

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
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or
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AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1 Safety Moment
2. Public Comment: The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Residents and customers may address the Board.
3. Meet as Audit-Risk Committee: C. LaMarr
 - 3.1 Approve Minutes – February 27, 2025 meeting
 - 3.2 Risk Management Update Memorandum– *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in possible executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(19)(i)(ii), pertaining to security risk.*
 - 3.3 FY 2026 Committee Work Plan
4. Meet as Environmental, Health & Safety Committee: M. Ricozzi
 - 4.1 Approve Minutes – March 27, 2025 meeting
 - 4.2 Emerging Issues in Water Industry – Regulations, Water Quality and Quantity, and Funding, including PFAS - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(A) pertaining to trade secrets and Section 1-210(b)(19)(i)(ii), pertaining to security risk.*
 - 4.3 Legislative Session Update Memorandum
 - 4.4 FY 2026 Committee Work Plan
5. Act on matters arising from Committee meetings
6. Consider and act on amendments to the 401K and union pension plan – *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in possible executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(A)(B), pertaining to trade secrets and commercial and financial information.*
7. Consent Agenda
 - 7.1 Approve Minutes - April 24, 2025 regular meeting
 - 7.2 Capital Budget Authorization - June 2025
 - 7.3 Monthly Financial Report –April 2025
 - 7.4 Accounts Receivable Update – April 2025
 - 7.5 Consider and act on exemptions from public bid for FY 2026 - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in possible executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(B), pertaining to commercial and financial information.*
 - 7.6 RWA AI Policy
 - 7.7 FY 2026 Compensation Committee Work Plan
 - 7.8 Larry Bingaman – RWA Foundation Proposal
8. Reports on RPB Committee meetings
9. Updates: S. Lakshminarayanan
 - 9.1 RWAY/CIS Update: P. Singh
 - 9.2 Monthly Business Highlights: S. Lakshminarayanan
 - 9.3 *Blue Drop Update: L. Lakshminarayanan and R. Kowalski - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(A)(B), pertaining to trade secrets and commercial and financial information.*
10. [RECESS AUTHORITY MEETING TO ATTEND RPB MEETING]
11. Consider and act on resolutions to approve FY 2026 Budget and authorize filing with Trustee

** Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or by conference call. To view meeting documents please visit <https://tinyurl.com/4bw5kh8h>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email at jslubowski@rwater.com.

**South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
Environmental, Health & Safety Committee**

Minutes of the March 27, 2025 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Environmental, Health & Safety Committee (“Committee”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”) took place on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access. Chair Ricozzi presided.

Present: **Committee** – Messrs. Ricozzi(R) and Borowy, and Mss. LaMarr and Sack
Management – Mss. Kowalski and Calo(R), and Messrs. Lakshminaryanan, Hill(R),
Ruggiero, and Singh
RPB – Mr. Slocum
Staff – Mrs. Slubowski

3. MEET AS ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

3.1 APPROVE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 21, 2024

On motion made by Ms. LaMarr and seconded by Mr. Borowy, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its meeting held on November 21, 2024.

Borowy	Aye
Curseaden	Absent
LaMarr	Aye
Ricozzi	Aye
Sack	Aye

3.2 BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Committee members reviewed several memorandums and reports related to Environmental Hazards, AWIA 2025 Risk and Resiliency Assessment, Cyber Risk Update, and Staffing Succession.

Discussion took place regarding these memorandums.

3.3 RECREATION ACTIVITY

Committee members reviewed a brief memorandum and discussed upcoming events.

3.4. REMOTE WATER MONITORING BUOYS

Committee members discussed water monitoring and data collection and use.

3.5 PHYSICAL SECURITY

Discussion took place regarding roadmap status including technology and infrastructure upgrades.

At 12:56 p.m., on motion made by Ms. Sack and seconded by Ms. LaMarr, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting, and Chair Ricozzi and Capt. Ruggiero withdrew from the meeting.

Borowy	Aye
Curseaden	Absent
LaMarr	Aye
Ricozzi	Aye
Sack	Aye

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
Environmental, Health and Safety Committee
March 27, 2025

Mario Ricozzi, Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.

