

Representative Policy Board
Consumer Affairs Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut

or

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AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5:30 pm

1. Safety Moment
2. Public Comment: Residents and customers may address the Consumer Affairs Committee regarding agenda items or other issues. Discussion is limited to the presentation of information for consideration and comment on agenda items.
3. Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2025 special meeting and April 21, 2025 regular meeting
4. Recreation Update – John Triana
5. Report of OCA – J. Donofrio
6. Approval of OCA invoice for April 2025 for \$5,319.00
7. Volunteers to attend Authority meetings on June 26, July 24, August 28, and September 25
8. New Business
9. Next meeting: June 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
10. Adjourn

****Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or via teams using the link at the top of the agenda. To view meeting documents, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/26jtre6x>. For questions, contact the board office at jslubowski@rwater.com or by calling 203-401-2515.**

SAFETY MOMENT

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Tap Into
Safety



Regional Water Authority

Despite progress in mental health initiatives, more than 30 million people in the U.S. still lack access to comprehensive, high-quality care. According to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing:

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year.
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year.
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth have a mental health condition, but only half receive treatment.
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24.
- In 2023, 20% of all high school students seriously considered suicide.

Take action by focusing on what you can control — your own wellbeing. Below is a link to access a free self-care checklist with simple, practical ways to support your mental health. You can request a checklist by visiting:

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/mental-health-awareness-month/mham-toolkit-checklist/>

Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

 Regional Water Authority

Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District

**Consumer Affairs Committee
Land Use Committee
Special Joint Meeting**

April 17, 2025

Minutes

A special joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) and the Land Use Committee (“LUC”) of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access.

CAC Members present: N. Campbell, C. Havrda(R), M. Levine(R), S. Mongillo(R), and R. Smith(R)

CAC Members absent: F. Pepe

LUC Members present: M. Levine(R), P. Betkoski(R), P. DeSantis(R), B. Eitzer(R), M. Horbal(R), G. Malloy, J. Oslander, and J. Mowat Young(R)

RPB: R. Harvey(R), T. Clifford(R), and C. Mancini(R)

Authority: K. Curseaden(R) and M. Ricoszi(R)

RWA: S. Lakshminarayanan, R. Kowalski, P. Singh, V. Benni, J. Hill(R), and C. DelVecchio

Office of Consumer Affairs: Attorney Donofrio (“OCA”)

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Mr. Lakshminarayanan, the RWA’s Interim Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Benni, the RWA’s Director of Engineering, provided an overview of the FY 2026 Capital Budget, which included:

- Historical information
- Major impacts
- Projects
- Assumptions
- Methodology
- Recommendations
- Project and highlights

They reported that the capital budget amounts to approximately \$59.4 million and encompasses 106 projects and programs related to Natural Resources, Treatment, Transmission and Pumping, and General Plant. It incorporates GHD’s recommendations along with provisions for a project reserve and contingency. The budget projects RWA’s proactive strategy aimed at safeguarding public health, promoting recreational activities, protecting watersheds and aquatic resources, enhancing water sources to improve raw water quality, minimizing water quality impacts, preserving historical attributes, mitigating dam failure risks, and addressing the challenges posed by increasing rainfall due to climate

change.

Ms. Kowalski, the RWA's Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Development, and Mr. DelVecchio, the RWA's Controller, provided an overview of the FY 2026 Operating Budget, which included:

- Historical information
- Debt leverage
- Capital funding

They reported that the operating budget is approximately \$136 million allocated for pump power, employee benefits, utilities and fuel, payroll, building space, IT licensing & maintenance fees, and outside services.

The presentation included an overview of water revenue assumptions, cost drivers, external pressures, employee-related expenses, efficiency improvements, maintenance test, and opportunities and vulnerabilities.

At 6:43 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Ms. Campbell, the Committee voted to go into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(B), pertaining to commercial and financial information. Present in executive session were CAC and LUC Committee members, Atty. Donofrio, Messrs. Harvey, Curseaden, Clifford, Lakshminarayanan, Singh, Benni, Hill, and DelVecchio, and Mss. Mancini, Kowalski, and Slubowski.

