

**Representative Policy Board
Of the
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
August 19, 2021
Meeting Transcription**

Mario: All right, I guess we have reached the hour of 6:30. My name is Mario Ricoszi, and this is the August 19 regular meeting of the representative policy board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District. Thank you all very much for attending, and thank you all for going through the security process of being entered into the room. That's a new process since the consumer affairs committee meeting got Zoom bombed, if I recall correctly. So, we just want to make sure who's attending and who's not attending, so thank you very much.

The first item of business on our agenda is the safety moment on flood safety and preparedness. Fortunately, the rains went north of us last night, but just be cautious-

Mark: Hey, Mario. Excuse me, Mario?

Mario: Yes.

Mark: Does that mean the public can attend this meeting? Or how does the public attend this meeting if they want?

Mario: The public has a phone number to dial into.

Mark: Oh, okay. Is that listed for our meetings?

Mario: It should be listed on the notice of the meeting that goes to the town clerks.

Mark: So the only way they could find that out is to call the town clerks if they wanted to come?

Mario: No, it's on our website also.

Mark: Okay, I just wanted to make sure that the public-

Mario: Yeah. No, it's posted at all town clerks' offices as well as on our website.

Mark: Okay. On how to get into the meeting.

Mario: Yeah. No, Mark, we didn't want to obviously exclude people.

Mark: Well, it's a public meeting.

Mario: But until we get the opportunity to make sure we have all the controls in place, the option of allowing people to dial in is a viable option.

Mark: Hey, if the freedom of information likes it, okay with me.

Mario: Okay. Thank you. So please read the safety moment that was sent out to you in the packet.

The next item is the approval of minutes of July 15, 2021.

Greg: So moved.

Mario: We have a motion. Greg, thank you. Second?

Tim: Second. Tim Slocum.

Mario: Second, Tim. Thank you.

Tim: Yeah, correct.

Mario: Any corrections, amendments, revisions to the minutes?

Okay, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Mario: Anyone opposed?

(silence)

Anyone abstaining?

(silence)

Okay, thank you very much. The minutes are approved.

Communications. The nominating committee for authority member, none of the RPB members contacted me about interest in the authority member seat, so there were several volunteers for the nominating committee. I appreciate everyone's interest in that. I did make a list and sent that off to Jennifer. Charles [inaudible] is going to be the chair. I believe there is five members on the committee. So thank you and they will get started in the near future on their meetings. Okay?

RPB quarterly dashboard report should have been sent in the packet. I believe it was reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting, so if you have questions for that, I think Tim may be able to address them when they come up. And I know Consumer Affairs still has some interest in the dashboard report and possibly some amendments as time goes on, so keep that floating in there, Steve, if you guys come up with some additions to the dashboard report that can improve it.

Stephen: Okay.

Mario: RPB reappointment updates. I think we're in pretty good shape. Greg, Michelle, and Vin, I think, were still outstanding. Vin, I know we've gotten some information from the governor's office, so hopefully at some point that letter will come through. And then Greg and Michelle, we've made attempts, so if you need me to make another phone call, please just let me know.

Greg: I talked to the Mayor, Mario. My name is going in front of the board Monday night.

Mario: Okay, thank you very much. Very good. Any other communications, Jennifer?

Jennifer: The only other thing is that I'm trying to schedule a tour of the Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant, so I have five people who are interested. If there's anybody else who didn't contact me, if you can just let me know. It'll probably be early to mid-September or early October.

Mario: Okay.

Jennifer: Okay.

Mario: And that's the plant, not the reservoir. Okay. So we wouldn't want to impinge upon...

Jennifer: That's correct.

Mario: ...the Land Use Committee meetings, Lake Saltonstall outdoor meeting in October.

Anthony: With pizza.

Brian: You want pizza, huh?

Mario: All right, if there's no other communications from the group, items for consideration and action, we have Finance Committee draft recommendation.

