

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**March 9, 2022  
Meeting Transcription**

Peter:

All right. We'll start. If she joins in, she joins in. All right. This is our regular meeting for Land Use, March 9th, 5:30. First order of business is the Safety Moment. Everyone has it in front of them, I'm sure. Jennifer, you got it on the screen. Mark, you probably have a hard copy. Just read it. It's exciting because we're going into spring, repairs, talking about molds, et cetera. So look at that. All these Safety Moments mean a lot. And then I want a motion to approve minutes from February 9th. [inaudible 00:03:19]. Second? Bob. Got that, Jen?

Jennifer:

I got it.

Peter:

All right. All in favor?

Group:

Aye.

Peter:

Opposed? So carried. All right. I can't wait. I was picking John's brain a little bit, but John's going to have a discussion on the 1901 typhoid epidemic. Is that how you pronounce that?

John:

That's right, yes.

Greg:

So that's our man, John Triana.

John:

What I want to do is I want to talk about an epidemic of typhoid that occurred in New Haven in the spring of 1901 and it is related to land. It is related to our water supply and, in fact, impacted all the water supplies across our state. So, what you're looking at is the front page of the Journal Courier on April 10th, 1901. I'm going to start the story just a week before.

John:

The health director, for the City of New Haven was Frank Wright. By April 1st and April 2nd, he had heard from different physicians in the city that there were several cases of typhoid that they had diagnosed. When this first came to Wright's attention, it was notable for two reasons. Number one, typhoid was around in New Haven in the 1900s. That wasn't a big surprise. But they were already seeing

the numbers of cases that they would typically see in a month, they were seeing in the period of one and two days.

John:

The other thing that was remarkable about it was that typhoid, as a seasonal disease in New Haven and Connecticut at that time, was really a fall disease. It was not noted to be very common in the spring or late winter. So all this had the interest of Wright and other officials very early in this epidemic. So, with that, after the first couple days of May, and he'd heard this from different physicians, they started ruling things out. They started looking at things like did all these people eat the same stuff? The answer was, no. Did they work in the same place? No. Did they go to the same church or go to the same school? The answers were no.

John:

Did they get milk from the same dairy? The answer was no. That was a common source of typhoid back there. But one or two commonalities you could say is that they were concentrated on the west side of New Haven and mostly in Westville, and they were all tied into the public water supply. So, with that, they started doing some digging. He went and started to talk to Mr. Whitney, Eli Whitney III and David Daggett, who were the heads of the New Haven Water Company at the time. They started talking about the water supply and started to talk to physicians up higher in the watershed, because all of Westville was fed from Lake Dawson at the time.

John:

They had to try to determine, did this come from the watershed, or from the water pipes? It certainly seemed like that was the case. That was the common element. If so, how did it get in there? By April 4th, he learns from a physician up in Woodbridge that there was a family up on the Dawson watershed that had come down with typhoid fever in January, February, and then March of 1901. So on the 4th of April, he goes up with the physician who was treating the family and decided to talk to them.

John:

And they talked to this family. The family was named Veith. They lived on, what was then called, the Straits Turnpike. It was a family of six people at the time. Both mom and dad were immigrants from Germany. All the kids were born in Connecticut. This, what you're looking at, is the affidavit from Adolph Veith, about the incident that happened with his kids and the typhoid that ran through the house.

John:

You can see it's dated April 12th, 1901. At the time of the illness with the kids, the physician told the father, Adolph, to go ahead and take all the excrement from the kids and make sure you bury it down deep in the ground every night so that it doesn't get spread anywhere and that everyone is safe. Well, in the affidavit, it says that he goes from his house down into the plowed field next door, by an apple tree, and he keeps a pick and a shovel there in order to bury it.

John:

You can imagine that, if it is in January and February of 1901 that the ground is going to be frozen solid. I don't know if you've ever seen a backhoe or an excavator try to dig frozen ground. You could just

imagine what a guy with a pick and shovel. He's not going to get very far. But, according to the affidavit, that's what he did. His wife would take care of it during the evenings. He would do it during the day. And this went on for two to three months, or at least two months.

