## South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority Minutes of the October 21, 2021 Meeting

A regular meeting of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority ("RWA" or "Authority") took place on Thursday, October 21, 2021, via remote access. Chair Borowy presided.

Present: Authority Members Present – Messrs. Borowy, DiSalvo, Curseaden, and Mss. LaMarr and Sack Management – Mss. Kowalski and Reckdenwald, and Messrs. Bingaman, Donovan, Norris, Olejarczyk, and Singh RPB – Mr. Malloy Staff – Mrs. Slubowski

Chair Borowy called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Reckdenwald, the RWA's Senior Vice President of Corporate Services, reviewed the safety moment distributed to members.

At 12:33 p.m., on motion made Ms. Sack, seconded by Mr. Curseaden, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to recess the meeting to meet as the Pension & Benefit Committee.

BorowyAyeCurseadenAyeDiSalvoAyeLaMarrAyeSackAye

At 1:35 p.m., the Authority reconvened.

At the request of Ms. LaMarr, the approval of the September 23, 2021 special meeting minutes was removed from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote.

The Authority voted on the approval of the minutes of its September 23, 2021 special meeting:

BorowyAyeCurseadenAyeDiSalvoAyeLaMarrAbstainSackAye

On motion made by Ms. Sack, seconded by Ms. LaMarr, and unanimously carried, the Authority:

1. Approved the Capital Budget Authorization for November 2021.

**RESOLVED**, that the Vice President of Financial Reporting and Analysis is authorized to submit to the Trustee one or more requisitions in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 for the month of November 2021 for transfer from the Construction Fund for capital expenditures. Each such requisition shall contain or be accompanied by a certificate identifying such requisition and stating that the amount to be withdrawn pursuant to such requisition is a proper charge to the Construction Fund. Such requisitions are approved notwithstanding the fact that amounts to be withdrawn for a particular project may exceed the amount indicated for such month and year in the current Capital Improvement Budget

but will not cause the aggregate amount budgeted for fiscal year 2022 for all Capital Improvement Projects to be exceeded.

- 2. Received Monthly Financial Report for September 30, 2021.
- 3. Received the Accounts Receivable update for the period ended September 30, 2021.

BorowyAyeCurseadenAyeDiSalvoAyeLaMarrAyeSackAye

At 1:38 p.m., Mr. Olejarczyk entered the meeting.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President and Chief Executive Officer provided introductory remarks on the presentation of the Ten-Year Model presentation ("Model"). He stated that the presentation would include an overview of the base case model, the target model, opportunities and vulnerabilities, scenarios and sensitivities, and next steps. Mr. Bingaman noted that the model was developed using the projected capital program and the target model included steps to mitigate future rate increases. The capital program used in the model includes updates associated with water treatment plant upgrades and dam upgrades.

Ms. Kowalski, RWA's Vice President of Financial Reporting and Analysis, presented the RWA's Budget Forecasting and Ten-Year Rate Modeling to the Authority. Ms. Kowalski reviewed features of the base case financial model and the target model, which included:

- Key assumptions
- Issuance test summary results
- Components of rate increases
- Capital planning update
- Leverage trends

Ms. Kowalski also reviewed opportunities and vulnerabilities and additional alternative scenarios. Next steps include the focus and execution of the RWA's Strategic Plan, preparing for the FY 2023 budget process, monitoring the FY 2023 budget versus the rate application and model assumptions, and continued communications with stakeholders.

Discussion took place regarding capital cost increases, impact of declining draft and fire rates.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Authority that the target model presented is appropriate and the best alternative for ratepayers, while also taking into consideration realistic expectations. Members thanked the management team for their work preparing the Ten-Year Model.

At 2:30 p.m., Mr. Olejarczyk withdrew from the meeting.

Chair Borowy held a discussion regarding a change to the 2022 calendar year meeting dates. The change would involve moving the Authority's monthly meetings from the third Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month. The change would accommodate management by providing an additional week to compile information for monthly and quarterly financial reporting. A change to the meeting dates in 2022 would not include the months of November and December to avoid conflicts with

holidays. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Authority that the change is practical and the board will discuss the change with the Representative Policy Board.

Authority members reported on recent meetings of the RPB committee meetings.

At 2:46 p.m., Mr. Donovan entered the meeting.

Ms. Reckdenwald provided an update on the status of COVID at the RWA.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"):

- Provided a commercial business update on the advancing of acquisition targets. Conversations are taking place with a national well services operation and other potential acquisitions. RWA is partnering with several commercial brokers to evaluate other business opportunities and management is continuing discussions with towns to partner on PipeSafe. Updated the Authority on RWA's recruitment efforts for a Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Environmental Services.
- Reported that members of management met with Senator Looney to seek support for the modification of the state plan for the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") monies to include the transfer of monies received by the state to special districts, such as the RWA, for water infrastructure. A meeting is scheduled with U.S. Representative Jahana Hayes' District Chief. Mr. Bingaman also reported that he met with North Branford officials to discuss the use of ARPA funds for water projects. A follow up meeting is scheduled later this month, as well as meetings with officials in Woodbridge, Branford, and possibly a follow-up meeting with Ansonia.
- Informed the Authority of the acquisition of 4.1 acres in Killingworth to be used for open space. The property is located within the Lake Hammonasset watershed and abuts approximately 55 acres of RWA owned property or easements.
- Highlighted that October 21, 2021 is Imagine a Day Without Water Day, for citizens to pause and appreciate the way that water systems and their employees positively impact lives and communities. In observance, the RWA sent a special thank you message to its employees for critical work in delivering reliable, high-quality water to customers. The RWA also placed an advertisement in the New Haven Register and CT Post.
- Commented on the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce's recent recognition by the International Economic Development Council ("IEDC") for its Small Business Resource Center, which the RWA helped create. Winners of IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development represents the best of regional economic development. The focus of the Center is to bring new jobs to the region and retain the businesses currently located in Greater New Haven.

At 3:03 p.m., Mr. Malloy withdrew from the meeting, and on motion made by Mr. DiSalvo, seconded by Ms. Sack, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to go into executive session to discuss negotiations. Present in executive session were Authority members, Mss. Kowalski, Reckdenwald, Slubowski and Messrs. Bingaman, Donovan, Norris and Singh.

Borowy Aye Curseaden Aye South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority October 21, 2021

DiSalvo	Aye
LaMarr	Aye
Sack	Aye

At 3:25 p.m., the Authority came out of executive session and on motion made by Ms. LaMarr, seconded by Ms. Sack, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

BorowyAyeCurseadenAyeDiSalvoAyeLaMarrAyeSackAye

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Curseaden, Secretary