Tim: We do, Mr. Chairman.

Mario: Tim, would you like to...

Tim: I would be happy to.

Mario: Thank you, sir.

Vin: So I will now read the motion. This is proposed resolutions dated August 19, 2021. Whereas, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority on July 19, 2021 filed an Issuance Test Rate Application to the Representative Policy Board; and whereas, the Finance Committee of the Representative Policy Board reviewed the Application and

recommends that it be accepted to the RPB as complete; and whereas, the Finance Committee recommends that the public hearing be conducted by a Presiding Member; and whereas, the Representative Policy Board 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 Bylaws and Rules of the RPB.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Representative Policy Board hereby accepts the Authority's Issuance Test Rate Application, as a completed Application, substantially in the form submitted to this meeting, and determines to hold a public meeting on the Application conducted by a Presiding Member, on September 23, 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. Here ends the motion.

Mario: Okay, is there a second to that? No one seconds?

Jamie: I'll second it.

Mario: Thank you very much.

Mario: Thank you Jamie.

Mario: It would be a long night. Okay, so this is a resolution to say the application is complete and to set the public hearing. Are there any questions about the motion?

(silence)

Okay, hearing none. I'll try your minds. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Mario: Anyone in opposition?

(silence)

Okay. Anybody abstaining?

(silence)

All right, thank you very much. Just a note. I know Jeff Donofrio has submitted some questions in the form of interrogatories. As you review the application, please get those in as soon as you can. You can submit them through Jennifer, and then she'll get them to the appropriate people for review and responses. So thank you very much, Jeff.

The next item on the agenda is Consumer Affairs Committee on recommendations on the Rules and Regulations for Water Service. Steve or anyone from Consumer Affairs wish to propose this?

Stephen: I'll take it, Mario.

Mario: Thank you, sir.

Stephen: Before I read it, I would just like to make a few remarks. The Rules and Regulations have not been reviewed since 2017. I believe it was Consumer Affairs that did it at that point. They did not require approval by the RPB. However, management wanted the RPB to be aware of this, because the Rules and Regulations are the policies by which the RWA operates, and it also offers guidelines and whatever the obligations of consumers are as well. So they are important. And Prem was at our meeting on Monday to go over the details of the updates. Since they hadn't been updated since 2017, most of the updates really reflected changes in the organization since then and nothing else substantial, so we reviewed them in detail and have no issue with the recommendation.

The proposed resolution is whereas the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority submitted the proposed revisions to its Rules and Regulations for Water Service and its Rules, Regulations, and Rates Governing the Extension of Water Mains to the Representative Policy Board, RPB, for its consideration and approval; and whereas, the Representative Policy Board Consumer Affairs Committee reviewed the proposed revisions at its August 16, 2021, meeting and recommended the changes to the RPB for approval.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the proposed revisions to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's Rules and Regulations for Water Service and its Rules, Regulations, and Rates Governing the Extension of Water Mains, be and hereby are approved substantially in the form submitted to the meeting.

Mario: Thank you, Steve. Is there a second to the motion?

Joe: Second.

Mario: We have a second. Any questions, comments?

(silence)

Okay. Thank you very much. All those in favor of the motion?

Group: Aye.

Mario: Anyone opposed?

(silence)

Anyone abstaining?

(silence)

Okay, the ayes have it. Thank you very much, Steve in Consumer Affairs, for going through that. It was clearly outlined as to what the changes were, so that made it a little bit easier.

Stephen: Oh, Prem did a good job.

Mario: Yep. One item I forgot to do under the Finance Committee's recommendation is Rich Smith has accepted to be the Presiding Member for the [inaudible] Application, so Rich we will provide you any assistance we can. I appreciate that. Thank you.

All right, because of a glitch in our setting our meeting schedule a year ago, just about, we missed a holiday, so we would need to cancel our meeting of September 16 and then add a special meeting the following Thursday, September 23. Hopefully because it's a week later in the month, people are available to attend. That will be a remote meeting so, first order of business is to cancel our regular meeting of September 16. Is there a motion to cancel?

