Representative Policy Board **South Central Connecticut Regional Water District** January 27, 2022 **Meeting Transcription**

Mario:

Tony: Aye.

I think maybe the fourth Thursday might have thrown. Okay, well, we'll get going. It's 6:33pm by my clock. Welcome everyone. This is the Thursday, January 27th, regular meeting of the representative policy Board of the Region Water Authority. First item business is our safety moment on email safety. Incredible, the number of people who are getting scammed and falling for the email tricks. I know most companies are sending little phishing emails internally to see if you will fall for it. Hopefully you're not, but that's a whole lot easier than if you fall for some of the emails that have been going around that are actually trying to get people to fall for scams. So, please be cautious and don't open up anything that

doesn't look like it's real. Mario: So no problem with that. Thank you very much, Jennifer, for bringing that one up. The next item we have is the approval of the minutes of December 16th, 2021. Tony: [inaudible 00:09:56]. Mario: If there's a motion... Tony: I make a motion still moved. Mario: Okay. We have a motion. Second? Mike: I second a motion. Mario: Thank you, Mike. We have a second. Any corrections, additions or amendments to the motion? Okay. Hearing none. All those in favor. Say aye. Mike: Aye.

Representative Policy Board January 27, 2022 Greg: Aye.

Mario:

All opposed? abstaining.

Brian:

Abstain. That's Brian.

Mario:

Brian. Very good. Thank you all. We're going to move on to communications and I just wanted to give you a little bit of an update very quickly. Jennifer has been diligently working with you all to try and get up to speed on teams. If you aren't using that, we're going to stay on the zoom platform for the RPB through the month of February. And the reason that we're doing that is I'm a little nervous with the public hearing, we have coming up at the end of February; presumably if you vote that through. I want to make sure that we have everyone is comfortable with working in that platform. And Jennifer's comfortable throwing people out just in case she needs to. And she's had a lot of good bouncer lessons with zoom. We're going to do that through February. And then in March, we'll be transitioning into teams. So you still have time to get your lessons in.

Mario:

And we are working on a hybrid solution that Prim is working on diligently. And hopefully we'll get that moving along soon. And then as the numbers adjust throughout the state in Connecticut and New Haven, especially, we'll start to look at bringing some people back in for meetings. You all should have patience and play it by ear and, and we'll see how things go. That's a little bit of an update. If anyone has any questions, then we'll move on. The mileage rate when we get to that point, or if you're in the land use committee and you go on all those great field trips, mileage rate is now .585 cents per mile. Make sure from January 1, on you make that adjustment on your reports and the RPB-4 report was included in your package. I believe it was going through with the finance committee and there's any major questions. Otherwise, please be happy to bring it up with finance.

Mario:

Thank you. Speaking of finance, I did get a text back from Tim and he forgot that he has a meeting tonight at seven. He's not attending. We do have a motion that was sent out on the finance committee's recommendation on completeness and process for the authority's application on the Lake Gaillard water treatment plant: the clarifiers recycled pump station, concrete restoration project heating bit, ventilating air conditioning, and also electrical. If you recall with discussions, the management is putting together grouping projects at the same location to try and get economies of scale by having the disruption happen at once instead of a bunch of small projects that you have to manage each one independently. So, and this way we see kind of what's going on as opposed to little bits and drips and drabs, here and there. This is the resolution on your screen. If you'd like I could read through it, or if anyone would like to waive the reading of the resolution. We have to do that.

Jennifer:

I'll make a motion to wave the reading of the resolution accepted as shown.

