

**South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority**  
**May 20, 2021**  
**Meeting Transcription**

[START AT 12:30 P.M.)

David:

Thank you. All right, everybody. Welcome. We want to welcome Catherine as our new member for her first meeting. Thank you all for attending. There we go. All right. So I will call our authority meeting to order and I will ask the first item on the agenda is our safety moment. I will ask that Jeanine give us a short version of our safety moment, please.

Jeanine:

Sure will. Thank you, David. So I wish I had paid attention to this a little bit more. Was that just a background noise from me?

David:

I don't know who it's from, but keep going.

Jeanine:

Maybe we should mute everybody else. Anyway, workstation ergonomics, super important, especially because most of us spend a lot of time at our computer every day and this is just a little bit of a heads up in terms of how you should align your body and your head and neck specifically when you're seated in front of a computer workstation, in addition to where your monitor should be so that again, there is less pressure on your spine as well as avoiding glare on the screen. So if everybody just took a moment to look at that, I think they would be better positioned to be comfortable while they're working. Thank you.

David:

Thank you. Good for us to note with these four or five hour meetings that we have in our board meetings. Thank you. All right. Next item is to meet as a sole member of the Claire C Bennet watershed fund. This'll be adjusted slightly because Brian is unable to attend at the last minute. He had something come up where he's unable to attend. So I'm going to ask that we dispense with the action of adding members, but I did want to give an explanation.

David:

This is not our annual meeting with them. This is a special meeting as the sole member in order to add two additional members to the board. They have the right to, I believe, it's up to 15 members. They have 11 members, they were asking for a couple more and so we'll hear from Brian at a later time, maybe we'll combine it with our annual meeting later in the summer. I don't know initial members to be added at this time, but I did note that we have the mission statement here and I did note that I've heard that some members would like to have a discussion about the mission statement and about the purpose and about some of the activities that the watershed fund has been working on and so what I'm going to do is open it up to anyone first that might have questions or discussion regarding the mission statement so that we can see it's pretty clear.

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David:

Did anybody have any other comments that they wanted to make regarding the mission statement?

Tony:

Yes, I did.

David:

Yes Tony?

Tony:

As the designated liaison and a member of the watershed fund, I have become concerned over the last couple of meetings. The group has decided to fund agencies that do not have as its mission anything to do with ecology or water quality or anything like that and in both situations feel very much like funding agencies that do human relations kind of work, giving money to agencies so they can know some of their members. I'm not saying that in a difficult way, but they are obviously granting funds that go beyond what I think is the legitimate use of watershed funds. I would like us to sort of think about what that is. Jennifer, do you happen to have any minutes of those two meetings?

Jennifer:

I don't. I could get them if you'd like.

Tony:

Can you get them moderately quickly or another time?

Jennifer:

It'll take me a minute or two. If you want to just wait.

Tony:

Okay.

David:

In the meantime, Tony, if you want to give us an example of-

Tony:

If I had a memory, would I be doing this?

David:

All right. I believe, and I have heard that I believe there were some expenditures approved by the watershed fund for helping with pandemic information and helping encourage shots to be given and all, and certainly sounds allotable and wonderful and great activities that need to be done. But is it proper that they be done through that organization I think is what it boils down to and we being the sole member should have some say in it certainly and since it's been brought to my attention, I think I do want to pass along to the watershed fund that I am concerned about their approval of expenditures that are not within the purview of what the mission statement and the whole purpose of why it was set up.

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Tony:

Thank you. It's basically the issue there. I think they're starting to drift a little bit and the best time to sort of question that and get into a discussion about that is early and my point is, is that something that the board supports? If so, I'll go back and support it. If not, then I'll go back and jump on it, but you need to give me an idea of what's okay with you.

Jennifer:

Tony, I have up the March 3rd minutes where they started talking about, right here. I think they started talking about donating. That was the first time.

Tony:

Okay. So it's a contribution to the health department for them to purchase vaccines before distribution in New Haven. They didn't say New Haven, did they?

Jennifer:

No.

David:

It says, "contact local health organizations."

Kevin:

David?

David:

Yes. Kevin?

