

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

Minutes of April 15, 2021 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, April 15, 2021, 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 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

Absent

Governor’s Rep	Vincent Marino
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Regional Water Authority

David Borowy
Anthony DiSalvo
Kevin Curseaden
Suzanne Sack

Management

Larry L. Bingaman
Rochelle Kowalski
Beth Nesteriak
Jeanine Reckdenwald
Ted Norris
Premjith Lakshman Singh

Counsel

Bruce McDermott

Office of Consumer Affairs

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, and unanimously carried, the RPB approved the minutes of its March 18, 2021 meeting, with 101 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)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

Communications

Chair Ricozzi:

- Stated that the FY 2021 third quarter RPB Dashboard Report was distributed to members. Questions may be directed to Mr. Slocum, Chair of the Finance Committee.
- Reported the Nominating Committee for RPB officers is being established. Mr. Clifford will chair the committee. The positions of Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be vacant. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or volunteering as a member of the committee may contact Mr. Clifford.
- Stated that the RPB committee meetings to review the FY 2021 budgets will take place on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at a joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs and Land Use Committees and on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. with the Finance Committee. RPB members are welcome to attend either or both meetings.

Items for Consideration and Action

Mr. Betkoski, Chair of the RPB Land Use Committee, reported that the Committee met last night to review the Authority's Application for the disposition of 95 Ives Street in Hamden for completeness, mode and date of public hearing. The committee found the application to be complete and voted to recommend the application to the RPB. He moved for adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, on March 19, 2021, filed an Application with the Representative Policy Board ("RPB") for the disposition of 0.92 acres located south of Ives Street in Hamden that is part of Land Unit HA 13 (the "Application"); and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee of the Representative Policy Board reviewed the Application and recommends that it be accepted by the RPB as complete; and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee recommends that a public hearing be conducted by a Presiding Member; and

WHEREAS, the RPB is desirous of accepting said Application as complete and scheduling said Application for a public hearing in accordance with Special Act 77-98, as amended, and the RPB Bylaws and Rules of Practice.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the RPB accepts the Authority's Application for the disposition of 0.92 acres located south of Ives Street in Hamden that is part of Land Unit HA 13 and determines to hold a public hearing on the Application, to be conducted by Stephen Mongillo, as Presiding Member, on June 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via remote access; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chairperson is hereby directed to give notice of said hearing in accordance with Section 11 of the Rules of Practice, as amended.

Mr. Malloy seconded the resolution. The Chair called for the vote, the RPB unanimously approved the resolution with 101 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)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

Mr. Malloy, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee interviewed three candidates, recommended by Mayor Elicker, for the position of Authority member. After the first set of interviews it was determined that one of the candidates did not meet the criteria and was ineligible to serve in the position. The other two candidates were interviewed two times, in December 2020 and at the end of March 2021. After the second interview it was determined that Catherine LaMarr met the criteria for the position. The committee voted to recommend to the RPB the appointment of Catherine LaMarr to the Authority. He moved for the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Catherine E. LaMarr, be and hereby is, appointed as a member of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, effective April 16, 2021, with her term to extend until January 1, 2026, or until her successor is appointed and has qualified.

Mr. Slocum seconded the resolution. The Chair called for the vote, the RPB unanimously approved the resolution with 101 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 (10)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Aye	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

Chair Ricozzi thanked the Committee for its service and thanked Mr. Cermola for his years of service since before the creation of the Regional Water Authority.

Mr. Malloy thanked the Nominating Committee members for their service.

Discussion took place regarding the arrangement with the City of New Haven, board qualifications, and the role of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Slocum, Chair of the RPB Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the week and held a discussion of the compensation increase freeze from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. After discussion, the Finance Committee agreed to follow management's guidance and revisit the discussion at the end of the fiscal year.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the RPB approved its 2021 first quarter RPB member compensation, substantially in the form submitted to the meeting, with 101 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)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Slocum, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that at the committee meeting earlier in the week, the committee received the quarterly financial report from management, reviewed the RPB Dashboard Report. The committee also voted to move the meeting date for its July meeting from July 12, 2021 to July 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm, to accommodate the Claire C. Bennitt Watershed Fund Golf Tournament.

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Land Use Committee – Mr. Betkoski, Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the committee met yesterday to discuss the Whitney Water Center educational outreach program with management. The committee also received Land Use Updates from management and reviewed the application as presented earlier in the proposed resolution. The committee’s next meeting on May 12th will include a field trip to the Ricci property in Cheshire. RPB members are invited to attend.

The committee will meet on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in a joint meeting with the Consumer Affairs Committee to review management’s FY 2022 proposed budget. All RPB members are invited to attend.

Consumer Affairs Committee – Mr. Mongillo, Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee is scheduled to meet next week at a joint meeting with the Land Use Committee to review the FY 2022 proposed capital and operating budgets. All RPB members are invited to attend.

Nominating Committee – Mr. Malloy, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee met at the end of March. The meeting was held in executive session to discuss the candidates for the position of Authority member. The committee voted to recommend Catherine LaMarr to the RPB.

Mr. Borowy, Chair of the Authority, stated that Authority members met earlier in the day. Authority members thanked Mr. Cermola for his many years of service, in anticipation of the recommended appointment of the new Authority member at tonight’s meeting. The boards will make arrangements to meet with Mr. Cermola at a later date to celebrate his years of service. Mr. Borowy noted that at the Authority meeting earlier in the day the Authority also met as the Pension & Benefit Committee.

Ms. Sack reported on the Pension & Benefit Committee meeting earlier in the day. The Committee met with RWA’s Actuary, Angell Pension Group, to discuss the valuation reports and the associated contribution levels for the upcoming fiscal year. The assumptions and contributions for next year’s contributions and an additional fiscal 2021 contribution to the pension plans were approved by the Authority. The Committee also met with Morgan Stanley to receive a Quarterly Investment Performance Update.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA’s President and Chief Executive Officer, reported on the Authority meeting earlier in the day. The board received a presentation from management on RWA’s Customer Care Realignment and an AMI benefits update. He recommended the two presentations as future topics for meetings of the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee and Finance Committee.

Ms. Nesteriak, RWA’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, reported on activities over the past month, which included:

- Employee health metrics
- Vaccination Clinic at RWA
- Return to work schedule

Mr. Bingaman, RWA’s President and Chief Executive Officer, reviewed revenues, and operating and maintenance expenses for the month ended March 31, 2021, and stated that the projected maintenance test for FY 2021 is 118%, with no shortfall provided that operating and maintenance continues at the lower revised budget level. He stated that there is still considerable uncertainty of the financial impact of the pandemic.

He also reported that reservoir levels are at 97% as of April 12, 2021 compared to the long term average of 92%.

Mr. Ricoszi acknowledged the RWA’s efforts to get a vaccination clinic onsite.

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Chair Ricoszi recognized Attorney Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, who reported that he has been reviewing the application for the disposition of 95 Ives Street. He has also been reviewing the FY 2022 proposed budgets and is in touch with a consumer regarding a complaint.

At 7:15 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Secretary