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| Jay: |
| Hold second. |
| Mario: Jay seconded. Okay. All those in favor? Waving the reading. |
| Jay: |
| Aye. |
| Tony: Aye. |
| Greg: Aye. |
| Mario: |
| Okay. Anyone opposed? Is there a motion to accept the resolution as shown? |
| Jamie: I'll make the motion to accept the resolution as shown. |
| Mario: |
| Thank you, Jamie. Second? |
| Steve: |
| I'll second. |
| Mario: |
| Is that Steve? |
| Steve: |
| Steve? Yeah. |
| Mario: |
| Steve. Okay. Second. Discussion on the resolution. Okay. Hearing none. All those in favor. |
| Mike: |
| Aye. |
| David: |
| Aye. |
| |

Jamie:

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| Aye. |
| Mario: |
| Opposed. And abstaining. Okay. Jamie, you must recover because we will need you to preside over the meeting next February when we have the public hearing. So thank you for volunteering for that. Hopefully the medications wear off by then. We have the RPB fourth quarter compensation for 2021. |
| Mr. Clifford: |
| So move it found substantially, correct. |
| Mario: |
| Thank you, Mr. Clifford, is there a second? |
| Greg: |
| I second, from Greg. |
| Mario: |
| Okay. We had a second. Thank you, Greg. Any additions, corrections, amendments? All those in favor, signified by saying aye. |
| Greg: |
| Aye. |
| Jamie: |
| Aye. |
| Mario: |
| Opposed and abstaining. Okay. Thank you very much. That's all the business items we have. Finance committee, I would ask Tim, but he's not here. Was there a deputy finance committee member to give highlights? |
| Charles: |
| I would simply refer to the minutes as drafted. |
| Mario: |
| Yes. Okay. If anyone had any questions on the minutes that were distributed? We'll give Tim twice as hard a time next month when he comes back, if that's acceptable to you, Tom? |
| Tom: |
| It most certainly is. |
| Mario: |
| All right. So land use committee. We have a pinch hitter, Mr. Harvey. |

Bob:

Yes, we do. We had our meeting on Wednesday, the 12th, and we had a nice presentation from Mr. Henley regarding the water Chestnut harvesting that happened over the summer. And some of their thoughts was believed that it's going to continue for a while. you'll probably hear some more updates regarding the water Chestnut harvest at Furnace pond. We also, John had the review of some of the properties and I'm going to leave the reservoir levels for Larry, I hope. But other than that, it was a very good meeting. And anyone has any questions.

Mario:

Thank you, Bob. Questions? All right. Thank you very much. We'll move on to consumer affairs committee and Steve, you've got a.

Steve:

Yeah, Mario, Thanks.

Mario:

Yeah.

Steve:

Our committee met twice since our last meeting December and this past Monday. In December, Prim was at the meeting with his staff, Laura Gonzalez and Dana Bochan to update us on some customer service initiatives. The first thing we talked about was the continuous consumption alerts that are now going out. I was kind of surprised we had a thousand calls and a thousand letters, emails as well. That should go a long way toward helping customers quickly identify any issues and keeping those things from escalating. Good improvement there.

Steve:

Very significant improvement that they've been working on for a while is a customer escalation dashboard and that dashboard tracks type and source of the issues that they're working on. It tracks the dates to resolve it also tracks the town and the type of issue. All of that information and, and more that it collects helps them understand their own performance in terms of dealing with customer issues. It can help with training issues and if they feel that some issues have not been resolved as well as possible, they have the data to used to make improvements. This is a very significant tool and improvement kudos to them for doing this really excellent work.

Steve:

Other customer initiatives, we've talked about include pipe-safe funneling options, now available. In December, they were expected to launch customer portal, mobile app for self-service for customers. And that time monthly billing was expected for January, which occurred, but we don't have much information yet on that. We also got a brief update on the customer information system, RFP process. At that point, they had made a lot of progress moving through the process and had gone out it down to four potential vendors and an application to the RPB is expected in February.

Steve:

Greg:

In January, this past Monday at our meeting, Rochelle was there to present the same inform on build consumption that she gave to the finance committee. The info was for the years, 2018 to half a year, currently '22. And though it appears an overall downward trend continues of 1%;2021 was pretty much an anomaly because of the increase in residential sales, which is the biggest portion, due to the pandemic. Apparently that that has continued somewhat since pandemic has continued. '22 is a little questionable.