Kevin:

Yeah, this is Kevin. So I think I'm in line with Tony's comments and concerns and potentially your concerns. If they're drifting away from their mission, I would be interested and I'm glad Jennifer was able to pull up these minutes so quickly. That's a great job. I would be interested if this is a one off event, given the unusual circumstances of pandemic for the past year and there being a public emergency. Are there two, three, four other events where they're drifting away from their mission? I mean, if this is a one-time thing, obviously, I mean, my preference would be to, if Tony's looking for guidance from us, to have them refocused on the mission statement as politely and gently as possible. Well, I don't know Tony, if there's other examples of other things.

Tony:

I'm under the impression that there are two now. I don't know whether they approved the second one or whether they just discussed it, but I know that they're sort of leaning in a direction that's other than just sort of a one offer. I expected Brian to be here so that we could talk with him about it and what his intent is rather than the, but in the absence of that, I felt that we at least have to open it.

Jennifer:

Sorry. These are minutes for May. Here's some discussion.

David:

About helping again for the same issue, the pandemic, as Kevin was saying, is it a one-off to the issue? I would be in favor of letting Tony, as our representative to the watershed fund, just as Kevin said, I don't want to resay it. I think what he said was fine. I think letting them know that we would like them to continue with what their mission is rather than this expansion to social agencies.

Kevin:

Yeah.

David:

Is that succinctly say what other board members would agree with?

Suzanne:

The only thing that I would say, David, is that I don't know if from time to time certain organizations in a major crisis do a one-off kind of donation for something to help local citizens or something like that, that might not be a part of their general mission, but it's a one-time thing because it's a major issue and so if that is what it is, to Kevin's point as a one-off thing, I'm less uncomfortable with it, frankly, because COVID has impacted so many people in so many different ways that getting a vaccine to people for sustain of life is an important factor but if in fact it, and I don't know what size \$10,000 grant is for this organization and whether that's kind of sizable grant that you would give a mission deserving kind of thing, and it's more a gesture on their part.

Suzanne:

So I think it's really, we should go back and ask them what they're doing versus telling them to go back on the mission and once we ask them what they're going on, if we find that the answer is, yes, we believe that their social missions that we want to support, then I think we have our answer about what to do. If they say, no, no, no, this is just a one-off thing that we see our residents in our district that we cover related to this struggling and life-threatening thing and we think we should do our community part. That's a different story.

David:

I agree with that. I like the softer tone that it was put out, but I think that's generally the sentiment that I feel like Kevin feels. I don't want to put words in Tony's mouth and we haven't heard from Catherine yet, but thank you, Suzanne. Catherine, do you have some thoughts on this?

Catherine:

Well, I have two things. Jennifer, I have a request. When you're putting up things like this, if you can enlarge them on your screen. That helps people like me because I really can't read that.

Catherine:

I am also in favor of organizations that follow their missions, but I will say that I am on the board of another organization and during the pandemic we did pivot from our immediate focus in order to be helpful to the community. So, and it wasn't intended and won't continue to be a deviation from the mission but I thought, I agreed on that board that it made sense for us to be as helpful as we could be to

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the community. So the community that we serve. So I don't have a problem with that but thank you, Jennifer.

Jennifer:

You're welcome.

Catherine:

I can read that now.

David:

Thank you, Catherine. All right, Tony, do you have a sense of what we're looking at?

Tony:

Yeah, it's good. I think I have been able to go back into the meeting and have a discussion with the membership about what their intent is. I also agree with Catherine that and Suzanne that the first time this came by, I said, yeah, I agree with that and the second time it came by, I said, Whoa, wait a minute. What's going on here? But I didn't say it out loud because it wasn't sure where I was going with it. So I will do that and I will spend some time talking to Brian.

David:

All right. Very good. If you need me to as well, I would certainly make myself available to you.

Tony:

Do you think you're a gem or something?

David:

No. Some say that. I don't know. All right. So then thank you. We'll move on. Sensing you have no more discussion regarding our brief meeting as the watershed fund. We'll postpone the action, as I had said earlier about the-

Tony:

I want to also make sure that you're welcome, Catherine, and you guys do recognize people that show up for the first time and you want them later, but the first time they're good. And Suzanne has my background. I mean, what's going on here?