Greg: So moved.

Michelle: I'll second.

Mario: Okay, thank you. Second, Michelle. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Mario: Anyone opposed?

(silence)

Anyone abstaining? Okay, thank you. And then to add a special meeting on September 23, 2021. Is there a motion to that effect?

Bob: So moved.

Mario: Okay, thank you Joe. I was hoping someone would.

Stephen: I'll second it.

Mario: And we have Steve second it. Thank you very much. Any questions, comments?

All those in favor?

Group: Aye.

Mario: Opposed? Abstaining?

Okay, thank you very much. So our next meeting will be September 23. The public hearing will be at 7:00 p.m. that evening, so hopefully we were able to catch all of them next year's calendar as we put that together. I missed it to, [inaudible], so don't worry.

That brings us down to reports, unless you have anything else, Jennifer, that we need to add to the consideration and action.

Jennifer: Nope. That's it.

Mario: Okay. That brings us to Finance Committee, Tim.

Tim: Here we go. The Finance Committee met on August 9 of this year at 5:00. Most attended. We basically started out by discussing the completeness of the Authority's Rate Application and, hence, we voted on that this evening. We also had a report from Rochelle regarding the ten-year model, past considerations which included depreciation leverage, pension funding date, post-employment benefits versus depreciation, volatility versus commercial net revenue sensitivities, and water revenue decline, and the 2020 and 2019 model recommendations as a review of what we were talking about. We talked a little bit about it regarding things like pension funds, depreciation, certain trends and things like that, and Michelle is going to make another presentation to us a little bit later on. There was no new business to report, and our next meeting is Monday, September 13, at 5:00 by Zoom.

Mario: Questions for Tim.

(silence)

All right, thank you very much.

Tim: Thank you very much.

Mario: Land Use Committee?

Rich: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Harvey is going to give the report. I was unable to attend and he ran the meeting, so I think it's only right that he gives us the minutes.

Mario: All right, thank you, sir. Mr. Harvey?

Bob: Thank you. Yes, we had our last land use meeting on the 11th, last Wednesday, and it was out at Lake Gaillard. John Triana gave us a little discussion on the history of the lake which included how the land was acquired, some of the farms that were in the area, and we learned that the lake is named after [inaudible] Gaillard who was appointed to the

Board in 1916 and served until his death, and in 1924 he was appointed as President of the company to succeed his father-in-law, Eli Whitney, III. And he stayed in that position until 1994. We also learned that the dam was completed in 1924, and it currently holds approximately 15 billion gallons of water of which 13 billion are available for water supply. And with that, it services about 60% of the RWA. It was very informative about Lake Gaillard and how it came about. So it was very good. I'm going to leave the reservoir levels to Larry. Hopefully, he'll report that. But we are in good shape. Our next meeting is going to be on Wednesday, September 8, and if anyone has any questions?

Tim: I have a question, Bob.

Bob: Sure.

Tim: I think I recalled you stating that there is a lot of billions of gallons in the reservoir, and a portion of those billions is available.

Bob: Yep.

Tim: How do you explain that? I mean, if they can't drain it, I understand, but I just was kind of curious.

Bob: Where they can do the lowest drawdown.

Tim: I see. Okay. Understood. There's depths they wouldn't go into. I see.

Bob: Yes.

Tim: Understood. Thank you.

Mario: Okay, other questions for Bob?

(silence)

All right, carrying on. Thank you very much.

Rich: Thank you, Bob.

Mario: Consumer Affairs and Steve.

Stephen: Sure. Consumer Affairs met on Monday. Prem was at our meeting to cover two topics. One was the proposed letter to the chief elected officials in all the towns regarding the PipeSafe program. The RWA is aware that competitors to the program are approaching the towns, trying to get them to support their product in one way or another, so this was an important letter to remind them that Regional Water Authority does offer this service and explain how this benefits consumers in several ways. So we took a look at it,

had a couple of questions and suggestions, and... Is that complete, Larry, now? Are there other RPB members seeing the letter?

