

**South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
Environmental, Health & Safety Committee
March 31, 2022
Special Meeting Transcription**

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING STARTS AT 12:40 P.M.]

David:

Kevin, it's all yours.

Kevin:

Okay. We have the minutes.

Suzanne:

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented.

Kevin:

Is there a second?

David:

Sure.

Kevin:

Got it. Any discussion?

Group:

Aye.

Kevin:

All right. And we have the Lead and Copper Rule Update.

Suzanne:

Which we know a little bit about.

Kevin:

A little bit about, yeah. [inaudible 00:52:21]

Tom:

All right. Good afternoon everyone.

Kevin:

Hi Tom.

Tom:

Hey, hope everybody's well

Tom:

Terrific. Thank you. Yeah. I'm going to move right into this if you don't mind. I know you guys, have a tight agenda, so I don't want to take more time than I'm allotted. Please keep in mind this is a 50,000 foot view. So, I'm just going to go over some things about where we've been, what we're currently doing and where we anticipate to be going here in the shorter term. So, just moving right along. I think here, one of the things we want to start talking about is the issue of lead. Of course, the Lead and Copper Rule has been on the book since 1991. We've been in full compliance. Since that time however, there's a significant number of revisions that are being proposed. And I'd like to go over some of those. And this is what's going to keep it and is busy and keeping us up at night.

Tom:

So, as we move along, we have contracted with CDM Smith just over a year ago. They've been a great contractor to date, and they've been helping us along a task based list of three items. We're in the process now of renewing that contract. And there's some conversations on, within the RWA specific to how we want that contract to look, are we looking to change that up at all? So, that's a conversation that we're currently engaged in. And at this point we will continue with CDM Smith.

Tom:

One of the newer things that I wanted to mention, and I'm certainly encouraged by this and looking forward to it is the whole project governance is being reviewed. So, I think this is an opportunity for modification of the existing framework to enhance the leadership teams support and decision making around things that are going to need to be decided for the utility to continue to moving forward. So, again, looking forward to those modifications and changes.

Tom:

Looking at a list of five items currently for potential subcontractor resistance. And these are specifically in the areas of a communications plan, the mapping of existing inventory. So, how many of these, how many of those, and where are they in terms of service lines. We're looking at field investigations. We have a number of unknowns, we're going to need to go find out what they are. That's going to require some field work. We're looking preemptively at possible changes to corrosion control treatment. We'll get into that a little bit further as we move along. And then finally, item number five, the distribution of lead filters. This is something that is specific to the regulation, and we're going to have to make a decision, not if, but when we want to involve ourselves in that.

Tom:

Next slide, please, Jen. So, at this point, we're looking at activities. This is that we've already engaged in and we're well along. So, one of the first things that we had to do is satisfy an inventory requirement. As you can appreciate, we have a lot of utility records that keep track of Maine to curb type service information. What we don't have a lot of is information curb to house that's considered private side inform. It's something that the utility has never really captured. It's not something we own, it's not something we're responsible for, but under regulation, we are now responsible to perform an inventory. So, what we did is we took whatever tap cards and paper files that we had in storage here from practically year one, and we converted over to an electronic format. So, we've done that.

Tom:

And that's really done a couple of things for us. It's allowing us to review the available data. We might have a much better appreciation for what data, but is available to us. It's allowed for the interpretation of existing information. Most importantly, do we know and what don't we know. Keeping in mind that under regulation, what we don't know in terms of service line composition is considered lead until we can prove otherwise. It's imperative that we clear a lot of that information. And then finally, it also allows an electronic form, the display of this information geographic. So, we can start to look at clustering. We can start to look at what is out there and how does it impact our 15 communities keeping in mind, we had as many as eight water utilities operating in the same footprint since the 1860s. So, not everybody did everything the same way. So, we were finding, we're just discovering differences amongst that data set. So, it's important to see how that presents itself geographically.

Tom:

In terms of financial assistance, this is something that's been keeping Rochelle very, very busy. We've completed an initial application for money's being made available by the federal government. And we've since had an update to that request, which we'll get into a little bit later. We're looking at the various formats of provision of money into the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund platform and that existing program, because this is somewhat new in terms of how the moneys are being made available and how they're being wheeled through the state. It's generated a lot of questions and Rochelle has been spending quite a bit of time setting up virtual meetings and having phone calls with the leadership within the state department of public health, specific to the state revolving fund program as to how a lot of these details are going to be worked out. So, she's been busy with that.

