

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

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Meeting ID: 212 539 016 85

Passcode: ohPDWL

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Phone Conference ID: 327 144 007#

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm

1. Safety Moment
2. Public Comment: Residents and customers may address the CAC 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 – February 27, 2023 meeting
4. Environmental Education Update: Lisa DiFrancesco
5. Report of OCA – J. Donofrio
6. Approval of OCA Invoice for February 2023 for \$3,137.50
7. Next Meeting – **Monday, April 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** – joint meeting with Finance Committee to review FY 2024 proposed budget and discuss meeting method
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

****** To view meeting documents, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/43bj4dk>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email at jslubowski@rwater.com.

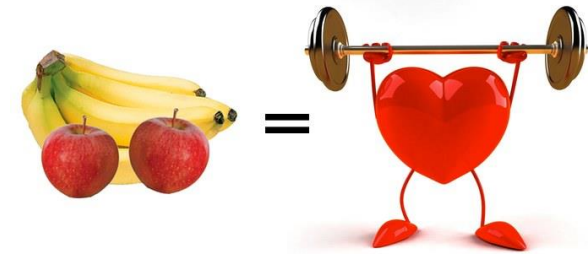
SAFETY MOMENT

MARCH - NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

GO FURTHER WITH GOOD FOOD

Whether it's starting the day off right with a healthy breakfast or fueling before an athletic event, the foods you choose can make a real difference. Preparing your foods to go further, by planning meals and snacks in advance, can also help to reduce food loss and waste.

1. Include a variety of healthful foods from all of the food groups on a regular basis.
2. Consider the foods you have on hand before buying more at the store.
3. Buy only the amount that can be eaten or frozen within a few days and plan ways to use leftovers later in the week.
4. Be mindful of portion sizes. Eat and drink the amount that's right for you.
5. Continue to use good food safety practices.
6. Find activities that you enjoy and be physically active most days of the week.
7. Realize the benefits of healthy eating by consulting with a registered dietitian nutritionist. RDNs can provide sound, easy-to-follow personalized nutrition to meet your lifestyle, preferences and health-related needs.



Tap Into
Safety



Regional Water Authority

Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

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

Minutes of the February 27, 2023 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RPB”) took place on Monday, February 27, 2023, via remote access.

Committee members present: S. Mongillo, N. Campbell, M. Levine, A. Rescigno, and R. Smith

Committee members absent: F. Pepe

RPB: R. Harvey

Authority: C. LaMarr

RWA: L. Bingaman, R. Kowalski, J. Hill, S. Lakshminarayanan, P. Singh, and N. Smith

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

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chairman Mongillo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Chair Mongillo 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. Rescigno, and seconded by Ms. Campbell, the committee voted to approve the minutes of its January 23, 2023 meeting, as presented.

Ms. Smith, the RWA’s Natural Resources Analyst, provided a Deer Hunt Update, which included:

- Historical review of the program
- Hunting areas
- Regeneration
- Application process and survey reports
- Changes made in 2022
- Harvest totals
- Impact, analysis, and reporting

Committee members discussed scouting, vegetation, regulations and restrictions, program effectiveness and impact, safety precautions, and humane hunting requirements.

At 6:05 p.m., Ms. Smith withdrew from the meeting.

Atty. Donofrio, OCA, provided reasoning for his request for an increase in the OCA’s hourly rate. He stated that his last increase was in 2018 when an increase of \$25 per hour was approved by the RPB. The amount requested by the OCA would continue to remain under budget for the upcoming fiscal year with an anticipated exposure of 150 hours.

At 6:07 p.m., Atty. Donofrio withdrew from the meeting.

Committee members discussed the OCA's attention to detail and felt that he was organized and conscientious and were in favor of supporting an increase.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President & Chief Executive Officer stated management's support for an increase to the OCA's hourly rate.

After discussion, on motion made by Mr. Rescigno, seconded by Mr. Smith, the committee voted to recommend to the RPB an increase in the OCA's hourly rate from \$225 per hour to \$300 per hour. 5-1-0.

At 6:18 p.m., Atty. Donofrio entered the meeting.

Attorney Donofrio reported that much of his time in January was spent reviewing the 2023 Rate Application and preparing his memorandum and comments for the public hearing that took place on February 23, 2023. He also stated that he has been reviewing the updated plan for the Lead & Copper Rule Program from the Department of Public Health ("DPH"). Both the RWA and the OCA have concerns about the implementation process and will be preparing testimony for submission to the DPH.

