

**South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority**  
Via Remote Access\*\*

**AGENDA**

**Regular Meeting of Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.**

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- A. Safety Moment
- B. Public Comment: The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Residents may address the Board.
- C. Environmental, Health & Safety Committee: K. Curseaden
  - 1. Approve minutes – August 25, 2022 meeting
  - 2. DEEP Stream Flow Regulations Implementation: EH&S Committee Memo
  - 3. RWA Reservoir Safe Yield Model Update: EH&S Committee Memo
  - 4. 2023 Legislative Session Outlook – EH&S Committee Memo
- D. Strategic Planning Committee: D. Borowy
  - 1. Approve minutes – August 25, 2022 meeting
  - 2. Internal Business Process Improvements Update – Strategic Planning Committee Memo
- E. Act on matters arising from Committee meetings
- F. Consent Agenda
  - 1. Approve minutes – October 27, 2022 meeting
  - 2. Capital Budget Authorization - December 2022
  - 3. Monthly Financial Report – October 2022
  - 4. Accounts Receivable Update – October 2022
  - 5. Adopt schedule of Calendar Year 2023 regular board and committee meetings
  - 6. Bid Exemptions:
    - a. Emergency Repair Service
    - b. Printing Services
- G. Reports on RPB Committee Meetings
- H. Business Updates: L. Bingaman
  - 1. COVID Update: E. Calo
  - 2. Monthly Business Highlights: L. Bingaman
  - 3. Proposed RPB Revised Dashboard
- I. Finance: R. Kowalski
  - 1. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Schedule
  - 2. Rate Application Planning
  - 3. \*Accounts Receivable Collection Strategy Update - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210 subsection b #'s 5 B, pertaining to commercial and financial information.*

\*\* Members of the public may attend the meeting via conference call. For information on attending the meeting and to view meeting documents, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/bvaurs6j>. For questions, contact the board office at [jslubowski@rwater.com](mailto:jslubowski@rwater.com) or call 203-401-2515.

*\*RPB Member (J. Oslander) should be excused at item I.3*

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY**

*(Including Environmental, Health & Safety and Strategic Planning Committee meetings)*

NOVEMBER 17, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

Remote meeting instructions:

**Call in (*audio only*)**

+1 469-965-2517,,865685888# United States, Dallas

Phone Conference ID: 865 685 888#

For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email at

[jslubowski@rwater.com](mailto:jslubowski@rwater.com)

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

**Minutes of the August 25, 2022 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Environmental, Health & Safety Committee of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”) took place on Thursday, August 25, 2022, via remote access. Chair Curseaden presided.

Present: Committee Members present–Messrs. Borowy, Curseaden, DiSalvo, and Ms. LaMarr  
Committee Members absent – Ms. Sack  
Management – Mss. Kowalski, Verdisco, Augur, and Messrs. Bingaman, Donovan, Hill, Lakshminarayanan, and Singh  
RWA Police – Sgt. Ruggiero  
Staff – Mrs. Slubowski

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

On motion made by Mr. DiSalvo, seconded by Ms. LaMarr, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 meeting.

Borowy	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
LaMarr	Aye
Sack	Absent

At 12:34 p.m., on motion made by Mr. DiSalvo, seconded by Ms. LaMarr, and unanimously carried, the Committee voted to go into executive discussion to discuss security matters. Present in executive session were the Authority members, Mss. Kowalski, Verdisco, Augur, Slubowski, and Messrs. Bingaman, Donovan, Hill, Lakshminarayanan, Singh and Sgt. Ruggiero.

Borowy	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
LaMarr	Aye
Sack	Absent

At 1:45 p.m., the committee meeting reconvened, and on motion made by Mr. DiSalvo, seconded by Ms. LaMarr, and unanimously carried, the committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

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Kevin Curseaden, Chairman

**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  
Anthony DiSalvo  
Catherine E. LaMarr  
Suzanne C. Sack

Cc: Larry Bingaman, President & CEO  
Sunny Lakshminarayanan, VP, EES

From: Steve Vitko, Environmental Planning Manager

Date: November 2022

Subject: FY 2023 Work Plan Update – DEEP Stream Flow Regulations Implementation

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### **DEEP Stream Flow Regulations Implementation**

The Connecticut Stream Flow Standards and Regulations (RCSA 26-141b) were adopted in 2011. Future releases located at nine corresponding RWA dams are required to begin within 10 years of streamflow classification, which will be September 2026. To prepare for future releases, the RWA Environmental Planning department continues to work with Capital Planning & Delivery to implement capital improvements, which will allow for proper implementation of the regulation requirements.