Tom:

Also credits to Rochelle for initiating a discussion with the Connecticut Green Bank potential funding option under consideration, specifically for private side service line replacements, and more to be learned on that, but it looks to be a promising alternative for consideration.

Tom:

And then we're looking at a communication plan. And when I look at this particular regulation, there's a lot involved out in the street, a lot of field work, we're going to be replacing pipes, we're going to do a variety of different things, but all of, and every bit of what we're going to be doing has to be preceded by communications. So, I think if there's a single most important element, that's still in front of us, that we have to kind of get our arms around it is a comprehensive communication plan. And I know Donna April and their team are working on that. And I see this as a multilingual multimedia communication and publication education plan. If you look at the details of this particular regulation, I'll spare you on the 115 pages of federal register. But when you start to look at that, there's almost an unending list of opportunities for communication and public education. So, it's going to be a fairly significant lift for us, but a very important in one. And I think many other utilities have either succeeded or failed based on the equality of their communications plan. So, can't underscore that enough.

Tom:

Next slide, please, Jen. And this is what we're currently working on now. This is where I'll call it the research phase of how we're going to proceed field work. So, looking at the communications plan, once again, I think we're at the point now where Donna and April are starting to look at specific elements of the communication plan. We have to meet with our municipal partners, we have to get our customers

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up to speed as to what our plans are, we have to engage with other partnering agencies and groups, if you will. So, there's a lot of that that's right in front of us. In terms of field investigation, we have to decide, how are we going to capture information that we're currently lacking? Are we going to involve the customers themselves? We know that we're going to be hiring contractors to do some vacuum excavation work, actually go out and dig some holes and see what we have. We're looking at other opportunities to gather this type of information.

Tom:

The next item. I'm just going to skip over corrosion control for a minute and move down to the fourth bullet of machine learning. I think all the information that we're going to gather from the field, regardless of format, however, that's going to come into the organization, we want to be able to take that information and feed it into some machine learning and allow these algorithms, these software programs to take that data and then provide us with output in the form of prioritization so it can help us to better manage our time more efficiently, more effectively and certainly there's an economic component to that as well. So that's something we're looking forward to. We are however, waiting for the State of Connecticut to provide us a green light that they'll recognize this particular tool that remains pending.

Tom:

Coming back to corrosion control treatment, I know Jim Hill Ed [Gela 01:01:11] and the treatment guys are very busy on engaging with a contractor, looking at our current phosphate corrosion control process and looking to see what other options may be available in light of the requirements changing a little bit in this regard. Do we stand pat with where we are? Do we have other options that provide a better path forward? We're looking at that.

Tom:

And then finally, I'll let filter distribution again, as I'd mentioned earlier, this is a component of the revisions of the Lead and Copper Rule. It's not a matter of if we have to utilize particulate filters, but when, and that's a discussion that we're currently having in house to define the details of that particular program.

Tom:

So now if we take what we're learning today and all that research we're investigating, we have to put that all into action. So what we anticipate moving forward again in the area of communications is we may be utilizing postcards at some point down the road. And this is a fairly cost effective, low cost type of option for sending information out to our consumers that are residing in premises that we don't know the nature of service line information, and allow them to feed some of that information back into a database that will be managed by CDM.

Tom:

We're looking at vacuum excavation, we've made contact with different contractors to see their availability costs, that type of thing. Again, waiting to see a little bit of guidance as to how many holes, if you will, are going to be required per service line for validation and verification acceptance.

Tom:

We're looking at approximately three excavations per service line. We want to, we are in the process of looking at machine learning options. There are a number of different vendors out there. As with anything else, some are better than others, so we're trying to vet the different options. We may end up going on a house to house interior inspection. When all else fails, we may have to go knock on some doors and do some eyeball inspections as to what we're dealing with.

Tom:

Communication with schools and daycares is another important element of the rule. We're obligated to do testing in primary schools and daycares within our service area over a five year period. We need to communicate with the schools and daycares, obviously, let them know that's going to happen. And schools and daycares may be prioritized in terms of lead service line or galvanized service line removal, because this is where the kids are.

