

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
April 28, 2022
Meeting Transcription

David:

I will call the April meeting of the Regional Water Authority to order at 12:30. And welcome all. I will note for attendance purposes that Tony DiSalvo is not going to be joining us today. We have many presenters remotely with us, which is great. We also welcome our RPB guest for the second month in a row, representing [crosstalk 00:02:44] chapter.

David:

So right into the first item of business, which is the Safety Moment. Cell phone use when driving. Did we get that too, or do we just...

Larry:

Well, sometimes we've given it to Donna and sometimes we've just said pay attention.

David:

Very good. I like that. All right. The second item of business is to meet as the Pension and Benefit Committee. So I will ask if someone would like to move. Kevin's moving that we recess as the Authority and meet as the Pension and Benefit Committee. Is there a second?

Catherine:

I will second that.

Larry:

Seconded by Catherine. All those in favor signal by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Larry:

All unanimous, folks. All right. Suzanne. It's all yours for a while.

[PENSION & BENEFIT COMMITTEE MEETS FROM 12:31 PM TO 2:47 PM]

David:

Before we take a break, let's just do the one item which is act on matters arising from the committee. So your committee met and Suzanne, do you have some motions you would like to present to us? We can do all three together, right?

Suzanne:

Yeah. Why don't we do that? The additional pension contribution resolution, the pension fiscal year 2023 proposed resolutions, and the VEBA proposed resolutions are on the table, recommended from the committee for the board to adopt them moving forward.

David:

Is there a second?

Catherine:

Second.

David:

Second. All right. Any further discussion from what the committee did? Not seeing any, you're ready to vote. All those in favor say, aye.

Group:

Aye.

David:

It passes unanimously for us. All right. Let's take a 12 minute break as it gets us right to three o'clock and then we'll move on with committee reports.

Suzanne:

Thanks everybody for your patience with the Pension & Benefit Committee meeting.

David:

Thank you. No, that was important. That was a lot of different, basically we had to talk to that. So thank you for shepherding us through that.

David:

Let's get started, it's 3:00. All right, we're back to order again. Item D is a consent calendar. You've all had a chance to review or if there's any questions or if you're ready to recommend we move to approve this.

Catherine:

I move to approve the consent calendar.

David:

Is there a second?

Suzanne:

I'll second.

David:

Second. Any questions or any items with... [inaudible 00:05:40] detail or we move? No. Sensing you're ready to vote then, all in favor say, aye.

Group:

Aye.

David:

All right, finance. Unusual Type B Amendment, we don't get that many of them. This is the South Sleeping Giant Wellfield.

Rochelle:

Yeah. This is another amendment that we are recommending that we move \$510,000 from South Sleeping Giant well field into, I'm going to call it the reserve account. And we believe this is the prudent thing to do. This is being impacted by supply chain as are some of the other projects.

David:

So we're talking about four now will be in a reserve fund, if you will, we'll call a contingency, right?

Rochelle:

Yeah.

David:

This is the fourth one.

Rochelle:

We had already moved some money for South Sleeping Giant, this is actually [inaudible 00:06:26].

David:

Okay. So still four projects. Okay. Any other questions or [inaudible 00:06:33]. What would you-

Suzanne:

Just as a matter of process. When we do meet our supply chain needs, the project needs to come back out, the money could turn back out.

David:

Correct. It's out the contingency.

Suzanne:
Thank you.

David:
Okay. What's your pleasure folks.

Suzanne:
I'll move to approve the [inaudible 00:06:54] budget of transfer Type B3 Amendment.

David:
[Inaudible 00:06:57] Second?

Kevin:
Second.

David:
Questions. Seeing none. All those in favor signify by saying, aye.

Group:
Aye.

David:
It passes unanimous. Now we are into updates, Larry.

Larry:
Okay. Thank you very much. Donna will give you an update on the COVID situation here, we've had a little activity since the last time.

Donna:
Great. Thanks Larry. So as all of you know, as of, I guess our last report out, which was March 31st, we now have 71 cases, which is an increase in two cases. Since our last board report out. Our vaccination rate remains at 85%. We are continuing to monitor the daily positive rate in our area in, according at the CDC guidelines. Of course our cleaning process is still underway where we are every Saturday, continuing to spray all of the shared workspace areas. The treatment plants are also being cleaned once a week. And we're also doing a daily midday sanitizing of key common areas, like in the elevators, door handles, tables, things like that. The Connecticut COVID positivity rate is 7.81. So this is pretty much in line. I will say in our last report out back in March, we had removed the masks back in March 7th and we had a little bit of a slight change there, but it looks like we're back to the normal rates of what we were doing before. And that was it.