On motion made by Mr. Rescigno, seconded by Ms. Campbell, the Committee approved the OCA's January 2023 billing for \$2,195.00.

There was no new business to report.

The next regular meeting is on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:24 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Campbell, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Stephen Mongillo, Chairman

Whitney Water Center

The Whitney Water Center in Hamden offers free, hands-on water science programs for K-8 students within our district.

- Public and Private Schools
- Homeschool Organizations
- Girl and Boy Scout Troops
- Libraries
- Community Organizations

Whitney Water Center

We offer outreach and onsite programs, Project WATER field study, and loan boxes.

- In-school programs are most popular with early elementary educators
- Project WATER is the most popular option for middle school educators

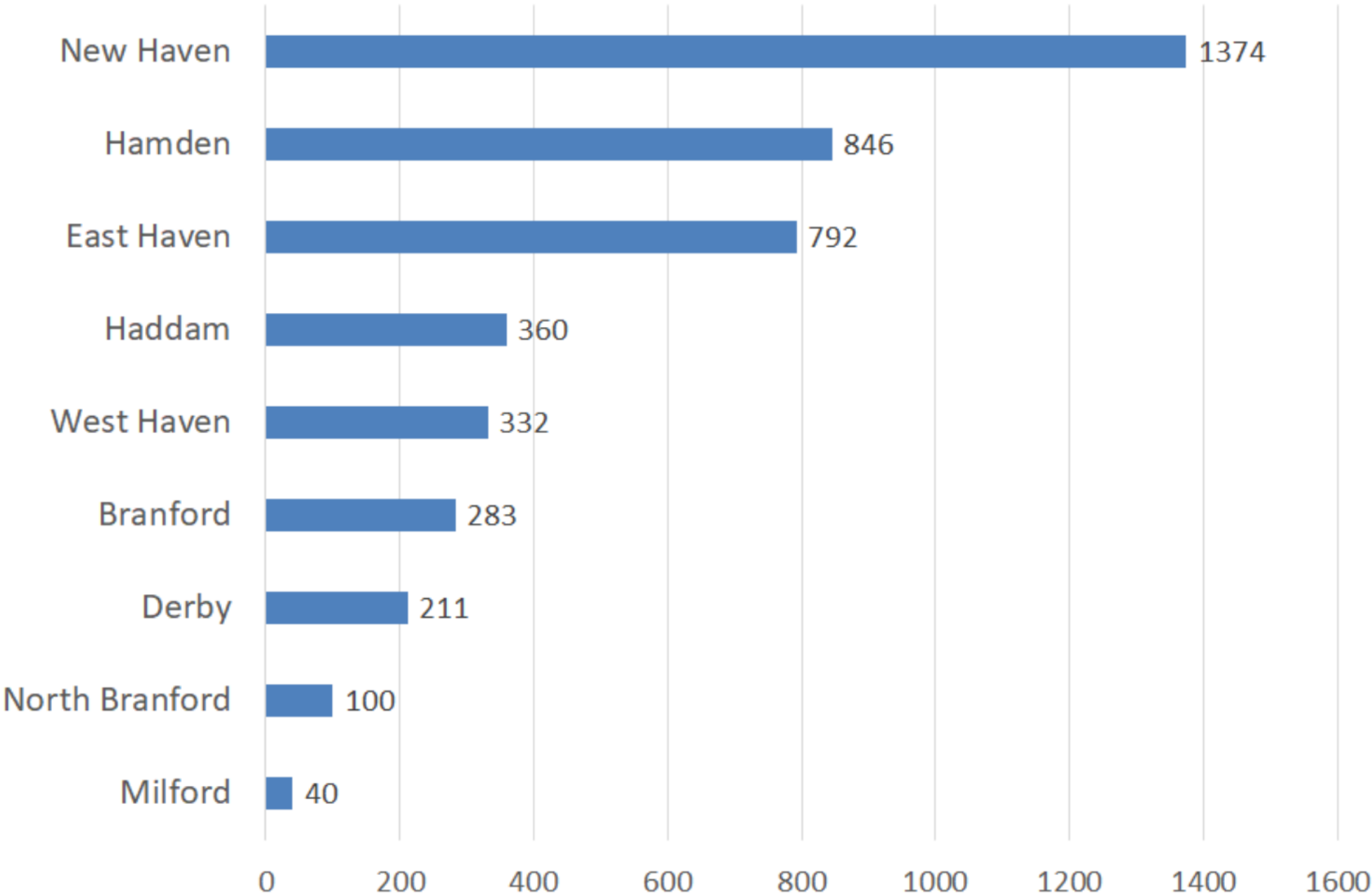
Whitney Water Center

Since the inception of the Whitney Water Center, over 364,000 students have participated in our programs.