Suzanne:

Mine's real though, Tony.

Tony:

Well, that's so much better than mine.

David:

All right. Well, from the exciting to the mundane, I will ask that we recess as the authority to meet as the audit risk committee. Are there a motion for that?

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Suzanne:

So moved.

David:

So moved by Suzanne. Is there a second?

Kevin:

Second.

David:

Seconded by Kevin. All right. All those in favor, say aye.

Group:

Aye.

[AUDIT-RISK COMMITTEE FROM 12:45 P.M. TO 1:22 P.M.]

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE FROM 1:22 P.M. TO 2:05 P.M.]

David:

All right. So we are back to our full committee and the next item on the agenda would be acts of matters arising from committee meetings. There were none that I'm aware of from either committee that we need to act on. So we'll move right to the six items in the consent calendar. What's your pleasure?

Tony:

Move the consent calendar.

David:

Moved by Tony, seconded by Suzanne. She just got beat by a second there. All right. Are there any technical matters to question? Yes?

Catherine:

I don't think I can vote on the minutes because I wasn't a participant.

David:

Okay. We can segregate out those in a separate vote if you're happy to report a vote on the other items. So we'll separate out item F1 for a separate vote and I'll take a motion on that momentarily, but we've got items two through six. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

David:

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Passes unanimously. I heard all five votes. All right. We will move on to item F1. Who would like to move the approval of the minutes?

Kevin:  
Moved.

David:  
Moved by Kevin, seconded by Suzanne. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group:  
Aye.

David:  
I heard four eyes. Abstention is one. All right. Very good. Thank you for accommodating. Do we want to take a break before we get to the updates?

Tony:  
Sure.

David:  
Okay. All right. Oddly, we'll take a 12 minute break.

David:  
All right, everybody. Ready?

Tony:  
Ready.

David:  
Kevin and Suzanne, are you there? I can see. Kevin. Okay. Suzanne, are you there?

Kevin:  
I hope she's not overboard.

David:  
Yeah. We don't even know where to send somebody. I don't know where she is. We'll wait another few seconds, but go right into our updates and then maybe meetings and then [inaudible 01:05:29] land use amendment and then remember folks, we'll be taking a recess, so the RPB meeting can occur tonight and right after the RPB meeting, we will meet and we will stay on that Zoom meeting [inaudible 01:05:45] is having for the purposes of our motion to accept the budgets. I heard from Mario that their motion will-

Suzanne:  
I'm sorry.

David:

That's okay.

Suzanne:

Didn't put my mic back on. Sorry about that.

David:

Oh, okay. Just setting out the rest of the agenda before we get back into it. And then the motion that the RPB is approving tonight, Mario said is positive and of course that would be the outcome of the two meetings because we attended the two meetings and there were no negative comments, just some questions. So that worked out. All right. So then I'll call us back to order and resume the meeting and ask for Larry to give us some updates.

Larry:

Yes. Thank you. I'll turn it over to Beth and Michelle, who will provide an update on COVID and our return to work protocol that has been recently developed. So Beth, do you want to take it?

Beth:

Thank you. So as typical, I'm gonna talk a little bit about employee metrics. We've had one case since my last report in April. So we've got a total 33 confirmed cases within regional, but obviously with vaccination rates going up, we are seeing less of an impact on our employees. In terms of vaccination status, we have done some surveying of employees as well as, as I reported last month, hosted a clinic. So we are at approximate, oh, just under 60% of our staff are fully vaccinated or will be at the end of this week, after getting their dosage of their second shot. That's been a very big success.

Beth:

Obviously Jeanine and I have been closely monitoring all of, not only the CDC guidance, but also the state of Connecticut through the department of public health guidance and watching the changes to that and as you're all well aware, May 19th was [inaudible 01:07:36] for the state and more specifically, as we reviewed those guidelines, Jeanine issued this morning a statement regarding our policy around wearing masks [inaudible 01:07:47] 90 Sargent Drive. That those fully vaccinated would have the option of wearing a mask, while we'll maintain any employee going into a customer home to continue to wear a mask as well as visitors on a limited basis but they do come here that they continue to wear masks.

