 77-98 as amended. That's in form of a motion.

Mario Ricoszi:

Thank you. Is there a second?

Greg Molloy:

I second it. Greg Molloy from Westhaven.

Mario Ricoszi:

Thank you, Greg. Is there any discussion? Any questions? Okay. Thank you very much.

Tim Slocum:

Mario?

Mario Ricoszi:

Yes.

Tim Slocum:

Mario, Tim Slocum. You know, I actually do have a question. It's not for any other reason than my own incomplete knowledge of what this actually is all about. Could I have a little backbone to what this was all about and what necessitated this request, which I am certainly not adverse to. Just curious.

Mario Ricoszi:

Certainly. Peter, would you like to cover that or do you want Ted to?

Peter Betkoski:

I would prefer Ted to help me there.

Ted Norris:

Peter, I was hoping you were going to help me out. [inaudible 00:13:24] was read, it would allow the renewable economic resource projects, really energy projects, to go forward. It prescribed a specific process that would be followed. Well, the couple times that we've tried to follow that since 2011, yes it's worked it's way through, we actually got a project approved with it, [inaudible 00:13:49]. But it's a

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cumbersome process, Peter, or Tim. So that's what we're trying to change. And also refer to it as a renewable energy procedure versus economic procedure because we really want to make it clear. We're also adding a de minimis category, where if it's less than half an acre it would not require RPB approval, but certainly notification. It takes out some areas where we got into ex parte communications with the town, when we met with the town, the RPB Land Use committee and management, and clarifies the project in terms of off ramps and goes and stops. So it's really just a clarification of procedure, allowing us to do smaller projects without approval. But certainly anything that is larger than half an acre has to go before both boards for approval.

Tim Slocum:

So these, Ted, were all self-imposed restrictions and encumbrances that you were placing on your own business, that you've tried to streamline? Is that essentially correct? So you're just making life easier and it makes perfect sense when that happens.

Ted Norris:

Yes.

Tim Slocum:

Okay. Thank you. Thank you for that.

Peter Betkoski:

Thanks, Ted.

Mario Ricozzi:

Any other questions? Hearing none, all in favor.

All:

Aye.

Mario Ricozzi:

Any opposed? Any abstaining? Okay. The motion passes. Thank you very much Peter.

Peter Betkoski:

You're welcome.

Mario Ricozzi:

We have a 2021 calendar year for the RPM meeting dates. They are the third Thursday, consistently. So we have to file this with all the town clerks as well as put it on our website, I believe. So if there is a motion to accept?

Stephen Mongillo:

I'll make that motion to approve.

Mario Ricozzi:



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Okay, Mike, will you second the motion then?

Mike:

I second it.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay. Very good. Steve jumped in a little ahead of you. Any comments, questions on this? Hearing none, all in favor?

All:

Aye.

Mario Ricoszi:

Any opposed? Any abstaining? Okay. Thank you very much. Jennifer, you'll plan on posting that?

Jennifer:

Yes.

Mario Ricoszi:

Just, since we're talking about meetings, I would continue to plan on doing remote meetings for the RPB through February and we'll take another look at it as we get closer, possibly even longer than February. So as you're starting to plan, that'll keep you from having to drive too much in the winter.

Mario Ricoszi:

Okay. I don't think we have anything else for consideration and action, so Mr. Slocum, the Finance committee?

Tim Slocum:

Thank you Mr. Chair. This is Mr. Slocum and we did have our meeting on November 9th. It was basically a review by Larry and Rochelle Kowalski on the base case review of the 10 year financial model. It included a variety of things, but especially maintaining a rate stabilization fund at 10 million, and coverage of 114%. Of course they reviewed revenue expenses and financing opportunities, capital planing considerations to balance our risk and resiliency and redundancy, leveraging trends, opportunities for RWA's continued commitment to mitigate rate increases, recommendations to balance rate impacts with financial stability, and they presented various scenarios and impacts for informed decisions, recommendations and adjustments. Of course, they're going to be monitoring this up into and planning the 2022 budget, and the next rate application.