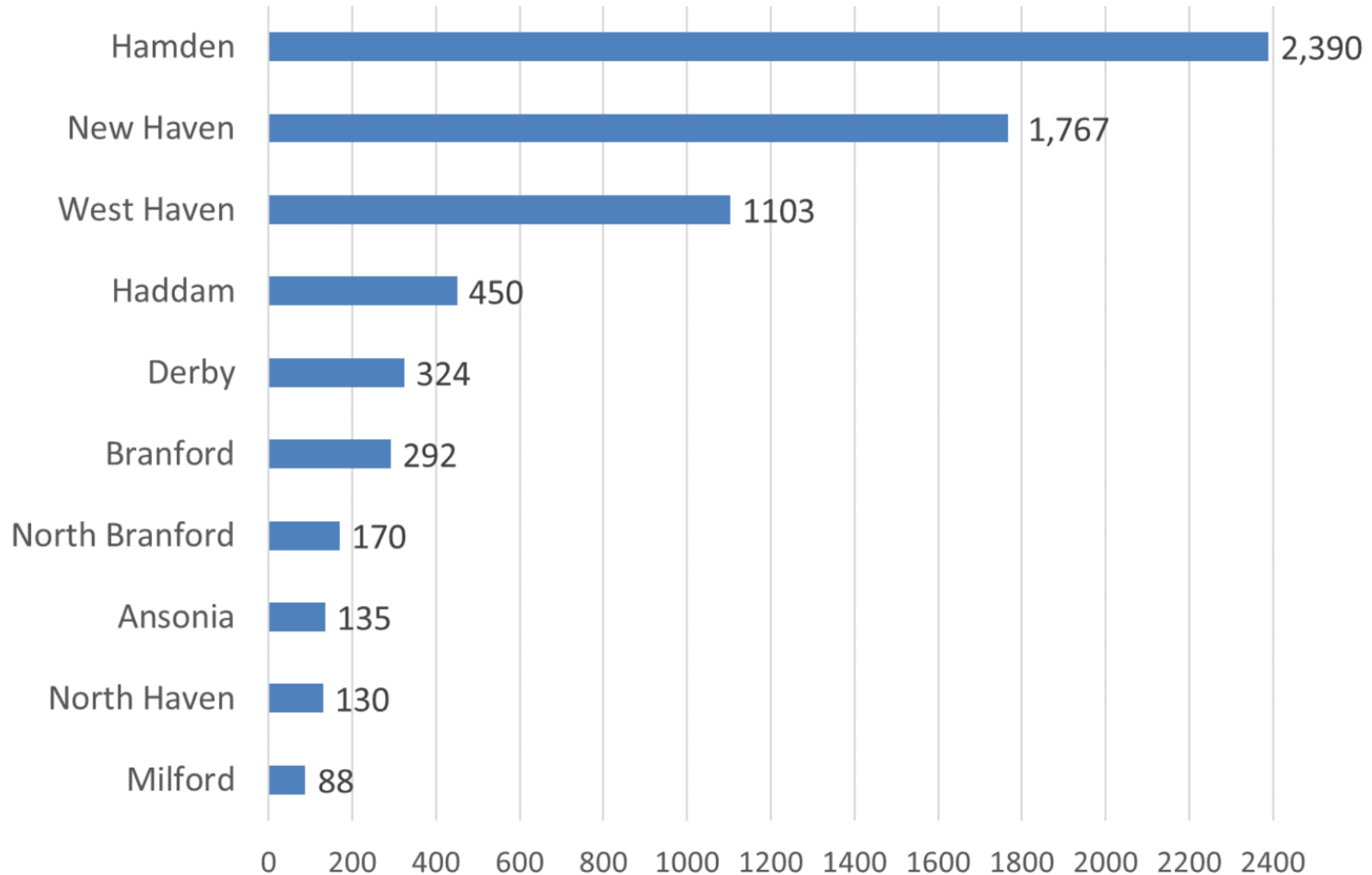
Included in that total:

- 16,100 students participated in Project WATER
- 50,300 students have used our Water Science Loan Boxes

2020-2021 Whitney Water Center Participation



2021-2022 Whitney Water Center Participation



**Total
6849**

Overall COVID Impacts and Trends

Pre-COVID Average

School Years 16-17, 17-18, 18-19

5,000 students

COVID Average

School Years 20-21 and 21-22

2,691 students

(-48%)

Current School Year

Programs booked YTD

3,631 students

(+35% from the last 2 years)

Classroom Programs COVID Impacts

Pre-COVID Average

School Years 16-17, 17-18, 18-19

4,200 students

COVID Average

School Years 20-21 and 21-22

2,015 students

(-52%)

Current School Year

Programs booked YTD

2,877 students

(+42% from the last 2 years)

Project WATER COVID Impacts

Pre-COVID Average

School Years 16-17, 17-18, 18-19

800 students

COVID Average

School Years 20-21 and 21-22

676 students

(-15%)

Current School Year

Programs booked YTD

759 students

(+12% from the last 2 years)

Digital Improvements

- Digital programs created to teach remote programs translated into improved in-person programs
- Smartboards are installed in almost all classrooms and teachers are familiar with their use
- Improved visuals for programs equals increased student engagement

Digital Improvements

These two classroom programs are 30% of the booked programs this year



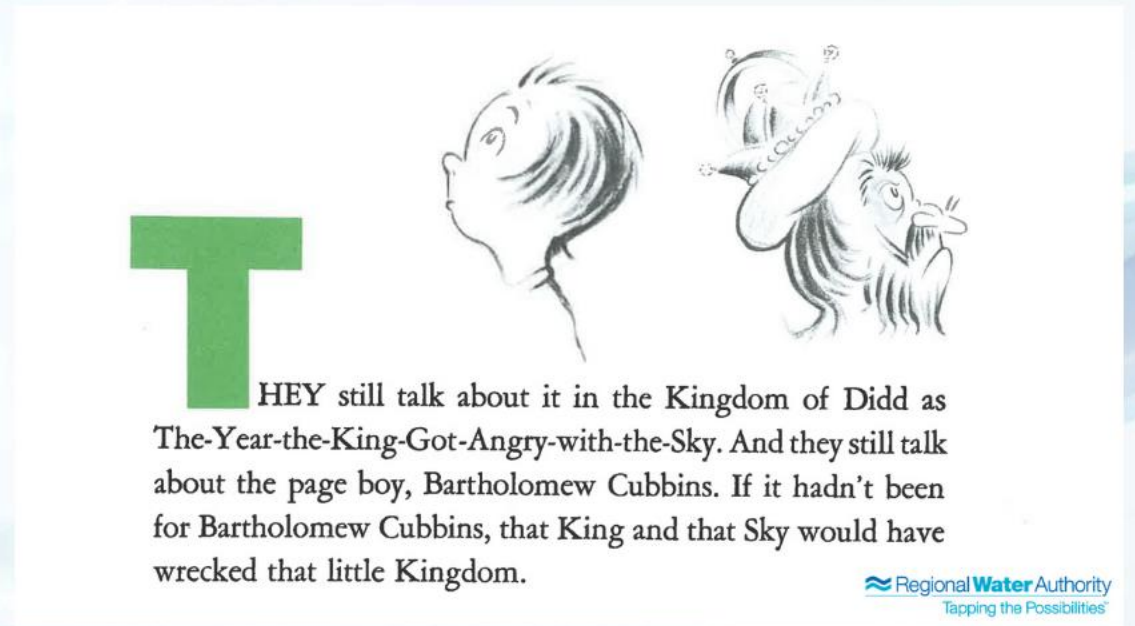
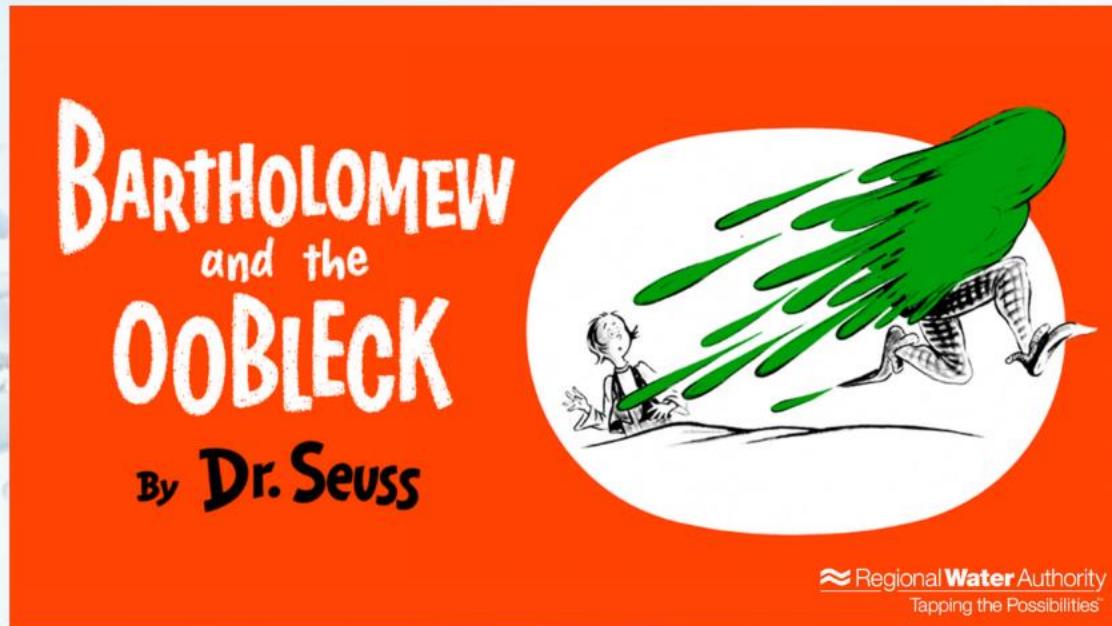
Invasion of the Aliens - Invasive Species