David:

Any question? [crosstalk 00:08:32].

Kevin:

Maybe a little bit off the topic, maybe it got covered, but is everyone back to full time?

Larry:

Yeah, we've returned [crosstalk 00:08:39] everybody back to the office. They're working essentially three days in the office and two remote, with few exceptions. Some departments are giving their people a bit more flexibility because they feel like they can. Customer care, call center, is just about 100% remote and they're continuing to take calls and process closings and doing everything metrics. While our abandoned call rate has pumped up, that's because we have two vacant positions that we will fill very soon. So that's the primary driver for that, but essentially everybody that's in the office are back at work with some variations.

Kevin:

So the call center, [crosstalk 00:09:33] they're 100% remote or that is because they're not needed in here?

Larry:

Well, one, they can show that they can handle the calls at home given that flexibility, we're evaluating when and if we bring them back. Quite frankly, we are evaluating whether to give the workforce more flexibility in terms of time in the office versus time at home. Because during the pandemic, it's definitely proven that our administrative people, I'll call them, they come in at the office, they work just as effectively at home as they are in the office.

Kevin:

How many people work at the call center?

Larry:

Prem, we have 25, I think. [crosstalk 00:10:17].

Prem:

We have 25 members. As a matter of fact, we have eight members constantly taking a call and based on the call volumes, we have increased that to make sure that we can reduce abandonment rates. But I think we are performing pretty okay. As Larry mentioned, once we refill the two roles that we are down, I think we should be back to a normal level. So that's the plan.

Larry:

But we do watch the metrics to make sure that we're meeting our metrics across the organization.

Kevin:

Right. It's a different way to work. [crosstalk 00:10:48] a lot of different companies. How's morale overall?

Larry:

Seems to be very good, I think overall. There's always pockets in the company where there's a little discord. And there is unfortunately an us and them, which is the people that have to be here every day, whether it's the field operations or the treatment plant operators, there's a little underlying, I don't want to call it resentment, that might be too strong of a word. But they view the people working at home as having a little extra that they don't get to experience because they have to be here. So we try and balance that. We had some events earlier in the year to celebrate the people that had to be here every day, as appreciation for the people that have worked remote and in the office.

David:

Are you all set?

Kevin:

Yes. Thank you.

David:

How are we doing with the fact that we went to monthly billing and therefore probably... I thought I saw in your report, the calls went way up.

Larry:

Yeah. Calls spiked in January to be sure, because there was some confusion about the bill. Some people got a bill in December and then they got a bill in January and they said, "Gee, did I just paid the bill without really understanding what happened." There's also been some confusion in the pipe safe area. So I think that pretty much generally has stabilized. But yeah, we were getting double the calls a day or a week, than we were before.

David:

Because we had issues in the past being able to keep up with the calls and handling them smoothly.

Larry:

That was when we went to the new billing system with SAP, that's what you're thinking.

David:

No, I'm saying the call center had seemed overwhelmed and then COVID dropped the number of calls significantly. But prior to COVID, it was organizationally, I think, difficult to keep up with what we had. I'm just wondering if that exacerbated it. Are we getting the efficiency of calls they answer at home?

Larry:

Yeah, we seem to be getting the efficiency of the calls, because the call representatives have a computer and they literally answer the call on the computer. That's how they conduct it, so they're able to take the calls and handle it. We'd always have Edwards as a backup, which always catches the overflow. And then of course our people call it back when there's an issue.

David:

Okay. Prem, do you want to add anything to that?

Prem:

Yeah. Thank you Larry. Spot on everything. Just to add a little bit more like color to that. As you mentioned, David, so we are at the pre pandemic levels, like you said, there was a dip because of the COVID and now with the number of calls, we are back to the pre pandemic levels. But the good news is that the team is pretty productive. So we used to see around 4,300 calls a month, now we are up to 9,500 on average calls a month. So like Larry mentioned it, we kind of double up the calls, but that was pretty much the pre pandemic levels. In terms of efficiency, I know you had asked about efficiency as well, that's where we talked about the 10 CSR, we went from 8 to 10. So we are able to manage it. Again, as soon as we fill those two roles, I think we should be okay. We're kind of stabilizing more. So we had a spike because of monthly billing, now we are stabilizing more. So that's how we are performing.

David:

Okay.

Suzanne:

Can I just ask one of the question? So how many calls does the average call person take a day?

Prem:

So if you look at on a daily basis, Suzanne, I think we went from 200 before the pre-pandemic levels, now we're at 450 calls. So that's distributed along the lines of the 10 people. But right now eight people are taking those same 450 calls a day. So on an average, if you divide that out, it was close to 45 to 60 calls. Now we are looking at close to 60 calls because of the same scenario of two resource... The bandwidth did

not change, so it's 8 people taking 10 people's worth of calls, but we are managing that. So on average it's around 60 calls a day, I would say, per person.