Tim Slocum:

Primarily from Finance, we just basically ask, as we should, how valid and how reliable are these models. They get really the fulsome support of management and I think they're doing a good job doing so, but again they reminded us that they revisit all of this stuff as it goes forward and they're always ready to rebalance as they may need. So it was a good report, a good meeting, and I appreciate their presentation. And that's pretty much it, Mr. Chair.

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Mario Ricoszi:

Questions for Tim? Okay. Thank you very much. Peter, you're up again with the Land Use committee.

Peter Betkoski:

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Peter Betkoski, Land Use Chairman, we had our meeting last night. Of course, you all know, you can refer to our minutes for the little details. We had the RWA Police Captain Paul Ruggiero give a report. I thought it was very interesting. He has his work cut out for him to protect our properties. And I learned a lot from that.

Peter Betkoski:

I also want to make a point where, if there's any other Land Use members that want to jump in, if I'm missing something, just please do.

Peter Betkoski:

Then we had, of course, John Triano gave us our annual properties report. I believe, and maybe the Seymour Room and Hill House was closed on today. Anyone follow up on that?

Ted Norris:

Yes it was. This is Ted Norris.

Peter Betkoski:

Okay. So the closing went through, right?

Ted Norris:

The last thing at 4 o'clock I sent the approval of, it was heading for closing, yes.

Peter Betkoski:

All right. So that's good news for us. We're trying to gather some income there. We set our calendar for the year. Our next monthly meeting will be December 9th at 5:30, and if you have any questions, I'll do the best I could to answer.

Mario Ricoszi:

Any questions?

Stephen Mongillo:

Peter, this is Steve Mongillo.

Mario Ricoszi:

Hi Steve.

Stephen Mongillo:

I was just wondering, if within that report, there were any issues that came up, because we had a lot of damage from storms on the property.

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Peter Betkoski:

Well they were still assessing some of the properties, but pretty much, John said that everything was open and everything was up to snuff.

Stephen Mongillo:

No issues with- [crosstalk 00:20:50]

Peter Betkoski:

The recent storm. No. No. Thanks for asking.

Tim Slocum:

Peter, this is Tim Slocum with a question. Basically, on your comment that our Police Captain had his hands full. Anything in particular, or it's just a big job for a small department?

Peter Betkoski:

Well, the ATVs are constantly... you know, it is a big job because there's so much property and I believe there's only four of them. Himself and three other officers. They do the best they could, and it sounds like John's involved a lot too with the cameras and keeping an eye on things. Well, they did come across a marijuana little field, I would say, and that's in the process of the police and making some arrests. Like I said, that you can look into our minutes on because he didn't get into too much more detail on that. But it's mainly the ATVs and some damage to our fences getting in, but, like I'm trying to explain, he has his hands full for a small stuff.

Tim Slocum:

Right.

Brian Eitzer:

One of the issues with the ATVs, this is Brian Eitzer, is that they aren't allowed to chase, because of current police rules. So they can see them, but they can't really go chasing after them and stuff like that, when they find them. So it makes it difficult.

Tim Slocum:

Yeah, yeah. Thank you for that.

Peter Betkoski:

They are able to fine them \$92. They can seize their ATV, but they can't keep it, and usually when it gets to court, they give it back. And they're not usually kids, they're adults.

Mario Ricozzi:

Big kids.

Peter Betkoski:

Yeah, big kids.

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Mario Ricoszi:

Any other questions?

Stephen Mongillo:

Peter, this is Steve again. Do we have the possibility of any cameras monitoring that? So if they can't chase them, they can at least see who's doing it?

Peter Betkoski:

Well we do have quite a few, in different positions, and I think we're going to be adding to that.

Stephen Mongillo:

Okay.

Peter Betkoski:

Yep. There are cameras. That's how we caught the gentleman with the marijuana crop.

Stephen Mongillo:

And you're not providing exact locations?

Peter Betkoski:

Um... I think- [crosstalk 00:23:17]

Stephen Mongillo:

I'm just teasing you.

Peter Betkoski:

I think Mark Lavine should jump in here.

Brian Eitzer:

I think it's already been harvested, Steve, I'm sorry.