| pandemic. Apparently that that has continued somewhat since pandemic has continued. '22 is a little questionable. |
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| Greg: |
| It all works for me. |
| Steve: |
| And weather is also a variable that could change the shovel and a plot as well. There are no expected changes in wholesale water sales. And we talked a little bit too about the monthly billing and customer reactions to that. If you think about it, our quarterly billing, even out the bills for customers because the usage is primarily in the summer, early fall. Now customers are going to get a bill in January and it'll continue to go up. Although no one bill will be higher than the quarterly bill. For a while in the summer, they're going to get bills higher than they expect as a monthly bill, I think. We'll have to see how that all works out. Jeff, at both meetings report, no customer issues, which is a good situation. And we approved his budget for the coming year, which remains at the same level and anticipation of projects that the RPB works on. And our next meeting will be February 28th. That's the new |
| Mario: |
| Any questions for Steve. Okay. Thank you very much. Before we move on to David, part of what will be happening tonight is an update on solar. There was a question that was raised by the RPB and I asked that they prepare it as part of the authority management report, as opposed to having a separate big blown out presentation to answer kind of a question inquiry that you had. And we've talked about having a couple of more of these as we go down the road updates, specific topics as we move along. If you'd rather see the long, big PowerPoint presentation with all the slides, please let us know. We're just trying to make it a little bit more efficient for everyone here. And so with that, I will turn it over to David. |
| David: |
| All right. Thank you, Mario and members, a good evening all as well. We had a robust meeting this afternoon and we first met as the pension and benefits committee. So Suzanne would like to report on that. |
| Suzanne: |
| Hi everybody. And good evening. Can you hear me okay? |
| Mike: |
| Yep. |
| Brian: |
| Yes, |

Yes.

Suzanne:

Great. Thanks. Very much. Morgan Stanley provided their mark commentary as they do every quarter and reviewed quarterly performance of the pension and viva plans. The return for the fourth quarter ended December 31st, 2021. And for the pension and Viva plans, we reported a 4.45%, which is 2.76% of percentages above more than the actual hour return for the quarter, which was 1.69%. And that's based on the 6.75% annual rate. Returns for the 12 month period from December 31st, 2020 to December 31st, 2021 were reported to be 11.43% or 4.68% points above the actual return for that same period of 6.75%.

Suzanne:

Just keeping in mind that during the course of that period from January to May, when the percentage rate, the actual [inaudible 00:24:53] rate was changed, it was 7%. For the period, June 1st, 2021 through December 31st, 2021, which is the fiscal year to date. The return was reported to be 4.62% or 0.68 percentage points more than the actual aerial return for this period of 3.94%. Again, based on the 6.75% for that period. As a follow up to the 401k discussion at the last committee meeting, a resolution regarding the delegation of routine matters, and the committee receiving an annual 401k report was reviewed and subsequently approved by the authority board. That was really the business of the pension and benefit committee. Are there any questions?

Mario:

Thank you, Suzanne.

Suzanne:

Thank you, Mario. Good night, everybody coming back to you, David.

David:

Thank you. And we also met as the sole member of the Clear Bennett watershed fund, and we met with your old colleague, Brian Stone, who heads that group and at his, and the committee's recommendation, we appointed April Capon. The authorities recently hired public relations person to be a member of that board. It brings them up to 13 members, but Rob [inaudible 00:26:18] will be retiring when his term is up in April. Then it'll go back down to 12 members. They could have up to 15 members, but we thought she would be a great asset with, with her role with the authorities, similar to the way Kate used to be involved. Although now that she's not with the authority, she's still on that board as a public member, but so we appointed her... Pull up my agenda again. Then we also met as the compensation committee and Tony heads that so we'll ask for a report from him.

Tony:

We did meet today and took up three issues. One was looking at the CEO's personal priorities for the coming year. Second was to look at all of the '22 strategic plan action initiatives, and to hear a presentation about the progress of the diversity, equity and inclusion program. All of those occurred, no changes were made in any of them. I think there's, you're going to hear a presentation, I think, in the coming months from the diversity group. I'll leave it at that the others were occurring in executive session. Thank you.

David:

Thank you, Tony. Any questions for Tony?

Tony:

All right, Mike. I can't answer them.