Macro-invertebrate Messages - Water Quality

Digital Improvements

My narrated video of *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* has over 29,000 views on YouTube



Digital Improvements

Project WATER has also benefited from digital improvements

- Prep classes before the field trip are done through guided videos by the classroom teachers allowing more time for field trip experiences and reaching more students
- Improved directions which make it easier for the students to work independently during the field trip



Experiment #1 Dissolved Oxygen

Materials

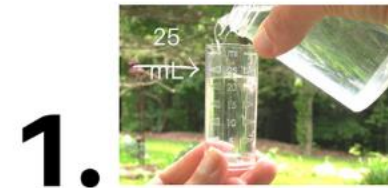
- Dissolved Oxygen test kit (flat black box)
- Water from the river in container labeled "fill with river water"
- Waste container

Procedure

1. Fill the small plastic test tube in the dissolved oxygen kit to the 25 mL mark with the river water sample.
2. Place the glass ampoule into the small plastic test tube you just filled. **Snap the tip of the glass ampoule by pressing it against the side of the cup near the bottom.** The water will flow into the glass tube.
3. Mix the contents of the glass test tube by turning it so the bubble inside the test tube will travel from end to end. **DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGER OVER THE END WITH THE BROKEN GLASS.**
4. Set the timer for 2 minutes. Wait two minutes for the color to change completely.
5. Compare the color in your test sample to the different blue colored test tubes inside the cover of the black box. Match it to the closest color and record the answer on the data sheet.
6. Give the glass ampoule with the blue liquid in it to the instructor.
7. Empty the water in the small plastic test tube into the waste container.
8. Put everything that belongs in the dissolved oxygen test kit back in the black box and place it in the bucket.
9. Begin the second experiment.



Experiment #1 Dissolved Oxygen



1.

Fill the test tube in the Dissolved Oxygen kit with river water to the 25 mL line.



2.

Get a glass ampoule from the instructor.



3.

Place the thin end of the ampoule into the test tube and snap the end off by pressing the top of the ampoule on side the test tube.



4.

Take the ampoule out of the test tube and slowly turn it over a few times to mix it. Set the time for 2 minutes.



5.

Compare your ampoule to the comparator. Write your answer on the datasheet.



6.

Empty the water from the test tube into the waste container. Give the used ampoule to the instructor.

A dynamic splash of water in shades of light blue and white, with numerous bubbles and droplets, set against a light blue gradient background. The water appears to be moving from the bottom left towards the top right.

Questions?