Suzanne:

What's your standard for excellence in productivity?

Prem:

In terms of the best metrics, it lies somewhere between 45 to 50 calls, from our perspective. Again, let's not forget, every call is different. Some calls are pretty long based on the typical issue or escalation it is, so on an average, we look at probably around three to five minutes, is our typical call on average, if it's a straightforward call. But sometimes those calls go up to like 10, 12 minutes still, so it depends on really the nature of the call.

David:

You have the call handling stats. I'm not sure we did that but we've seen them.

Prem:

Yeah.

Larry:

Okay. Thanks Prem. In terms of some highlights of my board letter, we are continuing to work with the owner of the lab that we've been talking to, and he agreed to our term sheet, which had a one page outline of terms and conditions on this sale. We're now looking at, one, putting together an asset purchase agreement, but we're also investigating what kind of environmental due diligence might be required, that's ongoing. And further in the area of the commercial business, Dennis Donovan, and I had a call with two advisors that we might engage. One of them was the broker that represented Roach Plumbing. We talked to her about perhaps reaching out and contacting more companies to increase deal flow. Her MO is that she would reach out to companies and find out if there's an interest on the part of the seller, of selling, and then she would represent them. So that way she can act as a third party. We also got in touch with Bill Malarkey, with [inaudible 00:16:58] advisors to see if they were interested in working with us.

Larry:

And they are short on staff and they are having difficulty hiring people right now. So the interest was lukewarm at best, but we're continuing to do deal flow. Dennis is reaching out. I think that [inaudible 00:17:19] might be of help to us as well. On a new subject, I had a number of field and site visits this past month as part of my strategic priorities. Jim [inaudible 00:17:36] and I have started going out in the field together and this last month we saw progress on a number of projects. One of them was the West River water treatment plant, is our [inaudible 00:17:48] facility at West River. We also looked at the North Sleeping Giant Well Field treatment system that

they put in place and the installation of a 2,200 feet of water main that was ongoing in Milford. And it was very interesting because I was talking to the crew chief and he knew exactly why he was replacing it. He said, "We've had more than three main breaks on this particular main break, and therefore, because that's our standard, we're replacing it."

Larry:

And it was great to hear feedback about that kind of a metric. So that was great. And then we also looked at an elevator replacement project ongoing at Lake [inaudible 00:18:34]. I also joined our senior environmental analyst, Steve Vitko, and Steve is responsible for inspecting our watershed for any activities that may contaminate sources of supply, like housing development, that's being built next to a river that feeds a reservoir, for an instance. So I spent half a day with him, understanding what kind of work he does and how that protects our water quality. Also, we hired two utility techs that I'd asked Jim to do, to specifically pay attention to our diversions and to clean them up because they had become congested, I'll say, with overgrowth. So I had a chance with Steve, to go out and look at some of the work they're doing to keep our diversions clear.

Larry:

We had two very tenured employees in the construction department take that job, so they're able to handle all the equipment, whether it's backhoe or chainsaws or that sort of thing, and to do the work. And they're very enthusiastic about it, I feel like that they're really contributing to the overall water quality of the organization. Also too, as part of our DE&I ongoing program, we initiated some training opportunities for employees that will be given to everybody at the organization. On the subject of infrastructure, investment, Rochelle and Sunny, and the manager of our planning and new services, [inaudible 00:20:12] Shaw, have compiled and submitted six applications pertaining to water treatment and infrastructure improvements. And they were able to request 80% of the amount of all six projects, that's \$18 million of \$22 million, so fingers crossed and we'll be able to get that.

David:

And in other financing news was shell. Who've been working with our bond council and DWSRF people to enable us to have interim DWSRF financing. Now, the importance of that is that's a pay as you go, rather than we would implement the project, complete it, and then we would get money back from DWSRF. So many times we'd have to put together our own inner financing. So this is a real major improvement that allow us to get money as we construct the project ongoing, so kudos to Rochelle with that. And then on the financing... along with that, we have submitted several applications for DWSRF financing. And then on the public utility management degree front, I welcomed more than 60 utility leaders at the bi-annual meeting of utility leaders that get together and advise on the program, which was a great session focused on giving the school utility management degree program input on their first strategic plan. So they're really starting to formalize that outreach, to

improve it. So lots going on and great months. I'd be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Suzanne:

Going back to [inaudible 00:22:03] our business after. Two things, one... And I'm sorry, I was just looking through my photos and I couldn't... I thought I took a photo of it. We had a presentation to an RPB committee just recently, where there was a slide in the presentation about an update on how our growth business was doing, and I think it was related to Roach. And in it, I looked at the slide, I kept looking at the slide, kept looking at the side, it looked like to be like we missed our targets.