To date, Environmental Planning assessed the downstream requirements for each of the nine dams impacted by the regulation. We determined there were four sites requiring capital improvements in order to measure and release proper volumes. Iron Stream required capital improvements to allow for proper release via a weir structure and valve installation. At two sites in the West River system, weirs were installed to allow proper measurement of future downstream release requirements. At the final site below Lake Dawson, a variable flow release will be required (change in discharge volumes throughout the year, seasonally). Due to seasonal volume fluctuations, a larger weir was required to allow for gauging changeable flows. A remote monitoring system was also implemented to improve process efficiency due to the nature of changing flows at the site.

Upcoming action items include piloting the new streamflow regulations prior to official implementation to determine manpower needs and address any potential implications. We will also prepare an implementation plan to submit to DEEP by the required date in September 2025, which will act as an additional internal operational guidance document. Once streamflow regulations are initiated in 2026, the Environmental Planning department will be required to submit an annual report to provide flow volume documentation to the DEEP, upon their request.

The upcoming changes to DEEP stream flow regulations will impact storage in the RWA's reservoirs, particularly the Lake Gaillard and West River systems, although this is likely to be manageable based on the safe yield analysis discussed below.

Future streamflow requirements allow for reductions in the release as the system's drought triggers are activated. The reductions are 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% in drought stages Advisory, Watch, Warning, and Emergency, respectively, with 15% release cutback for spring drought avoidance from March to May. Environmental Planning will actively evaluate storage levels and drought conditions to initiate proper reductions when necessary to enhance reservoir storage capacity. These drought initiated reductions create a potential opportunity to increase safe yield and reservoir storage in a given drought by revising the RWA's current drought triggers. In this case, the RWA would be required to notify our customers of voluntary or mandatory drought restrictions at higher reservoir storage levels than present requirements.

**\*Board discussion:**

- *Should the RWA consider modifying its drought triggers to be more conservative (declaring voluntary and/or mandatory drought restrictions earlier than we do now)?*
- *Should the RWA develop a two-day per week outdoor watering campaign during excessive dry periods in the interest of avoiding droughts, experiencing peak demand water quality problems, and being better prepared to implement and enforce restrictions when droughts are declared?*
- *What should be the elements of a Drought Communications & Enforcement Plan if one were created?*
- *Should we work with the State legislators to have RWA's drought advisory mandatorily implemented by the municipalities/towns/cities that RWA serves?*

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From: Steve Vitko, Environmental Planning Manager

Date: November 2022

Subject: FY 2023 Work Plan Update – RWA Reservoir Safe Yield Model

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### **RWA Reservoir Safe Yield Model**

In 2019, the RWA worked with Hydrologics and Tighe & Bond to prepare an updated safe yield analysis for RWA's reservoir systems. Safe yield, simply put, is the daily withdrawal during a drought of record (1960s drought in RWA's case) that as modeled will cause a reservoir or reservoir system to empty before it refills. In relation, the term 'available water' is the safe yield minus other practical limitations such as permit conditions, system hydraulics, and treatment capacity.

The 2019 study included final conclusions for RWA's system safe yield with current downstream releases and safe yield after future release requirements once the DEEP Streamflow Regulations are initiated, which will begin in September 2026. The study concluded that RWA's system has a relatively high average day Margin of Safety, as defined by the CT DPH. The RWA's reservoir system is highly robust relative to many other water utilities, with enough storage to withstand multiple consecutive years of drought. Although this is the case, there are limitations in relying solely on safe yield calculations to assess resiliency of the RWA's system including:

The safe yield modeling analysis assumed that surface water system withdrawals are being maximized, subject to the aforementioned available water limitations. In practice, this is rarely the case. For example, the 2019 modeling analysis assumed maximum operation of the Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant under the environmental management plan, with elevated withdrawals in the winter and spring months. There are practical constraints to this type of scenario involving water supply, social, and environmental objectives. A recent modeling analysis and drought exercise concluded that operating the Lake Whitney plant at a generally moderate and near-constant daily rate year-round best addresses these competing interests.