Beth:

As I've previously reported, we are expecting to welcome staff back June 7th, where we have asked staff to return back to work with the option of remote working. We issued our remote work policy, which allows staff to have the option of being able to remote work up to two days per week. For those as it defined within their obviously agreed upon with their supervisor and manager. So that's a big plus for our employees, but more importantly, we're continuing to review all of our guidebooks and playbooks.

Beth:

We still have some work to do in that regard as well as some of the other activities to "return back to normal" So, early next week, the team continues to talk about things like simple things such as conference room setups, things like that, as well as some of the other activities that have been



desperately affected by COVID, including what we talked about earlier, recreation programs or summer activities, those types of things. Obviously with our programs focused at the school aged children, those 12 and under are not eligible for vaccines at this point. So we're going to take variation as we move forward, but the next big milestone for us is reopening the building for more staff, June 7th. And as we work on those policies, guidelines and plans for our upcoming activities, we'll make sure to keep the board informed about those. I'd be happy to answer any questions and I'll turn it over to Rochelle. I know she has a final [inaudible 01:09:41] I believe.

Tony:

About how many people have not yet had at least one shot. Do we know?

Beth:

We do not know. Jeanine, I don't. We have talked about doing a second poll of our employees in terms of vaccination status, but right now, 255 and 60%, that means about 40% are not, or at least not reported.

Jeanine:

Yeah. So to Beth's point, I think it's important that everybody didn't report their vaccination status to us. So we're just trying to figure out a way to do it so that they can report it and it ends up in our HRS records and that's the little bit of a hitch in the get along. So we're working to do that, but I do believe just because where I sit in the hallway here, I hear a lot of people talking and I do believe that we have probably many more people that are vaccinated and just didn't reply to our email because that's kind of what happens.

Tony:

You've only emailed them. You haven't polled them in any other way?

Jeanine:

No, we have not. As we are set to do that.

Tony:

You think you should?

Jeanine:

Yeah. That's what we're trying to figure out a way we want to do it the easiest way so that there's not three steps of this process where people can go into their day force records, which is our HR system and put it there. Yes or no. So we're working that out through our technology.

Tony:

I'm still in favor of a fairly direct approach to them, asking them straight out.

Jeanine:

We are going to, but my point is when they answer us yes or no, we want to put it somewhere permanently. So we're working that out.

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Tony:

Thank you.

Jeanine:

No problem.

Beth:

Rochelle?

Rochelle:

Thank you. I'll just give a quick update. As I believe you're aware, we continue to monitor the impacts of COVID on our financial position. The good news is still that the impacts have not been as severe as we had anticipated. I will say though, that there have been some level of impacts and just to put this a little bit in perspective, our year 2D billings are actually significantly higher.

Rochelle:

Billings are actually significantly higher than budget, approaching \$6 million higher, primarily in the residential section and that has not all converted to cash because we have seen some moderate offset to our cash collection position. So we do continue to monitor that. You can see in the accounts receivable report that there has been some impacts. On a positive note, the age receivables and April versus March are actually down a little bit. So that's moving in the right direction and we'll continue to monitor. Just another key point to mention that our coverage projection is definitely influenced by our keeping our expenses at the lower budgeted lap. So that's a key factor in our coverage projection. Any questions? All right, I'll turn it back to Larry.

David:

Larry, are you going to continue with COVID or were you going on next because I had a COVID comment?

Larry:

I was going to go onto something else. So go ahead.

David:

Well, in my monthly meeting with Mario and Larry and Beth, we did talk about when we might be ready as a board and when the RPB might be ready as their board to meet in person as opposed to Zoom.

David:

Well, we didn't really come to a conclusion because the RPB is likely to meet as committees first because they're smaller groups and don't have as big a group. So I suspect it'll be a few more months possibly until we start to meet again. I don't want to do it for June, especially because I don't want to interfere with the staff just coming back and don't want to interfere with that and then at the same time, July and August, if some people are away, it might be easier to still attend and be a Zoom meeting.