Speaker 3:

Steve, it was in Hamden. They suspected you. I said, "Couldn't be Steve, no way." I think they said, "Is it still there?" He said, "No, they cut them down." I go, "Well, what'd you do after that?" "It's sitting in my office." I said, "What do you mean it's sitting in your office?" I said, "Hang them upside down and see what happens."

Tim Slocum:

This is all being recorded.

Peter Betkoski:

Yes, yeah. Yeah. It's all in the officer's hands.

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Mario Ricoszi:

Any other questions?

Greg Molloy:

This is Greg. Just to get back to Steve. The cameras, even though you can see the people riding the ATVS, you really can't decipher who it is. It doesn't really pick up your face that well. And John also mentioned about the deer hunt started, and first day, I guess, they bagged 11 deers, and it's [inaudible 00:24:25] the same inquiry as last year of the deer hunt.

Stephen Mongillo:

Greg, I was thinking about capturing license plate numbers. Can it do that?

Peter Betkoski:

It could be these aren't registered.

Greg Molloy:

That's right.

Anthony DiSalvo:

No plates.

Greg Molloy:

You actually have to catch them red handed.

Peter Betkoski:

And they're grabbing a few. They're doing a good job. We all got to be the eyes for them. If we see something, if we're going by one of our properties, keep an eye open.

Mario Ricoszi:

Good. Other questions? Thank you very much, Peter. Appreciate it.

Peter Betkoski:

Thank you for helping me out, everyone too. There's a lot going on with Land Use.

Mario Ricoszi:

Steve Mongillo. Consumer Affairs.

Stephen Mongillo:

Thanks, Mario.

Mario Ricoszi:

Thank you.

Stephen Mongillo:

This is Steve Mongillo, Consumer Affairs Chairman. We met last Monday and Ted Norris was at our meeting to talk about business continuity training and exercise updates for the year 2021. He went over the activities plan for next year. The American Water and Infrastructure Act established an emergency response plan certification. That's to address things like fires, floods, dam failures, cyber attacks, and that needs to get updated every five years. So, initially a lot of work went into putting that together, but the updates are a little bit easier as they respond to changes.

Stephen Mongillo:

He talked about the Lake Gillard Water Treatment Plant table top onsite exercise that was to come up, and the exercise is that the Treatment Plant is down and it would require raw water to be chlorinated and a bypass established. The table top portion would look at staff readiness, incident command and review the documents for that procedure. The field part of that would be a review from start to finish activation of raw water and review the disinfectant implementation. When they do that they then look at how the exercise went, see if there were any lessons to be learned, there are any actions needed for the future. There also will be a number of division and department level table top exercises and those will look at the plan will be tested, exercise response actions looked at, they'll review the incident command procedures and again evaluate how that addresses the current situation.

Stephen Mongillo:

There is a business continuity sub committee that meets three or four times a year for training and review of plans and assessments and a number of smaller training and exercise teams that meet as needed to support the training and exercises. We asked about COVID-19, which certainly was not specifically anticipated but, the concept that you have to be prepared for things to come quick, really have a huge impact on you, and you need to address, helps in dealing with that, and water companies dealt very well with the current situation as a result.

Stephen Mongillo:

Also, he mentioned, there is a consultant to this program. That consultant is Kate Novick. Ted, can you talk a little bit, I didn't ask you at the meeting, what her expertise is, or what she brings to the effort to prepare?

Ted Norris:

She's a professional engineer with a tremendous amount of safety training as well as incident command and business continuity training. As a matter of fact, she helped write really, in essence, the book on this. She is Connecticut born and bred. [inaudible 00:28:54] her quite a long time and have found her to be very reliable and excellent in her work.

Stephen Mongillo:

Thank you. Appreciate that. Following Ted's presentation we had a discussion about the concept of a dashboard report for consumer affairs. There is a dashboard that was established for the RPB a number of years ago, and it mainly tracks financial parameters. We wanted to see if anyone thought there was a need for maybe some other items to be tracked that were more consumer oriented. We talked about it a little bit, didn't come to any conclusions or plans, but we may consider it again for a future meeting.

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Stephen Mongillo:

Jeffrey Donofrio reported there were no consumer complaints currently, which is good news. And after reviewing and approving our calendar for next year, our meeting was adjourned. So that's the report for Consumer Affairs.