Larry: I'm not sure whether they have or not.

Stephen: Okay.

Prem: No, they haven't. If they could add a little bit more color. Based on the suggestion and feedback, Steve, that we've had, we're going to make those appropriate changes and [inaudible] everybody, and then we will have a chance to look at it.

Stephen: Oh, okay.

Prem: So we just [inaudible].

Stephen: Thank you, Prem. Yeah, so we reviewed that letter, and then as mentioned and talked about, Prem went over the changes to the Rules and Regulations. Again, we had a couple of questions but were able to do that, complete that. Jeff was unable to make the meeting, so Lou Dagostine filled in and reported no pending consumer issues at this time and also that Jeff had reviewed the Issuance Rate Application, and the first set of interrogatories have been submitted. So that was our meeting for Monday.

Mario: Very good. Any questions of Steve?

(silence)

Okay, thank you very much, Steve. Appreciate it. Brings us down to Authority and Management. Mr. Borowy? Mr. Bingaman?

David: Yes, thank you Chairmember Ricoszi, and Members, good evening. I won't try to keep you too long, but we did have a long and robust meeting. And the first item on the agenda was always a fun one for us. We met with Brian Stone and met [inaudible] of the Watershed Fund, the Claire C. Bennitt Watershed Fund, and heard the good news about the appreciation [inaudible] about the wonderful distribution they made in scholarship money as well as in grants. And they did the grants in a two-year program in order to make things go a little bit smoother because of COVID and all. So last year when they did them, they made it work for two years. So hopefully as we get out of COVID, they'll be back on track again. We also reappointed Thomas Clifford, Elizabeth Moore, Kate Powell, and Brian Stone for additional three-year terms, and we added two new members, so they'll go from ten to twelve members. And we added a new member, Scott Jones and Marco [inaudible]. And they both have great contacts within the community. Brian feels that they'll be good assets to us and to that organization, and I think that's terrific. So that was our meeting with them.

We were also joined by Mark Levine, and we appreciated having him here. And he commented on some of our meeting as the Environmental Health and Safety Committee items, and I will turn it over to Kevin for a report on that.

Kevin: Good evening. Thank you, David, Mr. Chairman, Members of the RPB. We met today, and the first thing we did was approve a revised Committee Charter based on some comments over the past few months, and thank you to Ted and his team for assisting with that. And then we had three presentations, and they were all important, and I will try to summarize them succinctly. The Business Continuity Work Plan, we had an update from Amanda [inaudible] who is the manager of the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk, and Kate Novick, Gradient Planning, LLC, who is the RWA's Business Continuity Consultant, and Kate's been working with us for a number of years and puts a lot of hard work in and does an excellent job. So they presented the Business Continuity Plan for FY22. They discussed factors that influenced the plan including the 2020 Water System Risk and Resilience Assessment.

Over the years, some members may remember that we've done a self assessment that was assisted by the Department of Homeland Security a few years ago. This was another assessment which goes to one of Kate's presentation points. They are constantly assessing risks and planning. They discussed and described the emergency preparedness process, [inaudible] strategic goals and cyber attacks in the US and how those may impact the RWA and how to defend against those, organizing and equipping RWA staff both with the knowledge and the tools to defend against cyber attacks as well as continue with business. She highlighted the fact that the COVID pandemic has been an opportunity to learn and to continue with the business plan and what were some of the weak points and other things that could be improved upon. One of the things that came out of that, obviously, was remoting into work and other aspects of that which a lot of us are familiar with that at this point.