Tony:

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I'd like to put in a vote for coming back as early as possible. I think that it's more helpful for us to continue to be able to see each other and get Suzanne off that boat. It's really demoralizing for me to see you out there enjoying yourself. But I do think that it takes something away from our meetings to not do it in person.

David:

I agree. And especially being a small board, it's easier to work with. What are some other comments I'd like to hear from the board?

Suzanne:

I agree also.

Catherine:

I would like to know how I can get on that boat with Suzanne.

Suzanne:

Yeah. Have a meeting out here on the boat.

Tony:

[inaudible 01:15:02] right?

Larry:

I think we should have a meeting on the boat.

Suzanne:

I agree. I agree.

David:

Kevin, I see you unmuted for a moment. Were you going to comment as well?

Kevin:

No, I agree. It's time. If we can try to figure out a way.

David:

Maybe we can for July then but it won't be for June because I don't want to interfere with the staff just coming back the week before.

Tony:

I think we should be modeling for them.

David:

Well then, we should have had this meeting. All right. Okay. Thank you folks. Larry?

Larry:

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All right. Thank you. Well, I'd like to spend a few minutes and review highlights from the board letter and-

David:

All 11 pages or just your two page version?

Larry:

Just my two page version. First item that I reported on is our work to continue to advance our commercial business strategy through acquisitions and earlier this month, our business development director, Dennis Donovan, and I met with the owners of the two businesses that we are currently considering for acquisition and we reviewed their operations onsite and discussed further deals and we have a draft agreement for one of the businesses and so we may need to have a special meeting of the authority before the end of the month so we can finalize the purchase agreement and then we can go on with the closing in the following months, but we're pushing to get the purchase agreement wrapped up with one of the businesses that we are comfortable with and then move on from there.

Larry:

Secondly, I reported on our professional searches for three key positions, our VP of financial services, the director of engineering and environmental services and the director of employee relations searches are continuing with those three positions but this month we engaged a new search firm for the engineering position since we didn't have success partnering with the initial recruiting company.

Larry:

Third, I informed you last week that I sent emails to legislators in our district who are members of the appropriation's committee requesting their support water infrastructure funding to assist not only the water companies in Connecticut, but also the RWA and I also sent an email to the acting DPH commissioner urging her support and that of the governor, because she apparently has close ties with the governor as well.

Larry:

This past Monday, I learned that the appropriation's committee released their plan for how to use funding that is coming to Connecticut under the American rescue plan act of 2021 and the committee acknowledged that the federal government is working on an infrastructure bill. So this plan does not direct money for infrastructure. The committee's funding summary proposes allocating money to areas like balancing the budget, contributing to unemployment, compensation, economic development, workforce development and healthcare. So we don't believe that water utilities are going to be within the intended allocation of the funds, but we're looking if there's other ways that we might be able to qualify.

Larry:

You might recall that last month I had sent a note to Representative Deloro asking her to consider water utilities and the governor's interest in the Biden administration infrastructure bill. We're also sending the same letter to senators Murphy and Blumenthal urging the same sort of allocation.

Larry:

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Next week is drinking water week and to mark drinking water week, which was the first week of May, we released our 2020 consumer confidence report and to ensure that more customers will be able to access that report, we produced a version fully translated into Spanish and posted it on our website.

Larry:

Also, too, I reported on our plans to return employees to work, which Beth just went through. I also informed you in that letter that I've re-introduced my one-on-one meetings with members of the RWA management team and those discussions are, in addition to the departmental Zoom check-ins, that I'm conducting in collaboration with VP led division town hall meetings and I'm planning to expand the opportunity for one-on-one meetings with other employees across the organization as another way for me to motivate and engage the workforce.

Larry:

Also, too, last month, I let you know that we launched an interactive webinars series promoting proper outdoor irrigation use and water conservation and you'll recall that I had suggested that our communications and outreach team institute these video series after I read an article in the Stanford Advocate about the shortage of water and the need to educate the public about proper irrigation uses. So the communications team has really done a great job with that and they put together a four-part webinar series that are recorded and posted on the RWA website and I understand we've had pretty good turnout with that, and those will continue to be available. That program was also part of a broader program to help customers use water wisely and includes our PSA's airing on channels eight and 59, as well as our current rain barrel sail program.