Tom:

This may be a prioritization. We're going to need to determine private side information. And then finally, development of sampling protocols. The compliance sampling as required by the rule is changing. The sampling pool must change, and we need to develop some sampling protocols to define where those should be most appropriately, once defined, that gets submitted to the state health department for approval. So we cannot start that early enough.

Tom:

We're continuing conversations with the USEPA and the state department of public health, simply because that's where the rules are from. And if you talk to EPA, there's still things that they have yet to resolve. State's waiting on them, we're waiting on the state in turn. This is a very sequential process and we're waiting patiently, but yet the clock remains ticking. Currently. What we're also doing is we have a lot of information from the field that can be made available to us during a normal course of business.

Tom:

We're still changing meters on a daily basis. We're still doing cross connection work on a daily basis. We're still replacing curb valves and service lines on a daily basis. We have to capture that information as it's being made available to us. The challenge here from an IT perspective is how best to capture that information, bring it back in, upload it into the system of record and then have it available for downloading and submission to the state as required. So if communication has the heaviest lift in the group, I think IT is a close second on that.

Tom:

Obviously we manage all our data through IT these days, so something that Prem and his group are keeping an eye on. And I appreciate their support. Next slide, please.

Tom:

And coming into the schedule, I mean, schedules are somewhat variable. If you look at the rule, there's multiple timelines in here. There's different deadlines dependent upon what component of the rule you happen to be reading. What we're looking at right now is an October 16, 2024 deadline for a variety of items. We're well on task and on track for that. Internally, our schedules are being developed as information is being made available to us.

Tom:

We understand where we have to start and we're well underway in those particular areas. And just again, just the third bullet there is just, again, a reminder that there's still a lot of decisions that are yet to be made at multiple levels. We're waiting patiently for that information. That's really all that I had. I appreciate the opportunity to share this with you. I apologize. It was kind of quick and somewhat rambling, but this is, in my 38 years at the water authority, this is by far the most complicated of the regulations that I've ever seen.

Tom:

And I keep describing it, Kevin, as an octopus. You can only grab two arms at a time, the other six keep coming at you. So it's something that we're doing well with, but it's a continual process.

Kevin:

Any questions for Tom? Yeah.

Catherine:

Just if I could...

Tom:

Certainly.

Catherine:

I understand that there, with all the changes in the regulations that are happening very quickly, the mandates and what not, but I also know that there's grant money out there and then coupled with the infrastructure grant money, all this is changing fast. But tell me not to be nervous that if the grant people said tomorrow, give us the distressed towns, New Haven East Haven, West Haven, and give us your assessment of those and what your plan is to get it done, that we are in line to get whatever funds we could get to help with that.

Tom:

Yeah, okay. Don't be nervous. I think that Rochelle can answer that question better than I can, but, to be honest. I mean we are keeping track of what's going on. I mean, specifically those, the question that you just asked is a question we've asked them. A Lot of this is going to be dependent upon information that they have yet to share. The definition of a distressed or disadvantaged community is the decision of each state. And when I asked, DPH defined for me a disadvantaged community, and they said to me, the city of New Haven. And I said, that's fantastic.

Tom:

So are you talking to me about every street in the city of New Haven? Because we understand some neighborhoods are more disadvantaged than others. And they said, well, yes, it stands now would be the entirety of the city of new Haven.

Tom:

I said, well, that's not really helpful to us because if I go, if we decide to go work in East Rock, that's going to do nothing but upset Fairhaven, as an example. So the state came back and they said that they have another layer, call it the Google street view. And it's called the social vulnerability index and SVI. They've utilized that in the pandemic.

Tom:

They anticipate rolling that out to provide clarity around neighborhoods that are more distressed than others. But again, that's, this is talk, there's nothing that's been finalized yet. And any of us in the industry, our peers included, kind of throw our hands up in the air and we say, but this is important inform for us to know where we have to prioritize efforts.

Tom:

We understand federal monies are tied into these disadvantaged communities up to 40%, is kind of what we're hearing. That's again, wonderful. We need to know where we need to apply that money. So we're as comfortable as we can be with the information we have today.

Kevin:

Yes, Catherine.

Catherine:

Hi, this is Catherine. I'm just wondering if, as you're gathering your data points, whether you utilize any resources from either municipal health departments or the state department of public health because it's my understanding that when they, when you have to do an epidemiological study for a child that has an elevated blood lead level, that one of the things that they test for in the home and other places where that child may be is the water. So is that a possible place to gather data about lead in any particular residents?