John:

So what you're looking at here is the 1900 census records for the Veith family. Adolph and Martha are the parents. You see the four kids who are in the house. This is essentially exactly one year before the typhoid epidemic. So this would've been early April of 1900. The kids are Arthur, Constance, Rudolph, and Alfred. You can see that they're all in school at the time.

John:

All right. So just to give you an idea about where this was, and I'll give you, in the 1901 State Board of Health report, there was a whole section that was devoted to the typhoid epidemic in New Haven. The guy who wrote it, they even wrote on it that... They did not identify the family. They just put V with a big dash after it. Let me read you some of what was going on there.

John:

It says, "The conditions at the V farm. The farm consists of a few acres on Carrington Hill in the town of Woodbridge near the Bethany Line. The brook referred to is separated from the house lot by a woody pasture, except where it crosses at this northeast corner. The lot is all plowed land and slopes sharply to the brook, up to the house situated on the highway. The distance is about 325 feet and the rise is at 40 feet. Besides the house, there is a barn, privy and small buildings. The privy is directly back of the house and was over a shallow vault, which, at the time of my inspection, was full and overflowing on the surface. The surroundings of the house were untidy and indicated a careless habit of living."

John:

It goes on. "The typhoid cases at the V farm. The family consisted of Mister and Mrs. V, a daughter of 14 years and three sons, 16, 11, and nine. The first case of illness in the family during 1901 was that of the youngest boy, A, who became ill the latter part of January. The first physician who was called to the case, diagnosed it as typhoid fever. But on January 27th, the boy was placed under the care of another physician who saw him three or four times, but was uncertain as of the diagnosis.

John:

Because of the previous diagnosis, however, he directed that excreta be buried. The boy was ill for about four weeks. During the latter part of February, the eldest son, B, and second son, C, became ill. These cases were both seen on March 4th by the physician having charge of the first case. The boy, V, was little ill and was not confined to bed, but C was quite ill, being confined to bed about two weeks and making a slow recovery. The diagnosis of typhoid was made in each case. The girl left home about the time C became ill and went to the house of relatives in Hamden, where she was shortly ill with typhoid fever."

John:

Later on in the report, it goes on to state, According to the statement of the attending physician, directions were given that the "excreta should be buried," but whether these directions were carried

out, he was unable to state as he had visited the first cases three or four times, and in the later cases but once.

John:

"But once the testimony given by different members of the family to the writer was very conflicting. Mr. V stated at one time that all excreta had been buried at different points in the plowed lot, extending from the house, down to the hill, to the brook at the northeast corner of the lot, and at another, that it had been buried only at one spot about halfway down the hill. In all cases, the ground was so frozen that he had to use a pick ax with making the burials.

John:

Mrs. V denied knowing any of the directions had been given for bearing the excreta and stated that, during the daytime, they had been thrown into the privy and that, at night, she herself had thrown them on the ground on the other side of the road in front of the house, though she later stated that Mr. V did bury some of the material, but that he was too busy to spend my much of his time in that way.

John:

So what happened is that the excrement of the kids that was contaminated was put on the ground or in the frozen ground from January to February into March. At that time, it was very frozen, and whatever they were putting out there quickly froze itself. But, the big event actually happened on March 10th and 11th when there was a short thaw in the first week of March. Then, on the 11th, especially, we got two and a half inches of rain where it was just thawed for the first couple of inches and then the rest was frozen.

John:

So it was like a mush, above it and then concrete below it. So all of the stuff that was thawed out then got moved by the rain. At that time, what you're looking at here is our land maps. And, at that time, Lake Watrous did not exist. I don't know if Jennifer could point. Can you use the pointer there, Jen? See the brook that's in the middle there? I don't know if it's better to give me control over something.

Jennifer:

Hold on just a minute. Let me escape out of here.