Larry:

In some other feel good news, I reported that several RWA employees who are United steelworkers volunteered their time on a recent Saturday and Beth and I were out at that project while the employees completed a main to curb service for a veteran and his wife who live in North Batton Branford. So although a year and a half ago, they found out that their well had been contaminated due to underground petroleum products. We found out about it last October and the public health department asked us if there was something we can do. So took a look at it and decided that we would install as a community service line and so our crews did a great job installing the service lines from the main to the curb and the curb to the couple's home, so that they now have access to RWA water. Of course, as you can imagine, very grateful for the company's volunteer efforts.

Larry:

And finally, I want to let you know that yesterday I received a doctorate degree of humane letters from Southern Connecticut State University at their school of business commencement ceremony. The degree conferral was authorized by the Connecticut state college and universities board of Regents and presented to RWA on my behalf for demonstrating conscious, purposeful, driven leadership and for championing the creation of the public utility management degree program and I had a chance to deliver some brief remarks to the graduates about the perip about the importance of given leadership and stakeholder capitalism. So those are highlights from my board letter.

Suzanne:

Congratulations, Larry. Thank you.

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Tony:

Congratulations on the letter. What about the real one? How's it coming?

Public Member:

Good job, Larry. You deserved it.

Larry:

Thank you.

David:

All right. That's it for the monthly board highlights then?

Larry:

That's it for the monthly board highlights.

Tony:

Can we put on to a next month's agenda, Jennifer, an executive session that's basically compensation related, but I realize it may not be the compensation committee's time yet? Just to add it. Thanks.

Larry:

That's even though the compensation committee is scheduled to meet in July?

Tony:

What's next month?

Larry:

June.

Tony:

That's what I want to do. Even though the compensation committee is meeting July, I want to have a quick executive session next month. Just so that you all will know, I'm going to ask you to do a quick evaluation of Larry and his performance so that when we come to the compensation committee meeting in July, we can have it officially discussed. Okay. You don't like that idea?

David:

No, that's fine. [crosstalk 01:25:02].

Tony:

I think it's a good proposal, Larry.

Larry:

I mean, that's fine, but it's just that you will not have the benefit of my input, which is normally developed for the July compensation meeting.

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Tony:

Well, we will, because all I want them to do is to prepare themselves. In fact, I can do it right now by saying, be prepared in July to have a discussion about Larry and his performance and his related compensation. Is that better?

Larry:

Okay.

David:

That's our annual expectation is that we do that in July.

Tony:

Not everybody understands that.

David:

Well, and some are new, so we're just letting it.

Tony:

Well, it's not even the new ones. I mean, new ones are okay. It's this old ones that have the problem. Know that.

David:

All right. We will properly plan for the July meeting and the June meeting. Thank you. All right. We will move on to reports of RPB committee meetings and Tony, you attended last Monday's financial meeting.

Tony:

Hang on. I got it. I got it. I got it. I attended the finance committee meeting, right?

David:

That's what I said. Yes, sir.

Tony:

Okay, good. So at that meeting, Prem and, was it Laura?

Rochelle:

Laura.

Tony:

First initial this time. And Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Valentin. All were there providing discussion of the AMI benefits and a discussion also took place regarding the project costs, the key savings, the meter installations, leased detection and loss water. Somehow they tied them all to the AMI. I was impressed by that. I couldn't tie them all, but anyway, Jeff [inaudible 01:27:09] commented on his letter dated in April regarding his comments to the capital and operating budgets. He appreciated management's

preparation and presentation of the budget and extended his appreciation for management's ability to put together the budget in spite of uncertain times and challenges. We tried to say to him, that's the time we do best when things are uncertain because no one knows whether we're right or wrong, but no one let me talk about it. Thank you. That was the finance meeting.