Tom:

Yeah no, absolutely. That's, that's an excellent question. We haven't gotten that information necessarily from the state health department, but we have made a presentation in front of New Haven's lead task force. And so that conversation, within that context, I specifically asked them the question because I agree with you part of the, any overall investigation has to include water.

Tom:

And I think that's a relatively new component, historically. Having done this for a long time, I can count on one hand, the number of times we were asked to get involved in those types of investigations. But when I did ask the question just a couple of months ago in January to the lead task force, the answer that they gave me is yes, we test water everywhere we go and we never find lead in the water.

Tom:

So I mean, that is good information, but that certainly is an opportunity for us to be made aware of any issues around water that they may be made aware of as a result of their testing. So we certainly stand ready to partner with them to the full extent possible.

Catherine:

Well, I do think that's good. It was my understanding that in New Haven that where they tested, they did not find lead in the water, that it's usually paint or some other environmental source. But so that should give us some level of comfort that in the city of New Haven, that we don't have problems with lead in the water.

Tom:

And I would agree with that. I mean, like I say, we've been compliant with the existing lead and copper rule for 31 years consistently. We test lead all the time, not only from our resources, but we get a lot of water samples in from daycares, nursery schools, that type of thing. And it's rare for us to see any lead.

Catherine:

Okay.

Tom:

And I think this utility has a very proactive history of identifying the source of lead. I know there was a concerted effort in the 1970s to do that. I think it's rare when we come across lead out in our water distribution system at this state.

Kevin:

Any other questions? [crosstalk 01:12:04] Thanks Tom.

Tom:

Thank you so much. Appreciate it. Have a good afternoon.

Kevin:

You too, Tom.

Tom:

Thank you.

Nicole:

Hello.

Kevin:

[crosstalk 01:12:20] Hi, Nicole.

Nicole:

Hi. Okay. So I'm just going to give a quick summary of the 2021 deer hunt. And then if you guys have any questions, just feel free to ask me. Okay. So as always, we only have 205 spots for the hunt spread across four properties. This year, we had a good showing of interest. We had 304 applicants apply for the spots, which meant that I actually had to run the lottery. So there were a bunch of people who just didn't get in this year and that continues to happen. This year, we actually had about 330 people who got letters, who were expressed interest in participating in the 2022 hunt. So overall we had 205

participants. We had 927 days total hunted with a total of 4,745.5 hours. And we harvested 34 deer in all, but only 90 doe, 25 bucks. And the majority of those bucks came from Lake Gaillard.

Nicole:

That is pretty much on trend in terms of how many deer being harvested across state. According to the preliminary reports from the Connecticut DEP, the number of deer harvested was down about 19% all across the state. They'll have a more detailed report coming out on Connecticut's overall deer program later on this year. We're pretty much keeping everything the same. For the hunt, the only changes we want to make are just additional measures for safety.

Nicole:

So this year, in addition to requiring people to hunt from tree stands, we're also requiring folks to purchase something called an emergency dissent device that will basically lower them to the ground automatically should they fall or be suspended anyway, so that they can get down safely and minimize or eliminate suspension trauma. So that's pretty much it for the deer report.

Suzanne:

Nicole, were there any injuries of people falling out of the stands or?

Nicole:

That's why we instituted this particular measure. We had one hunter who was new, not to hunting, but to our program. He basically managed to fall out of his tree stand and be suspended for like an hour. And the only reason he was found was one of our other hunters was moving his tree stand. So he was lucky to be found. He did a few things that were a little, not so great, like he didn't tell anyone that he was actually on our property, like he told his wife he was somewhere else. So nobody was even looking for him.

Nicole:

So... It's not funny. Don't laugh because, I mean, it's funny because he's alive, but that's pretty serious. Even if you're a hiker, you need to tell people where you're going to be in the woods. So that's just not acceptable behavior. One of the things that we re instituted, it went away because of COVID, the in person safety meeting, we feel like that's a really important piece of the hunting program.

Nicole:

And so we managed to be able to find space just in case we had to do social distancing again, even though the numbers of COVID are trending down, we still want to make sure if we had to, we have, good, appropriate social distancing. So I was able to find space at the Lockwood experimental farm from CAES. So over and then I was able to schedule several days so that we could stagger the pre hunt meeting just in case we had to social distance. So that's coming back for sure.