John:

If you want me to bring it up, I can do it and then I could use my pointer.

Jennifer:

Okay. That's fine. Let me get out of here.

John:

All right. Let me get going here and we'll go through these. Oh, sorry. There we go. Can you see the map?

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Yes.

John:

Can you see my pointer?

Group:

Yes. Yep.

John:

All right. Where the pointer is circling now, you can see the name, Martha Veith. This was their farm here and it actually extended over this way. So it's all these stone walls that you see in this direction. At the time, the Straits Turnpike, [inaudible 00:15:19] turnpike, came up this way from New Haven, took almost a 90-degree angle in front of their house and barn, which are these two structures seen on the map, went for a couple of hundred feet and then started going to the north. What you see here, this line that is diagonal, northeast to southwest, is now Morris Road. Okay. The Straits Turnpike then kept going this way. Then up here, where it says Straits, this is what is today called Brenton Road.

John:

The wider line that you see here is the current location of Route 69, where Morris Road has been extended all the way to Route 69 today. I'll show you on a map in a second that has this overlay on top of the current aerial photograph. But in this map, what I want to concentrate on, before we put on the aerial photograph, is that the V farm was here, the house was here next to the road. This stream back here is what all the material that got buried in the field got washed into. It went down into the stream.

John:

There's a nice waterfall. If you ever drive down this road, there's a nice waterfall that comes off of the ledge here. Then it goes into Watrous. Watrous was not built until 1913, so that did not exist at this time. The water in 1901 went down this stream and then entered from this small, unnamed stream, entered West River, which eventually dumped into Lake Dawson.

John:

So the question becomes, what are Whitney and Daggett and the New Haven Water Company going to do about it? The prescription was that they were going to shut off Dawson from all the water supply. They were to flush all the mains that Dawson connected to. And, like today, it's a dynamic system. It all depended on how pressures went in the distribution system. So that some days, depending on where you are, you always got Dawson water, but other locations, on other days, you may have gotten water from Lake Wintergreen.

John:

So they flushed all the water. They blew off all the water from the distribution system after Wright's visit up to the Veits and in consultation with Whitney and Daggett. Then, the instructions were to let the water sit in Dawson for a month, which they did, then to drain it completely, which they did, and then let it refill. It was quite a stressful time for our predecessors at the New Haven Water Company, making sure that water got to all these places. There was only really, ironically, only a handful, like a dozen or

so, houses that they had to scramble to get water to, in other words, that no other sources, like Wintergreen, could bring water to their locations.

John:

So let me turn out the aerial photograph to show you where the Veith farm is today. The buildings themselves are really under Route 69. Here's Morris Road over here. The green lines are property boundaries. This is Route 69 today. You could see, again, going back to the time in 1901, Straits Turnpike came up to here. Once it got to the Veith farm and the barn and the houses, it took a left going to the northwest and then continued up this way to current Brenton Road. Down here is our current Lake Watrous and you can see the stream in the back of the Veith property.

John:

So why was this so important? Obviously, it was a massive disruption to the New Haven Water Company's operations, but it turned into actually three very important things for all of water supplies, including New Haven Water Company's water supply. What happened is that Whitney and Daggett immediately hired this guy, George Fuller, who is a national expert in water treatment. The question was going to be, how are we going to prevent this from happening again?

John:

They knew at, by treating water at that time, you were going to decrease the incidence of typhoid by a third to a half. So just by having filtration, you will get rid of a lot, many of the cases of typhoid. So he was brought in and he recommended that the main thing was to recommend treatment of our water supply. The question became, it's ironic that it did not happen on the West River system. In fact, what they came up with, the recommendation, is to put a treatment plant at the supply at Lake Whitney.

John:

In 1902, just one year later, becomes our first filtered water in our system. What you can see here are photographs from our archives that show the original slow sand filtration plant being built in 1902 on Armory Street and off of Whitney Avenue. So the whole reason why our systems started to become filtered waters, was because of the typhoid epidemic in 1901.