David:

Well, you answered every question that was asked Tony good job. And now we'll move on to the business end of things, which we'll include that solar update. We'll ask our president, Larry to give his [inaudible 00:28:04] to give his report. I see you are having some volume issues, but he's not on mute. Now we hear you, Larry.

Larry:

Okay. Sorry about that. Anyway. Good evening, Mr. Ricozzi. Good evening, everyone. Thank you. And before I do the business results, I'll ask Paul Joseph, who is our interim VP of HR to provide a COVID update as we've had some activity since the December meeting, Paul.

Paul:

Okay. Okay. Thank you, Larry. I just want to fill you in as of Monday, we had 64 confirmed cases and this is an increase of 21 cases since the last reporting period. Omicron is still an issue and we're closely watching it. There's a COVID committee meeting tomorrow at nine. Our vaccination rate has increased, however, from 81 to 85%, and we're hoping to continue to get that number to go up. Mask mandate remains in effect for all indoor locations, both at 90 Sergeant and at the treatment plants. We've been very vigilant about cleaning every Saturday. We do electrostatic spraying, again, both at 90 Sergeant and at the plants. There's a daily midday sanitizing of common areas at 90 Sergeant, including doors handles and tables every day.

Paul:

Currently, as of yesterday, I didn't check today's rate; the kinetic COVID positivity rate is 11.36, which is still very high. We will watch that and continue to monitor that. At present, we have current employees are working remotely until February 4th and we'll make a determination on the 2nd, informing them whether or not we'll continue working from home or return to the office.

Larry:

Any questions of Paul on the COVID update?

Steve:

Right? This is Steve. Just curious about the number of people. It's not just an number, but has that been significant in terms of operations and who was out or sort of guarantined

Paul:

Because we have so many people working for home, we've been able to continue to operate without major interruption.

Representative Policy Board January 27, 2022 Steve: Have you had anybody in the power plants, in the processing plants come down with it? Paul: I don't know. Larry: We've had a few Steve, but they self-quarantined and then they came back to work. That has an impacted the water treatment facilities. Steve: Okay, good. Thank you. David: Okay. Critical operations have been able to be maintained with safe levels of staff. Larry: Okay. In terms of the financial report, after seven months of action results through December 31st, our operating revenues are over budget by about \$265,000. And that's due to our commercial revenues and other proprietary revenues being over budget by \$376,000; offset by water revenues being under budget by about a hundred at \$11,000. Operating and maintenance expenses are about \$2.7 million under budget. That's the good news. And when you do all the pluses and the minuses, we're projecting coverage of 116% with no shortfall. As you recall, we had originally budgeted about \$922,000 in terms of a shortfall to close out the fiscal year. This projection does include the rate application, including depreciation and the bond pricing. The projection also reflects an estimated one time only impact associated with the big bang conversion to monthly bill, as well as lower than anticipated pilot. A reduction in the fiscal '22 debt service payments, which is primarily due to DWSRF financing and higher than fiscal year build consumption. Larry: That all said due to the pandemic still lingering in the state and us and reaching 13%, as Paul said, there is uncertainty regarding the short and long term financial impacts of the variant of the pandemic and its in variant, including employment levels and the customers' ability to pay. Now for the highlight as of January 18th, Raw Water Storage was 86% compared to a long-term average of 77% for this time of the year. David: We got plenty of water, Larry:

We got plenty of water. everybody go out and use it, turn on your sprinklers.

Jamie:

That's my [inaudible 00:34:06]

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Mike:

Won't need them tomorrow, Saturday.

Larry:

That's right. Anyway, that concludes my report. And thank you very much.

Mario:

Thank you, Larry.

Jamie:

Larry, this is Jamie. I want to commend you on your hiring practices and planning practices with all the transitions that we had with serious leaders on your team, retiring or leaving for whatever reason. You managed to bring on what appears to be a really solid placement team and kudos to you and your group for handling that so well.