Mario Ricoszi:

Thank you. Questions for Steve? Any questions? Thank you very much Steve. Appreciate it.

Mario Ricoszi:

Bylaws and Rules Review committee. We met and Ted did a nice job of giving us alternatives to the existing capital improvement project approval process, which is currently a four month process. I think we've agreed that for most projects, it should be able to knock a month off of it and not really compromise the process or the information or the ability to ask questions and get responses. The more involved and intricate projects would still follow the current process. We'll be drafting up some language to reflect that.

Mario Ricoszi:

We also started discussions with Rochelle Kowalski about the rate applications and that's a six month process, so that by the time we get into it, you have to update all the numbers because there's so much time that has passed. So she'll be coming back with some other information and potential timelines that we'll go through and look at that, and then we'll try to codify that.

Mario Ricoszi:

If there's anything within our rules or bylaws for the RPB that you've always questions or you've wondered is it happening this way, if you wouldn't mind bringing it to my attention or bringing it up to Jennifer, and we'll make sure that we look at that closely.

Mario Ricoszi:

I think we may want to do this as one approval, of the different processes all at once, but we'll talk about that in the group and try to keep you posted as we go along the way.

Mario Ricoszi:

Any questions about that? All right. In that case, Mr. DiSalvo, I'll turn it over to you.

Anthony DiSalvo:

Thank you. Sorry for the weak voice today. We met as the Strategic Planning committee, under my direction, and utilized some of the material that we got in the Blue Sky planning to create new priority action plans and Larry's goals, most of those we were in executive session, but moved along quite well. We developed the background of the 2021 strategic plan update with Larry and [Fran 00:33:11]. We approved the consent agenda, largely with material that you would approve of. The most important element is that we also considered the 2022 budget schedule. We're going to do our work on April 1st. You can expect to see us in meetings with you and the various committees in the week of the 19th to the 23rd. We don't know yet what nights we're going to do what, but expect it's coming during that time.

Anthony DiSalvo:

We acted on the 7th amendment to the authorities laws [inaudible 00:33:53] investment plan to clear up something that was just confusing and nothing significant. Larry and Beth presented materials about COVID update, and a monthly highlights. Would they like to share any of the information that you shared with us?

Larry:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I will have Beth give an update on the COVID, as we've had some developments in addition to the message that I sent out earlier this week.

Beth Nesteriak:

Good evening everyone, this is Beth Nesteriak. I'll provide a monthly update on where we are with COVID. Unfortunately since our last report last month, we had seen an increase in positive cases among our employees. To date we have confirmed eight cases of our employees. If you remember, three of those happened during what we'll call the first wave. So over the last few weeks, we have seen five additional positive cases in our employees. The good news is there have been no hospitalizations associated with those positive cases, and we're hopeful they'll make full recoveries.

Beth Nesteriak:

As a result, if you've read Larry's message earlier this week, we have continued to review our phases. We're reviewing that on a bi-weekly frequency. Jeanine and I head up a return to work committee, and given what's going on in the state and the country and within our own utility we have decided to roll back and we are asking all staff that can work remotely to do so beginning Monday November 23rd and continuing through mid-January. And this is really just an effort to minimize risk of transmission. I am happy to report that, while we have seen these positive cases, we do not to date have any confirmed transmission among our employees. So something that we are closely monitoring and ensuring people are following the necessary protocol, including wearing masks in the building and social distancing as required.

Beth Nesteriak:

In terms of essential functions, we have rolled back access obviously to our treatment plants, as our control room operators, those critical, critical functions, and continue to do job site reporting as much as we can with our field staff. We are also starting with our customer service group to transition people back to working remotely there, answering calls from home. And we plan next week to have eight staff in that department working remotely and alternating staff in the building.

Beth Nesteriak:

So overall, we're continuing with our disinfection practices, we are doing our own. Our staff does the electrostatic spraying of Clorox in the buildings to disinfect. We've increased that to weekly, and continue to ensure that employees are following all the protocols. So it's been a busy time. Jeanine's group, have to give shout-out for all their work in terms of our contact tracing when we do have potentially positive cases, we do have a software we're managing this through, but it's been a tremendous amount of work for her group, and really, our move backwards is just to try to stay ahead of the curve in terms of transmission among the utility.