John:

The other things that this touched off and started was that, in October of 1901, we hired our first Chief Sanitary Engineer, a guy by the name of Walter Connor. He becomes New Haven Water Company's first sanitary engineer. So he can oversee all this and do the bacteriological work to make sure that these things don't happen again. Finally, the thing that happened across the state as a result of the typhoid epidemic in 1901, was that a bill was passed in the state legislature, which gave water companies the right to enter, inspect and correct any issues, any threats facing water supplies across the state.

John:

So this was the beginning of what we today call watershed inspections, which is what Steve Vitko does. We can go onto anyone's property and start to inspect if we think there is an issue that is threatening the public water supply. I thought this was an interesting little story to share because it happened on our property, or what today is our property, and really not only changed the course of water supply in

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Connecticut, but specifically for the New Haven Water Company. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

Peter:

Any questions for John? John, thank you so much. That was a lot of research put into that. Very interesting.

Sunny:

Very good.

Brian:

Yeah, it was very interesting. I enjoyed that.

Bob:

John? John?

John:

Yes.

Bob:

When did chlorination start?

John:

I'd have to look that up. Chlorination did not start immediately. That was a later development. So the first thing was that the water was filtered, later on it would be disinfected. I can look that up and I'll get back to you.

Peter:

Good question.

Bob:

Thank you very much.

Sunny:

Hey, Bob, just chlorination, chlorination, I think, was originally, I would say, researched somewhere in 1890s and I think it came into prominence perhaps as each year went by, people started adopting it. But the chemical disinfection started somewhere around, I would say, 1900s, early 1900s.

Peter:

Thanks, Sunny. I think that's you, Jamie?

Jamie:

Yeah. Thank you, John. That was so interesting. I guess, before, and I must have missed the first couple of minutes, but before this event happened with that family, was there no filter system at all on the water? Was it just taken from a reservoir and run through drains into people homes? It was just water from the lake and you drink it?

John:

Essentially, yes. The only filtration you would say were there that there were trash racks and screens on the outside of the intakes. It would prevent large fish from entering, but it wouldn't prevent small fish from entering. Most of the screens, the mesh on them are pretty small, but in order to have the head that they needed, the pressure in the system, you can't make it that small. You wouldn't get sticks going in there but if there was a problem with turbidity, which they did see in March after the two and a half inch rain on the 11th, they saw that water was coming out cloudy and colored, turbid, in the Westville area, because of the heavy rains. That was a regular occurrence at those times.

Bob:

Very interesting.

Peter:

Yeah. Any more questions for John? Well, I think if we get a chance, you can read through the literature we have, and I'm sure that, if something comes to mind, we can always reach out to John next time we see him. Thanks so much, John.

John:

Sure.

Greg:

So, moving on. Updates, John, on our land use properties?

John:

So Jennifer has put up the summary from February on the screen. Our reservoir levels at the end of February are at 97%. At this time last year, we were at 89. The long-term average, excuse me, is 82. So we are water rich, very water rich at this time. We're doing fine. Most of the diversions to Gaillard are closed, except for the small little northward diversions, because we're at minus one. Everything else is full. That's how we manage the system. We can go up to minus one outside of the growing season. That's where we're at, at this point.

John:

Rainfall in February was 4.4 inches, which is about an inch over the long-term average, which continued what are the normal fiscal year that we've seen so far, 38 inches compared to the long-term average of above 34 inches. Land We Need for the Water We Use program, talked to property owners in Madison and North Haven, Cheshire. I received a draft. Sorry, did somebody have a question?

John:



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Okay. In Cheshire, we received a draft survey from Juliano for the 30-plus unaccounted-for acres off of Mountain Road. This is between Mountain road and the Prospect Town Line. We believe, through our historical and title research that it came along with the deed that gave us the property up in Cheshire in, I'm sorry, up in Prospect, in 1911. The deed actually went over the town line, although it doesn't say that. All the other research that we have viewed shows that that is the case, and we are solidifying our claim for this so that we can make sure that it's protected and not sold.