David:

Thank you. And I attended the land use committee meeting last Wednesday. It was hosted in Cheshire with the Cheshire land trust because those are the three parties, RWA town of Cheshire and Cheshire land trust that purchased some land for aquifer protection along the middle river and it joins other land that the RWA has been a part of. [inaudible 01:28:07] That meeting was checking out that land to being part of it. So I will ask. I see Suzanne is getting ready. Consumer affairs committee of this past Monday?

Suzanne:

Right. I attended the consumer affairs meeting this past Monday and the majority of the meeting was covered by Prem and his team related to consumer experience, satisfaction, et cetera, and all the work that they've been doing to both improve it and to think about the future and the different ways that consumers can and customers can reach the RWA and be served by the RWA. There were a lot of questions and good questions. I think there was some question about return on investment, meaning since we are not a competitive entity and that nobody can come in and steal our customers, per se, do we think about the balance of investment related to consumer advancement of their experience and how much it's needed per se? All asked in I think good taste, but just kind of wondering about, do we ever think about that piece of the puzzle, given the amount of investments that takes on the technology side to do some of the things that we do? In addition to that, the office of consumer affairs made comment on an existing and recently settled customer issue, not a big issue and they approve the payment of his bill. That's it, David.

David:

Any questions? Nope. All right.

Tony:

Did Vin Marino ever contact you about this meeting?

Jennifer:

No.

Tony:

So you don't even know if he was supposed to come?

Jennifer:

He was supposed to come. He confirmed it on Monday at the finance committee meeting. I don't know where he is.

David:

And the next item on the agenda is proposed land use amendment regarding Lake Chamberlain fishing trails and I see John Triana is here, ready to give us a presentation.



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John:

Yes. Can you hear me?

David:

Yeah.

John:

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm here to present a non-substantial land use plan amendment that we would like to bring forth to the representative policy board. This is an amendment that will create eight new trails at the Lake Chamberlain recreation area. At the current time, there are these rogue informal trails that anglers have created coming off of the Lake road, down to the water body itself and officially there's no access to these locations. We would like to make them formal and like to brush them out, clear them out so that people can safely get to the water and can cast into the Lake to fish in an appropriate way. So the purpose is to get anglers to the water and also keep them in places where we're comfortable for them accessing the water that they don't create more rogue trails out there.

John:

So in total, there are eight new trails all around Lake Chamberlain. Two are on the West side of the Lake, six are on the East side of the Lake, but they total 0.3 seven miles when you add everything up. It's all on class one land as is the nature for this kind of thing. Since it's going right up to the reservoir and what we will do when we put them in, I would expect that it would take us two to three days, just my staff going out there to create the trails and we would be trimming some of the trees, taking some things down, removing some of the down trees that are in the way to make things more accessible and allow anglers to cast without getting caught in the branches and that sums it up in a nutshell and I'll be happy to answer any questions that you have.

David:

I would just make one more comment. I think this goes a long way towards the goal that the authority has of increasing the opportunities for recreation within our land and I think the goal is for two additional types of uses are expanded and this is one of the two that hopefully would happen over the next year or two within that plan.

John:

Correct. The other one we've already instituted, and that was adding kayaks to our list of vessels out at Lake Salt. That's already been in place.

David:

All right. Thank you.

Suzanne:

And David, are you looking for a motion to approve the resolution?

David:

That would be good to have one on the table please.

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Suzanne:

I'd like to approve the resolution for adoption by the regional water authority as presented by John.

David:

Is there a second? Seconded by Catherine and Kevin. Jennifer choose. All right. Further discussion regarding this?

Suzanne:

No, thank you for doing it. I think our recreation area has just been a great relief for our community and doing this in addition to all the other things we've done is just really giving people access at a time that was very difficult for everybody. So thank you, John and your team.

David:

I think it's great. We've gone from 4,000 recreation pass holders to 6,000. It's just been phenomenal to see so many people using this, as you say, Suzanne, and all throughout the COVID and all, so that's great. Other questions or comments regarding the proposed motion to the RPB for approval? All right. Since you're ready to vote, all those in favor, signify by saying aye?

Kevin:

Aye.