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Beth Nesteriak:

But overall, operations continue, which is the good news. We're just being extremely cautious. With that, does anyone have any questions?

Mike:

I encourage the Regional Water Authority to continue their programs on disinfection. Because it means a lot. Because I go by the old saying, better safe than sorry. And so, I appreciate what the Regional Water Authority management has done. Thank you.

Beth Nesteriak:

Thank you, Mike.

Stephen Mongillo:

Beth, this is Steve Mongillo. The cases that you've had, does it seem like they're spreading within the organization, or they've come from outside the organization?

Beth Nesteriak:

I'd say the majority have come from outside the organization. We have seen... We are continuing monitoring that, but as of right now, we're comfortable saying that they are coming from the outside. Again, that's why we're trying to get people out of 90 Sergeant, just to continue to reduce risk of transmission.

Stephen Mongillo:

Sure.

Brian Eitzer:

This is Brian. Are we back to, or do we have a list of staff doing the critical stuff, in the labs, being on two totally distinct shifts so that one shift can't infect the other shift?

Beth Nesteriak:

So we had done that through, probably mid summer. They were two distinct shifts. We have since brought them back with an overlap, but it's a smaller overlap. So they have about a two hour window where there is an overlap. We found that, just from communication, just transition from chains and work processes in the lab. We also have the advantage that there is quite a bit of negative pressure in the lab to help, and that they are extremely cautious and diligent about their mask wearing, their disinfection, their procedures. So they are still operating under two labs with a small overlap.

Mario Ricozzi:

Any other questions for Beth? Thank you Beth.

Michelle:

Beth this is [inaudible 00:39:22]. This really related to the business aspect of the chemistry. Are you seeing the same number of samples coming in from outside to be tested? Or are you seeing a drop in business on that end?

Beth Nesteriak:

We had seen a drop earlier in March and April when, as the seasonal changes required some more process control, we did find that some of our other utilities we do work for reduced those extra samples, but that increased over the summer and we have not seen a drop again since. But we did notice it when we first went into this first wave.

Michelle:

Thank you.

Mario Ricozzi:

Thank you.

Mario Ricozzi:

Okay. Larry?

Larry:

Yes, thank you. Before I get into the financial report, I just want to give kudos to Beth and to Jean Rectenwald who co-Chair our Return to Work committee and they're monitoring what's going on within the organization, the contact tracing, and setting policies for employees to be safe in the building or to working outside. So they've been spending a lot of time doing that, and I just want to offer kudos to them in all the work that they and their Return to Work committee are doing.

Larry:

After five months of action results through October 31st, operating revenues are over budget by about 9% or a little over \$5 million due to water revenues, mostly metered residential, being over budget by about \$4.2 million due to higher than anticipated consumption. Other revenues, meaning our commercial market based revenues are over budget by \$879,000 due to miscellaneous charges in jobbing and our outside lab garage services and Pipe Safe programs.

Larry:

Our operating and maintenance expenditures are about 6% under budget, or about \$1.4 million. And right now, we're looking at about 1.3 million of that being timing. So we're still monitoring that to what it will be at the end of the year. But when you take all the puts and takes, we're projecting currently a shortfall of about \$2.7 million to meet the coverage of 114%, and while that's still significant, the projected shortfall is an improvement of \$9.3 million over the originally budgeted shortfall of \$12 million.

Larry:

So to date the impacts of COVID-19 on cash receipts have not been as severe as we originally forecasted. And the good news is that billings are higher than anticipated and therefore the cash coming in the door and both other water and our commercial revenues are higher than budget. Couple that with debt service being somewhat lower, due to the timing of our DWSRF, and pilot being a little lower than budgeted, all of these [stable 00:42:51] variances are contributing favorably, but offset by lower projected interest earnings.

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Larry:

I do want to caution that there's still considerable uncertainty regarding the financial impacts of the pandemic, and we're still cautioning that it is important to note that our revised fiscal '21 budget assumes a full return to normal in January of 2021 and it's looking like that may be somewhat doubtful. So we're still being very, very conservative in how we're managing the business and controlling expenses.