Larry:

Well thank you very much, Jamie. I do appreciate that. Team's done a great job coalescing and supporting one another, I might add. We were fortunate to find Paul as an interim Vice President of HR and he stepped in and we haven't missed a beat there. Of course, Sunny you've met as our VP of engineering and environmental services. He is certainly doing a great job of stepping in and taking over for Ted and is busy getting up to speed on all the different initiatives that are going on in the organization. Thank you very much. Hopefully I'll soon be able to announce a replacement for the HR VP as well.

Jamie:

Well, I mean with Rochelle's, I guess we'll say reassignment, she's done tremendous. With Beth's departure, you really had a lot going on and you've managed to handle it with seamlessly.

Larry:

Thank you. It's all due to great teamwork. I'll tell you couldn't be done without it. If there's no other questions, I'm going to have Amy Velazquez, who is in her capacity of heading up our solar energy work with other alternative evaluations. She's going to give a quick flyover of the solar update. Give you a little bit of background on, on the project itself at the Hamden well field and then a little bit of an outlook. Amy I'll turn it over to you.

Amy:

Great. Thank you, Larry. I'm always happy to talk about solar. It would be a great way for us to reduce our costs if you want to advance the slide, Jennifer. This is a picture of the North Sleeping Giant Solar Array. Next slide. The Solar Array began operation in 2015, it's approximately a one Megawatt Solar Array covers approximately five acres. We built it on land that wasn't prime forest. It was already disturbed and primarily covered in invasive. We constructed it through a power purchase agreement. Basically, we pay the solar provider per kilowatt hours. In 2015, its first year of operation, it produced about 1.4 megawatts which amounted to about 108% of the sites' energy use. Next slide. I don't know how well you guys can see this, but this gives a summary of our savings from 2018 to 2021.

Steve:

Amy, this is Steve. Why has that been dropping each, was it each year there?

Amy:

The big peak in 2019 is because UIs rate went up. There was a bigger difference between what we were paying for the PPA and what UI. There was additional savings. The rate dropped in 2019. Then at the end of 2019, beginning of 20, we went out to bid for electricity and we got a good rate. It's not that it's producing less, it's that we're in a more advantageous position with our electricity contract. It makes the savings looks like they're lower, but between 2018 and November 2021, we saved approximately \$170,000.

Mr. Clifford:

Thank you.

Jamie:

Yeah. It might be helpful to see the graphic of maybe expenditure for electricity that might reflect better the cost versus this.

Amy:

Okay. Okay. And get that for you guys.

Amy:

Let's see. We are averaging six to seven months with no generation or transmission charges for the array. Which I think is, is pretty good with the weather we've been having the last several years, if you want to go to the next slide. I know somebody asked a question about where we were with virtual net metering. To give you a summary, what we have right now with the solar array is net metering. It's basically each month, they look at what we've used versus what we sent out to the grid. And if there's a surplus, we bank that and then use that bank later in the year when we don't have as much production. Virtual net metering would be if say we built a solar array and 90 Sergeant drive wanted to use that electricity to offset lake, the large electricity.

Amy:

That program restricted to the state agricultural and municipal customers, Lori Vitagliano has been working since 2011 to try to get us included as a political subdivision. CWWA has also worked to get private and public water utilities added. Unfortunately, we have not been successful. And I think it's likely that we will not be successful simply because we're the only political subdivision. We don't have other people lobbying for us against the utilities. But if you want to go to the next slide.

Amy:

So even though we don't have virtual net metering, we can still get savings. We're evaluating several of the water treatment sites for installing rooftop solar. We've got a couple sites where we're looking at ground Mount solar. I'm working with a team from across the RWA, from finance to engineering, to operations, to try to pick the best site to determine moving forward. The other thing is UI the utilities in general have a new program for solar. You can either do, a netting tariff where basically it's similar to north sleeping giant, where the energy from the solar array offsets your electricity use on site, but you

get a per kilowatt hour credit versus right now you get straight, sorry, let me say that again. The future one, you would get a dollar credit based on the kilowatt hours. Whereas right now we get straight kilowatt hours.