Kevin:

Thank you. Any questions? [crosstalk 01:16:12] Thank you, Nicole.

Nicole:

Okay. You're welcome. Have a good day guys.

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Kevin:

[crosstalk 01:16:16] You too.

Lori:

We all set?

Lori:

Yes.

Lori:

Hello everyone. Good afternoon, actually. It's a pleasure to be here providing the update on the 2022 legislative session, which convened on February 9th, then will adjourn on May 4th. This is a short session and actually it's the shortest session by lobbying just 12 weeks. So the format right now, it's pretty much we're through the public hearing process and those were held remote just as they did last year. I found them to be pretty successful. We're able to monitor the committees more than one at a time, rather than running to different committee rooms during public hearings.

Lori:

They're very accessible and easy to, just like we're doing now, talking over technology. The meetings for the committees, they actually moved over to being hybrid. So legislators are in the rooms at the capitol for their meetings or the legislative office buildings. Some legislators are taking and participating in the meetings through zoom. They have brought back in person session days for legislators. So the public is allowed on the first floor of the legislative office building. And then in the capitol they're allowed on the first floor and then the second floor, not on the third floor, which is where the Senate is located. So... I'm sorry. Was there a question?

Kevin:

No, keep going.

Lori:

Okay, perfect. I'll continue on. So as of today, we're in the middle of the session. Proposed bills have been introduced, and my efforts focusing on the 27 committees that the general assembly has. To date I'm monitoring 29 proposed bills. And the majority of these bills have originated from the appropriations education environment, human services, planning and development and public health committees, key topics that we are monitoring and watching our Legionella well testing, safe drinking water, solar citing petitions, fire protection charges, electronic notifications to water companies.

Lori:

And there's actually 18 bills that we're focusing on that concern the water industry and political subdivision that have been identified and are being very closely monitored. So the RWA, we've submitted testimony. So your slide says 10, but as of yesterday, it's actually 11 bills and personally delivered comments before those committees on seven of them.

Lori:

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So I am going to continue on the presentation and giving you the updates on the bills that we were active on. I'll do my... Most of them, I have the updates that they have passed or died in committee. Just wanted to be, make a point that while the bill, I will report it's status as of today, these bills have had public hearing. So if I say it died, nothing's dead until midnight on May 4th. It can turn up as an amendment.

Lori:

But just wanted to clarify that now. So the first bill concerning the use of sodium chloride we've testified supporting this. It's a good bill. It keeps the road salt applicators with a program and helps mitigate the use of sodium chloride. And that passed out of committee. The next bill, the Connecticut drinking water supply. This actually addresses solar petitions on the water, public water supply watershed and the aquifer areas.

Lori:

It would also allow water companies to receive electronic notification for projects in our areas. That bill did not get voted out of committee where very hard with the co-chairs of the department of public health to see if we could have that be an amendment on another department of public health revisions bill. We're not sure why it didn't pass out of committee. So we're trying to get that information as we move through the session.

Lori:

Senate bill 325, this bill was re introduced after last year. We killed it last year. It got introduced again. This bill would change how water companies charge for certain fire protections. It's being brought forward by one specific issue, one community outside of the RWA service area. I submitted testimony opposing this bill as well as eight other water companies and CWWA. So it originated out of the planning and development committee.

Lori:

I reached out to our legislators that sit on that committee, letting them know that this would be a huge problem for us, as well as talking to the ranking member of that committee as well. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, the committee passed it out to the Senate. And so now we're working super hard to make sure we kill it in the house. That's what we're hearing. It will die in the house.

Lori:

And I say for whatever reason, because it's from Senator Champaign in Vernon, he's a Republican. And to have the support of the committee to move this out, he's not running again for reelection. So whether it's a respect gesture, but the group was pretty surprised that this got voted out of committee. So that's a high priority for the group.

Lori:

The next slide, other priority bills that we've worked on. These all have been voted out of their respective committees. The first one, this implements the governor's budget concerning education, and this actually calls out the public utility management program, supporting that effort to highlight that program further than the bill that highlighted it in 2019. So that was a pleasure to testify on that one, supporting it. And that's been sent to the appropriations committee, extended producer responsibility

for tires, so that creates a free and convenient stewardship program for tires, similar to what we have for paint.