Training, testing, and exercising for these types of activities. There's been a couple of recent exercises. I have tried to participate in these exercises or attend these exercises over the years. They go back a number of years now. Some of them are tabletop exercises. Some of them are in person, actual functional exercises which we had a few years ago. They had a ransomware exercise on May 24 that tested the Incident Command Structure, Information Security Incident Response Plan, and the Business Continuity Plan. And they also had the Spring Street Pump Station tabletop exercise held on June 7 that tested Incident Management Planning, Critical Component Failure, and Water Restriction Procedures. They always invite community partners to these exercises, Connecticut Department of Public Health, Yale Hospital sometimes, Yale New Haven, various different other community partners, emergency response teams.

Additional plans for FY22 include follow-up activities to the 2020 Risk Assessment including Skater Response, Business Continuity, Disaster Recovery Plans, and further developing the RWA's Water Quality Emergency Response Plan. Future exercises including functional exercises, if you have an opportunity and you can attend either a tabletop or a functional exercise as a visitor, you should try to do that. I think that the

important key takeaway is that the RWA has a Business Continuity Plan, they are constantly refining it and reassessing it, and they are taking the time to plan while they're operating, which I think is an important point because it's difficult to put out fires all day, so to speak, continue to operate, and then also learn or work on things that need to be improved. So I think that they've done a great job over the years. I give credit to Larry and the team, Kate Novick and Amanda, and in the past it's been Jim Flynn, Beth [inaudible], Ted Norris. So thank you again.

Now we have an update also on Invasive Plant Management from Josh Tracy. He gave an excellent presentation. He's doing a systematic study and assessment of the RWA lands, which he's got a table and I'll try to send this presentation out to you tomorrow of the number of acres that he's assessed with invasive species as well as the number of acres that he's treated. He's tried a variety of different treatments based on the type of plant because each plant spreads in a different manner. So far there's been a total of 212 acres that have been treated. I think he's identified at least over 1000 acres of land that has invasive species on it. One of the things that you might remember is they had the water chestnut harvest at Furnace Pond in East Haven last year. It was the first time for that. This was the second time, which I think was even more successful according to Josh, and efforts are going to continue until the water chestnut is eradicated from Furnace Pond. He has a lot of other plans in place, and he's done a really good job, and I think we let him know that today. There'll be additional money in the budget. He's developed a five-year plan.

There is, thanks owed to Mr. Levine, and I think that was acknowledged today either by Larry or Tony that Mr. Levine has been pushing this issue for a number of years, and so it's starting to show some benefits from all of that and from hiring Josh and Josh's team.

Mark: Let me just say that that report from Josh was wonderful, that he's developing the five-year plan, that's wonderful, things that we've been looking for. We've got the right man on the job, and the progress he's made is tremendous, and I was very impressed with it.

Kevin: Thank you, Mark. And thank you for your support in this and your leadership on it.

One last update, and it was also a great update. It's another area where we have the right person for the job. It's Tom Barger. He updated us on the lead and copper rule. I think that, Mr. Chairman, you may see this come to one of your committees and then maybe ultimately the RPB. It is important for a variety of reasons. Number one, for the health and safety of our citizens in the district, but also there's going to be potentially a large cost. The final decision on what the lead and copper rule will look like has not been made yet. I think they are anticipating that sometime in September. For some folks, you may remember that over the years, historically, lead service pipe met lead service pipe. That definition just simply meant that. That definition is now potentially expanding, most likely expanding to include galvanized iron services, also goosenecks which is the part of the service closest to the water mains will be potentially included. Goosenecks is S-shaped section of the service attached to the main, and the S-shape allows for settlement near the main without pulling the service from the main.

The RWA has about 4500 impacted goosenecks. Once again, that ruling is expected in September. Tom and the RWA have partnered with a consultant, CDM Smith, who has been successful in switching out or working on the City of Newark's lead pipe issue or system and replacing that. They are completing a service line inventory using RWA records to ID lead services. They will develop a service line replacement plan with RWA by 2025, the year when utilities are to be required to have a plan in place. There's gaps in our information right now because we've never really kept track of it, especially with the expanded definition. It might expand to service line to the meter whereas before it would have stopped at the street or stopped at the curb. There's 12,500 utility owned unknowns and there's 30,000 customer owned unknowns. So it's an important project and it's also a potentially extremely expensive project. So we're awaiting the final... The Trump administration had, I think, the rule in place and it has been on hold with the Biden administration, so we're waiting for the Biden administration and the EPA to release the final version of this ruling. Pending your questions?