John:

The Ricci property, I contacted Cheshire town staff about the progress of the OSWA grant money. They said they're still working on it. At North Branford, Beech Street and Poms Lane properties, we forwarded a request from the Land Trust to walk the property. Linda's taking care of that. We talked to an abutter on Poms Lane about the surveying that they see going on. We need to do updated surveys of it in order to make the split, as requested by the town staff.

John:

At Brushy Plains Road in Branford, I spoke to Richard Shanahan, who is a member of the Branford Land Trust, about the discussion I had with the First Selectman back in January and forwarded requests from him to go walk that property. For the rental houses, 95 Ives Street, we closed on the property in February so we no longer own that. It was transferred to the new owner, named William Butterly.

John:

We worked out transferring the electric bill and are working on fixing the assessor's record since, if you had gone on, or maybe even today, they said they corrected it. We didn't have to do anything else when we talked to them this week. But if you had gone on to the Hamden assessor's GIS website, it would've shown William Butterly as the owner of 63 acres, which was not true. They didn't carve out the lot properly. That should be all taken care of at this point.

John:

At Skiff Street, I emailed the assistant town attorney for an update about the condemnation that we need in order to transfer the house, get that through the disposition application. So far, he has not gotten back to me. Back in the end of 2021, he said it would be done by the end of the first quarter. We see the end of the first quarter in our headlights.

John:

Forestry update, the only new things here are the things that are in bold. At Madison, the slash wall was complete and we're waiting the installation of the gate there. And at Silver Mine Road in Seymour, that slash wall harvest is almost complete, a much bigger crew, company, working on that so it has progressed a lot faster than what we did in Madison.

John:

Casey Cordes is our new forester. I did not have him come to this meeting, but I thought it would be better to introduce him on a meeting where we're meeting in person again. I'll have to talk to Jen and to Peter about what we want to do for April. It may be a little too ambitious to have something outside, but I know everyone enjoys being out to see the land, too. We might do that in April. I'll talk to Peter

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and Jen about that. His first day was the 7th of February, and he primarily worked with Josh, for being on boarded, getting all the training that he needs, and also learning the properties, procedure systems and all that stuff.

John:

We responded to a call from the Seymour town staff about the Silver Mine harvest. We sent a letter to a firewood cutter, McDonald, revoking his firewood permit. A little background on that. We had some ideas, or tip, that he was probably poaching on our property in Branford, near his firewood lot. The local EnCon officer did a patrol of our property. He was on the property, did not have his firewood permit on him, had no firewood-collecting equipment with him, but did have two unloaded firearms in his vehicle.

John:

We revoked his permit because you're not supposed to have firearms on our property at all anyway. So he is gone. Several of us, Casey, Josh and I attended a walk with Jerry Milne, who's the local DEEP forester for future timber sale at Naugatuck State Forest next to our property in Hamden. Casey prepared permit renewal packets for the 175 commercial and non-commercial firewood permittees that we have. Also. for the maple tapping people.

John:

Recreation, in the last month, Jeff renewed the Lake Chamberlain horseback riding permit. We had a couple of candidates for recreation positions, only one accepted the offer. He continues to search for additional staff because, if we don't find more people, then we can't go back to the pre-COVID scheduling that we used to do.

John:

We discussed the issuance of a permit to an Airbnb owner. Still trying to figure out how we might be able to do that. Excuse me. Jeff has been very active in reviewing the new fishing regulations that are being put out by DEEP, seeing how they may or may not impact us. He also took in all the entries for the photo contest and has been doing the judging online. That all gets done on Facebook now.

John:

We discussed replacing the fence at the Clark's Pond fishing area. In the last month, we ended the month with 5,601 permittees. This time last year we had over or 6,100, and last month we had just about the same amount. February is always a month where we basically see almost no difference from the permit numbers from January. I'd especially like-

Brian:

John?