Amy:

If we've taken from the grid 5,000 and we've put in a thousand, we only pay for 4,000. Whereas the future program they'll convert it with the cost per kilowatt hour and give us a dollar program, a dollar benefit. That's the netting tariff. There's also the buy all program where basically you install a solar array of use

| and all of the electricity goes to the grid and you simply get a check. Right now we're looking at which those two programs would be most beneficial as well as, the best way to finance these programs. Cau we know that the capital budget is tight for the next couple years. We don't want to try to throw a million dollar solar array on top of it. If you want to go to the next slide. I think I covered a lot of it already. |
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| Charles: |
| Excuse me, excuse me. |
| Amy: |
| Yes. |
| Charles: |
| You know, any sites that would be ground level. I would hope that it would come before the land use committee. I mean |
| Amy: |
| Yes |
| Charles: |
| We discussed this a long time ago. I mean, it would be kind of disturbing to see like 10 acres of forest. |
| Amy: |
| No, we're not looking at anything like that. The ones we're looking at the largest one is like 0.7 megawatts. It's slightly smaller than an acre and I think it's actually going to get reduced in size. The other one we're looking at are like 0.2 acres. |
| Charles: |
| I'm not totally against it. I'm just saying |
| Amy: |
| Yes. |
| Charles: |

As the long that, when we we're at lake Salt. One year I said, "well, look at those trees over there. Now imagine 10 acres of totally cleared a solar panels there."

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| Amy: Yeah. no, that's not what we're planning. |
| Charles: Okay. |
| Amy: All the areas we're looking at are disturbed, basically they're grass and we mow them. |
| Charles: That's right. Okay. Gotcha. Like I said, I'm not totally against it. I just |
| Amy: Right. |
| Charles: Would come before the land use committee and our board. |
| Amy: Yeah. There is the modification to the renewable energy project procedure. We did get an exemption for rooftops and very small solar with a caveat that we at least present to the land use committee and let them know what we're doing. |
| Charles: Thank you. |
| Amy: Okay. |
| J.J.: I'd like to this is Jay Jaser from Orange that you referred to \$170,000 that we, how did you say that? |
| Amy: It would save generation charges. |
| J.J.: It would save. |
| Amy: Basically, it's a voided costs. |
| J.J.: Yeah. Would that then equate to the fact that it would have reduced our UI billings? |

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| Amy: |
| Yes. |
| J.J.: [inaudible 00:45:05]. |
| [maddible 00.45.05]. |
| Amy: |
| Yep. |
| J.J.: |
| Okay. All right. Thank you. |
| Amy: |
| You're welcome. |
| Jamie: |
| And Amy have we broken can even yet? |
| |
| J.J.: I'm sorry? [crosstalk 00:45:17] |
| Till Soffy: [crosstalk 00.45.17] |
| Amy: |
| Because we're doing it through the PPA, it's a 20 year contract, but each year we've seen savings. To me that would say we've more than broken even |
| |
| J.J.: Very good. Yes. Thank you. |
| very good. Tes. Thank you. |
| Steve: |
| Amy, this is Steve again and I have two questions. |
| Amy: |
| Yeah. |
| Steve: |
| Do you have to be ,sort of, purchasing electricity at a particular site to have a solar array where you could put it into the grid and get a check for it? |
| Amy: |
| My understanding is yes. You cannot put it on sites that don't have electricity usage. |
| Steve: |
| Okay. |

Representative Policy Board January 27, 2022 Amy: It does kind of limit things. I think you're also restricted in size. You can't over build the array to try to get straight revenue. If you're using a hundred megawatts a year, then it limits your size. Steve: Yeah. You would think they'd encourage or we'd wanting to generate electricity... The utilities are a very powerful lobby and they are for profit companies. Steve: The other question was, do you see a trend toward reduction in size of panels that might produce the same amount? Amy: Yes. Because we actually looked at putting a solar array at Lake Gaillard a couple years ago and it covered a very large portion of the property and it was one megawatt. We're now looking at covering a fairly small portion of the property and it's 0.7 megawatts. I think the efficiency of the panels has increased dramatically. Steve: Great. Thank you. Amy, Bob Harvey. I don't know if now's a good time, but I know when we were looking to do the project earlier in Branford. Amy: Yep. Bob: The DEP came back and said that the solar arrays could not be on class one or two properties. Have they changed that? Amy: You need DPH approval to put them on class one or two property, whereas you don't need approval for class three. Bob:

Is that where we're looking to put these new arrays in class three?