Lori:

The importance of this again is our environmental perspective, but not to mention tires are dropped off in our areas on the sides of the road. So this will certainly help mitigate that roadside litter within our area, extended producer responsibility for certain gas cylinders. This was proposed, I worked on this with the recyclers coalition because we do take gas cylinders, the one pounders at Has Way central.

Lori:

If this program passes, it'll help save those towns money on proper disposal during the season. And then during the off season, it'll create a way for residents to properly dispose of that item. Right now you can't do anything with those one pounders while some folks are not using the one pounders to tabletop grill, it is a problem in inner cities where folks are using it. The homeless folks are using it in the inner cities.

Lori:

So another good bill supporting the environment, the next one creates an aquatic invasive species office that would address these problems. And that was voted out of committee. We supported that and just waiting for that to be called in the house. And generally everybody who voiced their opinion supported that as well. [crosstalk 01:24:04].

Lori:

Yeah.

Catherine:

I have a question about that. Would that, is that office proposed to be housed in a specific state department or is it a standalone?

Lori:

5143, it's my understanding it should be out of the department of ag. I don't think it's out of DEP.

Catherine:

Okay.

Lori:

I will clarify that though and get back to you. Moving, any other questions while I'm paused? No? [crosstalk 01:24:38].

Catherine:

I have more. [crosstalk 01:24:39]

Lori:

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Okay. Terrific. And continuing with RWA's priority bills, this particular bill actually died, but we supported the disposal of home generated sharps because if you're not putting something in your blue box, or if residents don't think it'll go on their blue box, recycling at the curb, they call Has Way Central. They're looking for information. We get these calls a lot. We don't take those.

Lori:

So supporting that as a way to help the region, to help us with our mission as the 21st century environmental services company, it's just a good thing to do. Open space and watershed land acquisition programs. This would increase the bond authorization to 10 million dollars. That was successfully voted out of committee, had strong support. And happy to say right now as we speak this bill mitigating potential Legionella outbreaks in the hospital or nursing home has died. It died in committee. This was a huge effort on behalf of the water industry, our colleagues, our contract lobbyists, just getting to the right people, letting them know that this was a huge problem.

Lori:

We had numerous meetings and we'll continue to make sure it stays dead until midnight on May 4th. Other priority bills that have been voted out of their respective committees would be clean and safe well water. This actually would amend DEP's 471 program where they assist with helping contaminated wells by including private wells. There's a problem as you probably have heard in other parts of the state with high sodium levels.

Lori:

So this is really, some legislators are really trying to help their constituents anyway they can. One thing that comes to mind is the issue of the crumbling foundations. How can they mirror a program like that to help in this area? So this is what they're trying to get at here. Membership on the low income energy advisory board, this actually adds to water company representatives to this board. This group is working on disseminating the federal funds.

Lori:

So for energy efficiency and energy assistance. So this is voted out of committee and we're looking forward to having two water company representatives on this board. The next one was voted out of committee, and this would require private or semi-public wells to be tested prior to property being sold, transferred, and purchased. So again, another good one to watch there.

Lori:

And other bills that are relevant to the RWA that were voted out of committee that I'm monitoring. And for this first bill, this would remove the government immunity as a defense in a civil action, legal opinion, and our risk manager determined that it does not pose a concern for the RWA. So that's good news moving along to...

Lori:

Go ahead. Sorry.

Catherine:

Keep going.

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Catherine:

No, you answered my question.

Lori:

Thanks. Okay. And the next one was, let's see, 5362 would require a public comment period at public meetings. I checked in with Jen to find out if this actually happens, if folks try to reach out to us. Nonetheless, it wouldn't apply to executive session. And if this bill passes, we would be required to set a time aside for the public to comment at meetings.

Lori:

And the act concerning remote meetings that will allow public meetings to continue being conducted remotely. There's one more bill here. As I said earlier, that I added another bill to the ones that we have acted on. Yesterday I submitted testimony supporting Senate bill 12, which is an act authorizing and adjusting bonds for the state for capital improvements and infrastructure investment. There's a provision in this bill that would provide 75 million dollars to help the required state match for certain grants. So certainly any type we can get, the matching portion fund it by another entity.