Mario: Kevin? Okay, Tim, I see you have a question.

Tim: Let me unmute myself. Kevin, this may be a question for another day, but one thing strikes me that invasive insects obviously have wrought havoc to water company properties as well as anything else, and I didn't know if in our forest management plan we actually look at that. I know we have to remove felled trees, the [inaudible] and the gypsy moth attacking all this stuff, but there's even fungal stuff that goes after beech trees and things like that. Does the Authority have a program of a forest management system like that or do we concentrate basically around the reservoirs? Because we own lots of land, and I realize that could get out of sight.

Kevin: It's an interesting question, and today, not for the first time, but we did discuss, and I'm trying to keep it as brief but give you the information to the Board. Josh had also partnered recently with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to set traps on our property for three new invasive insects that have not been yet detected in Connecticut, so it's an experimental trap system. The velvet longhorn beetle, oak ambrosia beetle, and the oak processionary moth. Beyond that, I can get you additional information.

Tim: Well, I figured there's something always being looked at, and I know those things are probably incredibly difficult to find answers. You can't kill every bug, but there's a lot of them. Thank you.

Kevin: Thank you.

Mario: Thank you. Other questions for Kevin.

Brian: Aside from that, this is Brian Eitzer, I know that there's a new beech tree disease which is being spread by a nematode which is going to really devastate our forests again.

Tim: Yep.

Mario: Thank you. Other questions for Kevin?

Brian: I did have one question for Kevin. On the risk management planning side of things, we did all this risk management planning, and maybe it's more for Larry, how did the planning work out now that we had [inaudible] at the Lake Whitney plant? Did the planning that we've done in the past with our tabletops show that we were really well prepared when we had the fire?

Larry: Yes, I would say we did. The team, I think, responded appropriately in terms of not only addressing the fire but also the work that they've done afterward. So I think our planning and our lessons learned from prior exercises came into play there. Just as a way of update, because I know Frank [inaudible] was interested in this, this past week the INC staff completed their work moving the two VFD motors into a new cabinet area, and they're now in the process of getting ready for startup, so we expect to have that in service sometime over the weekend.

Mario: Very good. Other questions for Kevin?

Stephen: Mario, this is Steve.

Mario: Yes, Steve?

Stephen: Not a question for Kevin, but my committee would certainly be interested in any exploratory detail on the pipe issue in terms of what the new regulations would have to be and what chemicals or elements would have to be used.

Kevin: Yes...

Larry: Steve, we actually... Oh, I'm sorry, Kevin, go ahead.

Kevin: No, go ahead, Larry.

Larry: Steve, we actually today talked about the fact that we would like to have Tom Barger present either to a joint meeting of Finance and Consumer Affairs or do it separately because it was a very informative presentation that he presented in terms of what we've been doing, our inventory of pipe, what the expected rules might show, and then a discussion of what the potential impact on RWA is. So that's something that you and maybe Tim can figure out whether you want to do a joint meeting or have two separate presentations.

Stephen: Okay. Yeah, a joint meeting is fine. That might work out. We can talk about it.

Mario: The extent by adding galvanized piping is incredible on the system and the expense and who's affected. It's hard to fathom how invasive this will be to all the customers that have to have service lines replaced. And if the rule goes to the meter, it will be even more invasive. So I guess we'll stay tuned. Any other questions?

All right, thank you very much Kevin. That was very good. David.