At 6:55 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session. No votes were taken in, or as a result of executive session. On motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Oslander, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Naomi Campbell, CAC Chair

Mark Levine, LUC Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.

Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Consumer Affairs Committee

April 21, 2025

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut, and via remote access. Chair Campbell presided.

Members present: N. Campbell, C. Havrda, M. Levine(R), S. Mongillo(R), R. Smith(R)

Members absent: F. Pepe

RPB: R. Harvey(R), T. Clifford(R), C. Mancini(R)

Authority: S. Sack(R)

RWA: R. Kowalski, P. Singh, J. Hill, D. Bochan, and B. Hoskie

Office of Consumer Affairs: Attorney Donofrio (“OCA”)(R)

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Chair Campbell offered the opportunity for members of the public to comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Levine and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its March 17, 2025 meeting, as presented.

At 5:32 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Levine and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the Committee voted unanimously to convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(B), pertaining to commercial and financial information. Present in executive session were Committee members, Atty. Donofrio, Messrs. Harvey, Mongillo, Levine, Lakshminarayanan, and Singh, and Mss. Campbell, Sack, Young, Kowalski, Bochan, and Slubowski.

At 5:58 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session. No votes were taken in, or as a result of executive session.

Atty. Donofrio, OCA, provided an update on last month’s report of a Derby customer who sought to negotiate a better deal on a payment extension related to a connection. Though he did not formally complain, he expressed concerns about the financial burden of the RWA’s proposed \$30,000 payment, preferring to pay \$10,000 instead, given the improbability of a connection. The customer suggested an agreement be recorded on land records, stating that if the line is extended and is connected, he would then be responsible for the remaining amount. However, the RWA has maintained its adherence to its rules and regulations and proposed the longer payment plan. The OCA is currently awaiting the customer’s response to the RWA’s offer.

If the customer and RWA cannot come to agreeable terms the customer has the option of meeting with the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee for a consumer hearing to listen to both sides. Should the customer agree to the RWA's terms, Atty. Donofrio will report back to the Committee at its May meeting.

He also reported on a new complaint from an East Haven customer that has raised a concern regarding a significant water bill after operating a valve at the property. Having owned the house for only a year and a half, the customer was unaware that the valve, which also diverts water to a nearby field, is her responsibility, and not the RWA's. After contacting customer care, it was confirmed that the valve is not maintained by the RWA; only mains located in the street. The RWA has since provided a waste adjustment and removed the interest charged; however, the customer believes the RWA should have notified her about the excessive usage.

The RWA offered the customer a 24-month payment plan on the remaining balance without interest. Initially, the customer declined the offer but has since decided to counter. The OCA's office is currently waiting to hear back from the customer.

Atty. Donofrio reported that earlier in the month he attended the Finance Committee meeting and a special joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee and Land Use Committee to review the FY 2026 Budget with management. His budget review letter will be mailed to the Authority chair by the end of the week.

He also reviewed PURA filings in preparation for the Blue Drop matter.

On motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Mr. Levine, the Committee voted to approve the OCA's March 2025 billing for \$2,148.00.

Chair Campbell reminded committee members of the upcoming RPB meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting is on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:26 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Mr. Levine, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Naomi Campbell, Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.

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

To: RPB Consumer Affairs Committee
Naomi Campbell, Chair
Charles Havrda
Mark Levine
Stephen Mongillo
Frank Pepe
Richard Smith

Cc: Sunny Lakshminarayanan
Jeff Yale

From: John Triana

Date: May 14, 2025

Subject: Planned summer 2025 recreation activities

For the summer of 2025, we will continue our boating program at Lake Saltonstall, with staff available to rent boats to anglers on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Daily trail inspections will be conducted at all recreation areas as required by our DPH recreation activity permits.

For special events, we plan to hold 3-4 trips focused on water and environmental topics, including a walk on Trails Day during the first weekend of June. Previous years featured walks by the Connecticut Butterfly Association and Connecticut Botanical Society.

We have also partnered with local organizations to bring young participants to Lake Saltonstall or the Maltby Lakes for fishing and hiking. In 2024, nearly 200 kids from the New Haven Police Activity League, Milford Boys & Girls Club, and Hamden Hall joined us, and we plan to invite them back this summer.