Lori:

This is again a good thing, but the public hearing was just yesterday and that's in the appropriations committee. Their deadline is actually next week. So again, continuing to monitor that. Moving along to other water company bills and these bills I'm monitoring, paying attention to, but they're, in the past, I've reported them out to you at the end of session. So I just, again, included them today, but they're public utility bills. They're, they're not on the slides, but just as a verbal, there's three bills that came out concerning PURA regulated water companies.

Lori:

And the first one was a regulation of water companies that actually just died in the energy and technology committee. The other bill, 5201, it was an act concerning the acquisition of water companies. That was supported by the industry. And it actually would... It would require PURA to consider health concerns and talk with the department of public health, when they identified a water company or when they're ordering an acquisition.

Lori:

And that was actually sent to the house. And the last bill concerning public utility regulatory authority water companies would be concerning utility cost sharing mechanisms. This bill would increase PURA's discretion to design certain rate making formulas, and that passed out of committee. And that's actually addressed to all utility, private utilities, the electric and so forth. So not only water. So I think the aim there, there's been a lot of discussion about the electric companies. So I think the water companies got pulled into that as well, but not us.

Lori:

So there's five weeks left. The house is scheduled to convene on April 13th. The Senate hasn't indicated when they're going in yet. And as I said earlier, communicating with legislators via Zoom, via email has been helpful. So even though they're not going until the 13th, we're still paying attention and doing what we need to do in sync with CWWA and our contract lobbyist. So, yeah. Thank you.

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Kevin

Catherine, do you have a question?

Catherine:

No.

Kevin:

Oh, okay.

Catherine:

All my questions were answered, was answered.

Lori:

That's good to hear.

Kevin:

All right. Thank you very much, Lori.

Lori:

Oh, my pleasure. My pleasure. Bye now.

Kevin:

We just have the committee plan, committee work plan next.

Sunny:

Go over this or?

Kevin:

Sure.

Sunny:

The winter salt reduction initiative, the health and safety and environmental compliance. Winter salt, we are doing a few strategic initiatives of using alternate [inaudible 01:32:01] chemicals. We tested the chemicals, but I think it had some acetone in it. So we are not sure whether we're going to use that. There are further alternatives, which are being considered right now. So we'll give an update on that.

Sunny:

And the health and safety will be our usual normal updates with regard to the health and safety. The compliance, again, kind of ties in with the health and safety. Then for the August emerging issues and updates, it could, I would say, kind of include the LCR where we are, or other issues, which could be add or put into it, [inaudible 01:32:32].

Sunny:

The business continuity, we will have some more, I would say BCE exercises for us. The last time we did one of, I would say the pump stations, as well as I would say, looked at the Northern area. We might actually include a few more. We'll give you updates on it as we kind of develop I would say which areas we're going to look at. The Has Way Central, I think we would be doing that during the summer. That update will be given. Now we're in 2022, the reservoir safety model, that'll be John Hodak will give the updates on it as well as the deep stream for regulations, because the...

Sunny:

The updates on it, as well as the DEEP stream flow regulations, because there is the new stream flow regulations that are going to come into play. I think sometime during summer, it's going to kick in. But depending on an amount of water release that's required to be sent into inland reverse and stream. So that will affect us in some fashion or the other, but I think we'll get an update based on how we go about it. Or we will give the legislative session depending on where we end up with all these bills, the March 23, it'll be again, emerging issues and updates, depending on how I would say what we see as the new one that's coming up. Health and safety, an update based on, I would say what we are, what's the end of the year. Invasive species, that typically goes on pretty much ever since throughout the year. I think Bill and Henley will give an update on that. Any other topics we've listed here, anything else that could actually change, I'll be working with Kevin to see what we can include, what's the topic of interest. What'll be nice to, you know, kind of what's going on. So it would be pretty much, I would say like the land news committee. Land news committee has a lot of interesting topics, so we'll throw some interesting topics up.

Kevin:

Okay. Thank you Sunny.

Sunny:

Sure.

Kevin:

Any questions?

David:

Do you need a vote to approve that or it just happens? I don't remember.

Kevin:

I don't think we usually...

David:

Okay. I didn't remember.

David:

So do you want a motion to adjourn your committee?

Kevin:

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Yes.

Speaker 19:

[crosstalk 01:34:24] and reconvene as the authority?

Kevin:

Yes, please.

Catherine:

So moved.

David:

Okay. I'll second it.

David:

Okay.

Kevin:

All in favor?

Board Room:

Aye.

[ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 1:24 P.M.]