David: All right, thank you. Also, we voted to move our meeting to September 23 to align with your meeting as well, and then we also met as the Strategic Planning Committee, and two main topics there. We talked about our self-assessment. Every couple of years or so, we do a self-assessment, 12 different categories, up to 18 questions within those categories, and we rated ourselves in the high 4s on a scale of 1-5, which was a little bit higher than we had rated ourselves two years ago. It was quite an analysis, and we talked about the items that maybe weren't as high rated and what we would do to address those. So we have a game plan for improving ourselves and how we operate and how we work, and we also have a report on [inaudible] planning, and where it especially pertains to our planning for technical positions and significant positions within the organization. And the efforts that we're doing there, identifying who we might need to have a backup for, if you will, [inaudible] knowledge could go away with all of the eligible retirements, and we want to make sure we keep as much of that as possible. So we had an update on that, and if there's any questions on those, I'll take that before I hand it over to Larry for the business report. No?

Mario: Questions for David? Okay.

David: All right, I guess you're all [inaudible] water level. All right, Larry?

Larry: Maybe that should be the only statistic I give. Well, after two months of actual results through July 31, operating revenues are over budget by about \$1.7 million, and that's primarily due to higher than budgeted consumption, and our commercial business revenues are over budget by about \$144,000. Also, on a positive note, the operating and maintenance expenses are about \$890,000 under budget, and right now we're looking at that as being probably mostly timing, but we'll have to wait and see how the year progresses. When you do all the [inaudible], we're now projecting coverage of %114 with a short fall of \$750,000, whereas we had originally budgeted a \$922,000 shortfall. So we'll have to continue to watch that. There's still some uncertainty regarding the short and long-term impacts of the pandemic, including employment level and our customers' ability to pay.

Now, as of August 16, the raw water storage was at 94% which compares to not only a long-term average but also the number this time last year of 78%. So we are well ahead and we are ready for more hot weather.

Mark: I went out there this morning, and I think it's a little more after the rain.

Larry: That was as of Monday, Mark, so you're probably right.

Mark: Okay.

David: Water your lawns, everyone.

Male: Yes.

Male: Yeah.

Mario: Very good. Any questions for David? Larry?

Stephen: Mario, this is Steve. I have a question for Larry. I'm just surprised. Our revenues are up and yet we had a very rainy July. Has that sort of been corrected by the drought in August here?

Larry: Well, remember, this is two months of results, so this is lagging somewhat, and this is build consumption, so there's a lag there, Steve.

Stephen: Okay, yeah, it just didn't make sense to me. Thank you.

Larry: Yeah, when we go to monthly billing that will be pretty much up to the minute when we report, but now there is a lag.

Stephen: Okay.

Brian: Larry, this is Brian. I do have a question. Does the fire impact our budget for the year or is that going to get covered by the loss of revenue with [inaudible] going down for a while, or is that going to get covered by insurance?

Larry: We'll have to see if it's covered by insurance. It's still a little bit too soon to tell. We're looking at the BFD's and what the cause of the fire was. It looks like it might have been a material issue, so that's something we have to continue to look at, Brian.

Mario: Good. Other questions?

(silence)

Thank you very much, David. Appreciate it, and Larry. Mr. Donofrio?

Jeff: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Other than the review of the Issuance Test Rate Application and submission of interrogatories, it's been quiet in the OCA's quarters. We don't have any pending consumer complaints as Steve reported in his report from Monday's Consumer Affairs Committee Meeting. Other than that, no report.

Mario: Okay, thank you.

Jeff: Thank you.

Mario: Any other business before the RPB?

(silence)

Okay, remember that next month it will be September 23, will be our meeting. Same time, 6:30, 7:00 public hearing. Stay cool, water your lawns, and thank you all very much for all the time you've put in, and Mark for keep pushing the invasive species issue. Finally got heard.

Mark: That's right. Finally got heard. You got it. I appreciate everything they're doing now.

Mario: Thank you all very much. Appreciate it.

Male: Thank you, Mario.