David:

Passes unanimously. All right. We are at the point in our agenda where we are going to recess our meeting so that the RPB can meet a little bit later and we will reconvene after the RPB meets and we will decide what we want to do about our budget taking into consideration the comments from the RPB.

Suzanne:

David, would you mind just going through the timeframe of that? We're recessing now?

David:

The RPB meets at 6:30. They don't have a lot on their agenda. So I expect it will be around the seven, maybe 7:15 that there'll be done with their agenda. So I would have us all ready. We generally attend their meetings anyway, it's 6:30 and so hopefully we'll be ready to act on the motion to approve the budget right after.

Suzanne:

Would you like us to come back to this Zoom connection to do that?

David:

No. Jennifer is saying it'll be logistically easier if we stay on the RPB and we'll wait until the RPB members log off or after an appropriate amount of time, we'll ask them if they could quiet their chatter for a minute if they're done with their meeting and let us make our motion and approve it.

Suzanne:

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So we'll see you again at 6:30 at RPB?

David:

We'll see everybody at the RPB meeting on that zoom connection and we'll stay on that connection to continue our meeting.

Suzanne:

Thanks very much.

Larry:

David?

David:

Larry?

Larry:

Just one item, unrelated to what you're talking about. So, I forgot to mention one item in my updates. Just to let you know from a matter of information. Today, we told the non-union employees today that we were re instituting the first half of their merit increases, which they will receive in a separate payment next week. So I just wanted to let you know that because the finance committee has been following what management has been doing in terms of compensation matters, and that may well influence one of their upcoming decisions.

Suzanne:

So that was that chair from new Haven?

Larry:

Yes.

David:

Well-deserved having gone through this and having held back on their-

Suzanne:

Yeah. Tell them thank you for waiting.

David:

Yes. Yes. All right. All right. Then I will declare us in recess until after the RPB meeting. Have a good day, everybody. Thanks for joining.

[MEETING RECESSES AT 2:45 P.M.]

[AUTHORITY MEETING RECONVENES AT 7:15 P.M.]

David:

All right. We're beginning the Authority meeting from our recess, and we are on Item K, which is approve fiscal year 2022 budget, and authorize filing with the trustee. There are two items in there. One is informational. The filing of the budgets, which is the first attachment. And the second one is the resolution we need to adopt.

David:

At practical matter, the budgets in the first item are what we saw, already, because it was what was presented to us, and there hadn't been recommendations for changes to that. So what's your pleasure? Do we want to have a motion on the floor? Do we want to discuss, first?

Tony:

I move that we approve the budgets, and move them forward.

David:

All right. So the resolution that's in there, the two-paragraph resolution [crosstalk 00:45:37] to the trustee.

David:

It's seconded by Mr. Curseaden. Is there discussion?

Suzanne:

No, I would just say, for the record, that there's been a tremendous amount of work done, by the management team, review by the RWA, and the RPB, and also review from the OCA, and with that, that gives us tremendous confidence in this budget, and allows us to feel comfortable that we have another good year in store, fiscally and otherwise, for the RWA.

David:

Very good. I would echo that, and I would also say this addresses some concerns that people have had, with different issues, throughout the Authority, and we are moving forward with keeping up with the excellent condition we expect our facilities to be in, and continue to expand in uses of some of our facilities, as well.

Catherine:

And I just, for the record, want to let everyone know that I played a little catch-up, because I came in after this was already in the works, and I want to thank all the management at the Authority, for answering all of my inane questions, and making me comfortable for taking this vote. I got all of my questions answered, and I really appreciate the help.

David:

Thank you.

Catherine:

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I thank Larry, and Rochelle, and Prem, the entire team.

David:

Thank you. Good. Are there other questions or comments? Seeing none. Sensing you're ready to vote. All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying "Aye."

David:

[crosstalk 00:47:19].

David:

I heard five "Ayes," only five members, so it passes unanimously. I would accept a motion to adjourn.

Tony:

So moved.

Catherine:

Second.

David:

Moved, and seconded. And all those in favor, signify by saying "Aye."

Group:

Aye.

[MEETING ADJOURNS AT 7:17 P.M.]