UNAPPROVED

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut 06511-5966
<http://www.rwater.com>

To: Authority Environmental, Health & Safety Committee
David J. Borowy
Kevin J. Curseaden
Catherine E. LaMarr
Suzanne C. Sack
Mario Ricozzi

Cc: Sunny Lakshminarayanan, Interim CEO
Elizabeth Calo, GM – HR

From: Nicoletta Blevins, Government and Community Relations Manager

Date: 13 May 2025

Subject: 2025 Legislative Issues Update

The 2025 Legislative Issues Update

Summary:

The 2025 legislative session convened on January 8 and will adjourn on June 4. Throughout the session, 196 bills have been introduced that could impact the South-Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) in some capacity. Of these, 137 bills did not advance past the committee process.

With three weeks remaining, significant legislative work continues in the General Assembly. Leadership has indicated that a Saturday session will be scheduled before the June 4 adjournment to address pending matters.

One key piece of legislation championed by the RWA is House Bill 7248: An Act Concerning Well Water Quality. This bill establishes a new subsection within the general statutes, granting the Commissioner of Public Health the authority to implement policies and procedures for managing cross-connections between water supplies while final regulations are being developed. The bill is currently awaiting action in the House of Representatives.

Below is a full list of priority bills that the RWA has been monitoring closely, along with a summary:

SB 1144: AN ACT REPEALING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (*oppose, died*)

- The proposed bill seeks to repeal specific amendments to the charter of the RWA. Specifically, it aims to eliminate sections 34 to 42, inclusive, of public act 24-1 from the June special session.

SB 732: AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE WATER PLAN TO BE AMENDED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE (*concerns, died*)

- This bill aims to amend the state water plan to incorporate considerations for climate change. It mandates the Water Planning Council to address the potential impacts of climate change on water resources, emphasizing the importance of climate resiliency in the management of these resources. Key insertions in the bill include the requirement for the council to "consider and address" climate change impacts and to recommend steps to enhance the climate resiliency of existing water resources and infrastructure. Additionally, the bill stipulates that the council "shall" submit a revised state water plan to address climate change, replacing the previous language that allowed for discretion in this submission.

SB 1245: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RESILIENT CONNECTICUT STRATEGY (*concerns, died*)

- This bill includes language requiring DEEP, DPH, and PURA to update water supply regulations to address climate resiliency and requires the Water Planning Council to update the State Water Plan to address climate resiliency.

SB 887: AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN COOKWARE FROM PFAS REQUIREMENTS (*oppose, died*)

- This bill proposes to amend the definition of "cookware" in the context of PFAS requirements. Specifically, it repeals the existing definition and replaces it with a new definition that clarifies what constitutes cookware. The new language specifies that "cookware" includes various durable houseware items used for food preparation and storage, but explicitly states that it does not include any polymer-coated durable items that are authorized for food contact by the FDA.

The primary purpose of this bill is to exempt certain cookware from the PFAS requirements that currently apply to consumer goods, thereby easing regulatory burdens on manufacturers and retailers of cookware that meets FDA standards.

SB 58: AN ACT AUTHORIZING RESIDENTS LIVING IN A FLOOD ZONE TO LAY UP TO TEN THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS OF LANDSCAPE FILL PER YEAR IN THEIR YARD (*oppose, died*)

- This bill aims to provide residents living in flood zones with the ability to lay up to ten thousand cubic yards of landscaping fill around their homes each year, with the establishment of a permit by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Additionally, the bill introduces an income tax deduction for the costs associated with installing this landscaping fill, which will be managed by DEEP.

HB 7066: AN ACT CONCERNING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, THE PURCHASE AND OPERATION OF CERTAIN DRONES, GRANTS TO CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND STUDENT ATHLETE COMPENSATION THROUGH ENDORSEMENT CONTRACTS AND REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENTS (*support, passed*)

- This bill establishes new definitions and restrictions for unmanned aircraft operations near critical infrastructure facilities, classifying violations as a class A misdemeanor. Critical infrastructure facilities include reservoirs, water treatment plants, distribution systems, pumping stations or wastewater treatment plants, and pump stations.