John:

Yes, go ahead.

Brian:

The numbers there, do they need to be edited? Is that 2022, 2021? February 2022, 2021, January?

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John:

Oh yeah. For January, it should be 2022 and 2021. But those are the right figures. The wrong years.

Brian:

That's what I figured, but thought I'd just mention it so it can get corrected for whatever goes forward.

John:

You're correct. Yes. Thank you. Special activity permits. Linda has been issuing quite a number of them in February, which is a little bit unusual. But some of these are repeat people, like the Allingtown Fire Department coming to do cold water rescue work at Maltby Lakes. Also, you see there, the last one is Steven Trumbo, who was our special guest last month.

John:

So other items, encroachments and agreements, agricultural agreements. We received the Christmas tree report from the Caves. We discussed ideas for preventing trespassers in the fields off of Totoket Road in North Branford. This is a couple of hay fields that the Pages use for hay. And, at 167 Saltonstall Parkway, the claims handler for the Lucidos asked Murtha to get an extension, which we granted. Our attorney said that is common practice, so no problem there.

John:

At 8 Maiden Lane and Seymour, we corresponded with a new owner of the property, asking about license agreement for parking across the street. I have the signed license agreement in my office. She just needs to send in the money and we'll have Sunny sign it on our behalf.

John:

At Rabbit Rock Tank, we were contacted by T-Mobile, should be T-Mobile there, asking to install a new generator for their emergency power. We are reviewing the plans. At 95 Riverside Drive in Hamden, an abutter who had a license agreement, Mr. Byrd, we were notified by a neighbor that he passed away and we spoke to the estate, the attorney handling Byrd's estate, about how the license agreement works.

John:

For invasive plants, Josh, again, has been very busy on the forestry side, getting Casey running and up to speed. This last month there were only 61 acres that were mapped and nothing was treated, which is common for the winter anyway. The populations where he documented were in Madison and in Bethany, and we did sign the contract for the water chestnut harvesting that will take place later this summer.

John:

For the deer hunt, we held a meeting and Nicole held a meeting to discuss safety for this year's hunt. We secured the meeting space for pre-hunt meetings in September 2022. In September 2022, what we're actually going to do is use Brian's old haunts up at Lockwood Farm because they've got a nice big open pavilion, so even if COVID comes back, we'd all be outside and would be fine. Nicole was preparing to send out the hunt applications in March, which I believe have already gone out at this point.

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John:

The Rockland Road gate up in Guilford, we were notified by abutters the Woodbridge Sportsman's Association that the pin for the gate was cut again, which had just happened again in the last month. We put in a new work request again to repair that gate. Just another example of the vandalism and the environmental looting that goes on our property every day.

John:

Boundaries, we re-marked boundaries in Hamden, Bethany, Guilford, North Branford and East Haven, and worked on encroachment reports for Guilford and East Haven. The Shingle Hill Tanks site, we were contacted by Elizabeth Moore of the Connecticut Farmland Trust about easements that the Dwyers, those are the... Our parcel there in West Haven is completely surrounded by private land. We share a driveway to get to the water tanks, and the sisters who own it are named Dwyer, and they want to get an easement for their farm. We were talking to the Farmland Trust about what our rights are across the Dwyer property.

John:

At East Haven 1 and BR 17, which is south of Route 1 on the Branford/East Haven town line, I talked to our engineering people about the property line there, since they were planning to work on the outflow device construction there, which tempers the energy that comes out of Furnace Pond.

John:

Attachments. There are a few attachments for your reading that have occurred. A number of things, including the Lake Whitney dam construction project, which will be coming around the pike hopefully in the next year or two. And also talking about the big oil tanker that fell over on Route 42 in Cheshire, that Steve Vitko is very active in to make sure that it did not get into any of the public water supply, which, as you probably heard on the news, Route 42 was closed for multiple weeks as they cleaned up the site. With that, I'll answer any questions.