Safe yield does not necessarily consider distribution system limitations in getting water to where it's needed. This is particularly important when considering the RWA's northern service area, which is served predominantly by groundwater sources. The ability to move water stored in our

surface water system to these northern areas is highly limited due to the need to install additional water main in Route 10.

Drought not only impacts the quantities of water available, but also water quality. For example, lower reservoir levels, even when there's sufficient water stored to meet demands during a drought, can cause algae blooms that can make water more difficult and expensive to treat, thus limiting plant capacity and potentially impacting water quality at customer taps.

**\*The above limitations are outlined with questions in the board discussion below.**

The release requirements of the upcoming DEEP Streamflow Regulations will result in a 5.8 MGD (8.5%) loss of safe yield in RWA's reservoirs. The safe yield study concluded that the RWA has enough supply to meet its obligations post-regulation implementation. In addition, RWA's Margin of Safety will still be well above the 1.15 recommended by the Department of Public Health.

In conclusion, from the study performed, the RWA system has adequate water supply to meet demands under both the current and future Stream Flow Regulation release requirements. The results also indicate that RWA's drought triggers are adequately protective.

**\*Board Discussion:**

- *Should drought triggers and response actions be developed for groundwater sources? (Note, RWA currently only has drought triggers for surface water supplies, which remain unchanged since its first Water Supply Plan approval in 1992). This could be based on stream flows in the upper Mill River, where the RWA has four wellfields that could affect stream flow and aquatic habitat.*
- *Should we expedite the Northern Service Area Expansion which will allow to move water from the New Haven service area (surface water sources) to the northern service area served by groundwater sources to allow improved conjunctive use of surface and groundwater across its region to reduce environmental impacts, improve redundancy, and provide more reliable service to wholesale customers?*
- *Should we pursue more interconnections with neighboring municipalities and/or look at expanding into new areas to provide water service?*



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Cc: Larry Bingaman, President & CEO  
Sunny Lakshminarayanan, VP, EES  
Elizabeth Calo, Sr. Director, HR

From: Lori Vitagliano, Government & PR Specialist

Date: November 2022

Subject: FY 2023 Work Plan Update – 2023 Legislative Session Outlook

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## **2023 Legislative Session Outlook**

The Connecticut General Assembly will commence its 2023 legislative session on January 4 and adjourn on June 7, 2023. The RWA's legislative lobbying efforts will focus on evaluating all proposed bills introduced in the General Assembly's 27 committees. The RWA Government and Public Relations Specialist (G&PR Specialist) will evaluate the proposed bills, draft testimony and personally deliver it before the legislators. The majority of these bills will likely originate in the Appropriations, Environment, Planning & Development, and Public Health Committees.

Throughout the upcoming weeks, communication with key RWA staff and each member of the Leadership Team will take place to identify issues pertaining to and possibly affecting the RWA. Feedback from those meetings will shape RWA's positions for the 2023 legislative session. To advance legislation supported by the RWA, we will contact legislators in our region and inform them about our position.

Key topics that have already been identified include supporting funding and bonding legislation for water company infrastructure projects, illegal ATV riding on water company land, legionella, PFAS, solar siting petitions, creation of a stewardship program for tires, and monitoring for issues related to a Political Subdivision, including its regulating body.

The G&PR Specialist will be prepared to testify in support or opposition to legislation affecting the RWA that advances to a public hearing. If a bill supported by the RWA is voted out of committee, we will continue to communicate with the legislators representing our region in the respective chamber in which they serve. The RWA's contract lobbyist firm, Gaffney Bennet, will assist and support RWA's legislative efforts. As a legislative tri-chair for the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA), the G&PR Specialist will work closely with the CWWA on introducing, advancing, or blocking water industry-related issues. The RWA Authority Board and RPB members will be updated throughout the legislative session, informing them on key issues affecting the RWA.