Larry:

On the storage front, as of November 16th, well water storage was at 63%, compared to a long term average of 66% for this year of the year. So-

Speaker 3:

Are you sure?

Larry:

I'm positive.

Speaker 3:

Okay. Just checking.

Larry:

I got this straight from JT.

Speaker 3:

Okay.

Larry:

But that compares to last year, we were at 78% at this time, so difference is obviously in the rainfall being less this year than what we've had over the long term average.

Speaker 3:

Think Betkoski must be going up there pumping some water off.

Peter Betkoski:

That's what it is. Yep.

Larry:

So with that, that concludes my report. Mr. Ricoszi.

Mario Ricoszi:

Thank you. Questions?

Joe:

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Question. Joe [Leslander 00:44:30].

Mario Ricoszi:

Yes, Joe.

Joe:

I've seen on television a number of the ads done by Pipe Safe. They're rather well done, well professionally done. Are you receiving any feedback from the public in terms of interest?

Larry:

Those ads were actually done by Phil LuVisi, who is the executive head of corporate communications. And he did that working with the creative director at Channel 8, so we got really, really first class television advertising done by in house management, compared to using an outside agency at all. And we have definitely seen an uptick in the number of Pipe Safe enrollments as a result of those ads. We're receiving, in some cases, several hundred more a month than we did in the previous year at this time when we were not running these ads.

Joe:

Very well. Good. Thank you.

Mario Ricoszi:

Other questions?

Mario Ricoszi:

I would be- [crosstalk 00:45:45]

Jamie:

I have a question.

Mario Ricoszi:

Go ahead.

Jamie:

This is Jamie from Killingworth. I have a question, and I don't know if you can even answer this yet, but with COVID, are you seeing an increase in the average number of expected retirements among staff in the coming, for January?

Larry:

Not really, but I'll have Jeanine Rectenwald maybe comment on that, because they would go through her department, but I'm not aware of any influx in retirements due to COVID-19 or anything else. That wave of retirements that we've been anticipating just hasn't happened yet. But I'll let her comment on that.

Jeanine Rectenwald:

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No, we haven't had any as a result of COVID. Frankly, I think Larry's spot on. We've actually seen virtually minimal number of retirements, maybe less than usual.

Mario Ricoszi:

Question, Larry and Rochelle, when you do the six month financial report, which will be January, I guess, it'll be presented at the Finance committee, it'll be interesting to see, because you're looking at the revised budget, which is a much smaller, stringent budget, it'd be curious to just look at what the numbers would be in a quote unquote normal year. Compare of what we have to a normal year also.

Rochelle:

Okay. Yeah, we are tracking against our original budget as well.

Larry:

Yep.

Mario Ricoszi:

Right. Not every single line item, but just in the large groupings. It might be interesting, right Tim? Tim said, "Yes."

Tim Slocum:

Yes, I did. I am muted.

Larry:

We'll do it anyway. We'll force it.

Mario Ricoszi:

All right. Anything else, Tony?

Anthony DiSalvo:

No. That's it.

Mario Ricoszi:

All right. I'd like to thank all the RPB members for your patience during 2020. This has been an unusual year for sure, and especially the Authority and management, for keeping the doors open, if you will, and the water flowing. I know everyone's taken on quite a bit of new tasks and also for our attorneys to keep us out of jail and out of too much trouble, which has been good. And keeping us within the new rules which keep changing all the time. Special thanks to Jennifer because she took on this virtual meeting and if you're a committee Chair you know how much she puts into it. It seems seamless only because she puts in the time, so thank you Jennifer.

Mario Ricoszi:

And happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Please try to enjoy it.

Peter Betkoski:

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You as well, Mario.

Tim Slocum:  
Thank you Mario.

All:  
Happy Thanksgiving.

All:  
Thank you Mario.

Mario Ricoszi:  
No one wants to motion to adjourn?

Speaker 3:  
I'll make the motion to adjourn.

Mario Ricoszi:  
We have one- [crosstalk 00:49:11].

Peter Betkoski:  
Second.

Mario Ricoszi:  
All right.

Speaker 3:  
Happy Thanksgiving.

Mario Ricoszi:  
Adjourned at 7:15. [crosstalk 00:49:17]