Jamie:

Did you give us an update on the Derby Tank? Is that something you can update us on, that stands?

John:

I will hand that over to Sunny because I do not know. I don't have any details on the Derby Tank.

Sunny:

Yeah, absolutely, Jamie. I think it's a very, I would say, pertinent question because, in the last week, we had, I would say, good news coming from Connecticut DEEP. There was a new person who started reviewing the documents in the last two months and what we have heard from them in the last week through an email, not officially through letterhead yet, that they have found that the site where the tank is going to be located is going to be free from encumbrance from, I would say, the original lien.

Sunny:

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So it was good news that we heard. Now we are hoping that the letter from the Assistant Commissioner comes through this week or early next week so we can actually bring on the contractors to start doing the work. So perfect timing for your question, actually.

Greg:

That's good news.

Sunny:

Yeah, it was. Yeah.

Jamie:

Thank you, Sunny. John, I thought your presentation was very detailed. It was so comprehensive, I didn't have questions. But I'm excited to meet Casey, so will look forward to that.

John:

Will do.

Peter:

Any other questions for John? John, you're always busy. It amazes me. You can't be bored at all.

John:

You betcha.

Peter:

Everyone all set with John? I believe so.

Jamie:

John, how many people you have on your team?

John:

I'm sorry, say that again?

Jamie:

How many people do you have on your team? You guys get a lot accomplished. I'm curious.

John:

For our department, you're asking?

Jamie:

Yes.

John:

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Yes. There are five people in the real estate department. Besides myself, there's the forester, Casey Cordes, there's the Invasive Species Management technician, Josh Tracy, there is the program specialist, Jeff Yale, who takes care of primarily on the land management side, he takes care of our recreation program, but he does a lot of other work for the lab and for environmental planning. And then there is Nicole Smith, who is our Natural Resources analyst and she handles a huge spectrum of tasks, from boundaries to our deer hunt, to our flood warning system, to all the hazardous-tree calls that we get.

Speaker 6:

Yeah. I saw her out at the Chamberlain doing the monitoring of the dam.

John:

That's right. She does that, too.

Jamie:

You've got a really good team. Nicole Smith, did she go to Yale School of Forestry?

John:

No, I believe her undergraduate degree was from NYU. I believe her undergraduate degree is actually in psychology or philosophy, one of those Ps. But then, as time grew, as she went on, she had a growing interest in the outdoors and in tree management, gardening too. So that brought her to us. Initially, she worked for us in the Recreation Department in her first stint with us. Then she got her arborist license, which she started working for a private arborist firm until April. It was right around this time last year where she joined, almost in April, so we're at 11 months now, not 12 months now, where she joined our staff as the Natural Resources analyst, which we were really looking for somebody with an arborist license, which she does carry.

Jamie:

I have to say, I am repeatedly impressed by your presentations, John, and the wide swath of accomplishments that you and your team compile on a monthly basis. You really do excellent work. We're lucky to have you.

John:

Thank you very much.

Peter:

I agree. Any other questions? Any questions for Sunny? No? All right. Our next meeting's April 13th, 5:30. Well, John, are we going to decide if we're going outside that next month or are we going to wait awhile?

John:

Yeah, well-

Peter:

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Or is that-

John:

We'll pow-wow. I'll send an email to you and Jen so we can discuss it and see whether or not we want to be optimistic and aggressive or if we should just be cautious for April.

Greg:

We're getting spring fever, though. Okay.

John:

Yes, we are. That's the point. I want to be outside, too.

Greg:

All right.

Mark:

You hope it doesn't snow in April.

Peter:

You're right, Mark. There you are, Mark. I thought you went to sleep.

Mark:

Nah, I listened to the whole thing. John, a great report.

Peter:

Yeah. Yeah. All right.

Mark:

Super interesting.

Peter:

If there's no more questions, I need a motion to adjourn.

Greg:

So moved.

Brian:

Second.

Peter:

All right. All in favor?

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Group:

Aye.