HB 6224: AN ACT CONCERNING WATER SUPPLIES AND THE WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR WORKFORCE (*support, died*)

- It mandates the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive plan that includes several key initiatives: improving the dam permitting process by expanding existing general permits, enhancing the preapplication and intake process for better project understanding, prioritizing permit reviews based on dam classification and function, collaborating with water utilities to address liability concerns related to the Department of Transportation's encroachment permit process, and providing incentives to attract and retain qualified water treatment facility operators. The plan, along with any legislative recommendations, is required to be submitted to the relevant General Assembly committee by February 1, 2026.

HB 6868: AN ACT ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING PREDICTABILITY (*support, awaiting action*)

- This bill aims to improve the predictability of environmental permitting by amending existing laws related to general permits and watershed-level compensatory mitigation. The bill repeals the previous provision that allowed the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to extend general permits for an additional twelve months after their expiration.

Instead, it allows the commissioner to keep a general permit active until a new one is issued or a decision is made not to issue a new permit, provided that notice is published at least 180 days before the expiration date. This change is designed to ensure that permits remain effective during the renewal process, thereby enhancing predictability for permit holders. Additionally, the bill introduces provisions that empower the commissioner to require watershed-level compensatory mitigation for activities affecting water resources, including the ability to mandate resource credits or participation in approved mitigation projects.

SJ 36: RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS (*oppose, awaiting action*)

- This resolution seeks to amend the Constitution of the State to establish an individual right for every resident to access clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems, and a safe and stable climate. This amendment emphasizes that these rights are inalienable and may be directly invoked and enforced by residents.

SB 1326: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FOOD SAFETY AND ORAL HEALTH (*monitoring, awaiting action*)

- The bill establishes a specific fluoride level that water companies must maintain in their water supply, requiring an average monthly fluoride content of 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/L) with a permissible deviation of 0.15 mg/L. This change replaces the previous requirement that tied fluoride levels to the recommendations of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. The bill continues to apply to water systems serving 20,000 or more people.

SB 1247: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE (*support, awaiting action*)

- This bill includes funding for the Clean Water Fund, and Open Space & Watershed Acquisition Program

SB 1494: AN ACT CONCERNING REMEDIATION AND TESTING FOR PFAS IN CERTAIN WATER SUPPLIES (*monitoring, awaiting action*)

- This bill mandates the Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force to take specific actions regarding the remediation and testing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water supplies. By July 15, 2025, the task force is required to identify funding sources for the remediation of municipally owned wells that exceed the PFAS drinking water standards set by the EPA. Additionally, the bill calls for an acceleration of the phased testing approach for public drinking water supplies, which includes those owned by municipalities, private entities, and water companies, as outlined in the task force's PFAS Action Plan from November 1, 2019.

HB 7174: AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS (*supports, awaiting action*)

- This bill seeks to enhance the regulation and protection of riparian areas, wetlands, and watercourses by introducing new legal language and amending existing statutes. The bill explicitly includes "riparian areas" in the definitions of regulated activities, thereby expanding the scope of activities that require regulation. The bill also repeals and replaces several existing provisions to ensure that activities do not disturb the natural character of these ecosystems, emphasizing the conservation of native vegetation and the removal of invasive species.

Additionally, the bill establishes requirements for inland wetlands agencies, including the necessity for annual meetings to discuss training programs and the formation of districts for regulating activities affecting these areas.

RWA Environmental, Health, and Safety Committee FY2026 Work Plan (draft)

The Committee shall review, provide oversight of and monitor (a) the RWA's environmental, health and safety policies, practices and actions; (b) trends and emerging issues at the legislative, regulatory and judicial levels concerning environmental, health and safety issues that affect the RWA, along with its positions and responses with respect thereto; and (c) Maintain an explicit, visible and communicated commitment to Business Continuity/Emergency Preparedness.

August 2025

- FY26 BCE Work plan
- Haz Waste Central update
- R&D/Innovation update

November 2025

- Deer Management update
- LCRR update
- Workforce Update

March 2026

- Business Continuity Update
- Recreation Activity
- Physical Security

May 2026

- 2025 Interim Legislative Session update
- Water Quality Issues update