Amy:

One of them is class three. DPH doesn't care if you put them on a roof, we would notify them in that situation, but they don't give approval because you're not disturbing the land. There is two sites we're looking at that are class one or two, but because it's already disturbed area, I think DPH would give its approval.

Bob:

Okay. That's interesting to hear. Cause I know before they were worried about possible PFAS leaking out of the arrays.

Amy:

Yes they were. When we went through the process a couple years ago, we had gotten it to the point where they would've given their approval for the project. We had eased their worries regarding PFAS with the data we provided them. We just happened... Our W.A. decided not to move forward with the project.

Bob:

Okay. Now how about efficiencies of what's up there we're presently using? Are the efficiencies starting to roll off? It's been there for six years.

Amy:

I think it's estimated that it loses 0.5% efficiency per year. You will get some drop off, but it's not a huge amount.

Bob:

Okay. That's interesting.

Amy:

Yeah.

Bob:

Thank you.

Amy:

No problem. Is there any other questions? All right, Larry, I guess I'll turn it back to you.

Larry:

Thank you very much for the update.

Amy:

No problem.

Larry:

Thanks Amy. For the update. Appreciate it. And if there are no further questions that concludes management's report for the evening.

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| Bob: Larry, Bob Harvey. |
| Larry: Yes? |
| Bob: Where do we stand on the prospect dam. |
| Larry: That I don't have at the top of my head. Maybe Sunny might know that. |
| Sunny: Yeah, at this point of time, we are evaluating options on the dam itself. We are at 45% design and the cost that is coming in is on the higher side because we have a few copper dams up stream of it, as well as some design options of ground in the stone phase of the existing plant that's there. We have gone back to both, I would say the engineers of record as well as the value engineering firm to look at further options. And we are also in discussions with a few other, I would say consultants who have been in this industry for almost even 30, 35 years to find the best practices. So we can adopt those to find the solution that meets the design criteria. |
| Sunny: |
| I as well as, taking it to account the cost considerations to develop a very cost effective program. We are moving the design along while we are considering alternatives to see whether there could be some other done. I would say some kind of a dam upstream, which will actually provide the same sense of; I would say the design while at the same time, not undergoing, I would say doing full fledged grouting of the face because that's where the additional cost is coming in. It's an ongoing process, I think, in the next week or so, we are going to have more meetings and we are evaluating further options. |
| Bob: |
| Okay. Because I keep getting some questions and I don't have answers. Thank you for the update. And I'd like to be kept abreast of what's happening. |
| Sunny: |
| Absolutely. Bob, any particular questions that you're looking for? I mean, I can probably would say go into it. If you have any particular questions that if you have something you can shoot an email or if you have, I would say, if you want to meet up or I would say, give me a call later on too. We can catch for sure. |
| Bob: |
| Yeah. Thank you very much. |
| Sunny: |
| Yep. Thanks. |

January 27, 2022 Mario: Okay. Other items? David, all set? David: I think we are with that. Thank you. Mario: Thanks. Okay. Thank you very much. I did ask for... Since we have a number of new faces on the screen and I believe Jennifer has been working with Larry to get that list, you'll be receiving the senior management team list with contact information. Because as you know, I'm sure we all get calls from people within our towns asking for information. We just ask... Larry asked if you do communicate, if you send them an email... Say you send Sunny an email with a question you have from someone in town, copy Larry, just so he's aware of what's going on and he's not blindsided like I usually do to him. Sorry about that, Larry. So we'll do that. Mario: You should be receiving that soon as well as maybe a TMO coming out. If there's no further business, we'll look for a motion to adjourn. Tony: So move. Mario: Thank you second? Larry: Second. Mario: And, and we're adjourned at 7:17pm. Appreciate it everyone. And be well, have a great quiet weekend.

Representative Policy Board