Larry:

No. [crosstalk 00:22:41].

Suzanne:

So I don't know if the slide was incomplete.

David:

No, I don't think so.

Larry:

No, on Roach we're actually ahead of budget. [crosstalk 00:22:51]. On Roach. Yeah.

David:

But I think it's overall with the targets for it.

Larry:

[crosstalk 00:23:05] The lab's not been performing as well as we thought. And even though Rochelle had gone through it with the help of an accountant, did a complete cost analysis. I was starting to make guest lists as a result of that. We were less than budget for the overall commercial sector, primarily due to the performance of the lab, but the Roach Plumbing is ahead of budget.

Suzanne:

Okay. Thank you for that clarification. So what does that mean, that the lab isn't performing in overall, the metrics on that particular front I got?

Larry:

I think I'd have this in the executive session.

Suzanne:

Okay. That's fine. That's perfectly fine. Second question is payback period on the investments that we're making. As we go forward, I think we've done a basic

equation of it. We're going to spend a million dollars and we're going to get \$200,000 as our projected cash flow for it, it'll be a five year payback, it's-

Rochelle:

Four to five years is what we used.

Suzanne:

Okay. And I think it just sparked it when I saw that slide, was, why is five years good press or not good press? Why wouldn't it be seven? Why wouldn't it be three? And I know that the numbers in some way drive it, but what makes it appealing to us?

Larry:

Well, it's primarily the numbers that are driving it. I always liked three years better than five on the project, but sometimes just the numbers that we end up paying as well as the expected return, make it longer. Our goal is always to exceed that, to do better. And I think because we're just getting into this area, kind of falling before we're walking, that regard. So a bit of a learning process.

Suzanne:

Okay. So if we go out over time and smaller investments are going to be a five year payback period, over time, are we satisfied that's a growth rate in this portion of business to accomplish what we're trying-

Larry:

No. As a matter of fact, as I said it before, in order to get to that \$9.2 million net income, we're going to have to buy bigger businesses. We're going to have... Our payback may or may not be five years or less. We'll have to see once we find the opportunity. Some of that's a factor of how much the market grows or how much we can actually increase the revenues by adding staff or whatever the key component. Like plumbing for instance, you're plumbers, every plumber you add, you add business. And it's very interesting because there's a direct correlation on that. So some of that is what do we have to do in order to grow the business and accelerate it. We are conservative, which I think is appropriate for terms of our projections, so that we don't global promise and under deliver. So we use that five year period, quite frankly it gave us a little bit of room to grow.

Suzanne:

Okay. I was just curious if we're, pedaling along, along, along, along. But if it's a 20 K race and we're pedaling along at a rate that's not going to get us to the 20 K race in the timeframe that we're trying to get there, I just was wondering, what do we do to ramp that up? Do you change these kinds of investments and strive for shorter payback periods or you invest in bigger companies? What's the real answer to getting the flywheel going.

Larry:

Rochelle, Dennis and I, had some conversations around that. That it's either one, increase in the deal flow of the smallest, and of course that's opportunistic. There's only 17 labs, say in Connecticut, and we've been in touch with all of them more than once. We have found only two that have been willing to enter into negotiations with us. So one, it's opportunity. So while we want more deal flow, there's only one Dennis to do that work, and he and Rochelle works very closely together, still only one Dennis and one Rochelle. Secondly, I think we do need to get to much bigger acquisitions in order to meet that target, which could increase risk, it's going to cost more money, and it's going to be... And it will take longer to close the deal because it's going to cost more than a million dollars. And then that's finding an owner that's willing to spend three to four months in an approval process. So there's a lot of variables there.

Suzanne:

All right. Okay. And then Dennis, was Dennis going to move up here last spring, is that still part of the plan?

Larry:

We had talked about that, he's actually sold his house in Chicago, he's renting space right now. And his daughter graduated from high school this year, we'll have a conversation about that.

Suzanne:

Do you think that will help get more-

Larry:

Well, Dennis has been very, very effective remotely because he does his contact by email or letter and then follow up phone call, and then some sort of a Zoom call, and that's been effective. And he does come out to the area periodically, it's averaging out about once a month or once every six weeks. And when he is here, he makes those face to face contacts that he initiated. So when he first hired, I was pretty adamant that he needed to be here in six months, but he's proven quite effectively that he can do it remotely and be just as effective there. But I think his plans are essentially to move out.

Suzanne:

Thank you. Thank you for answering. [inaudible 00:29:10]

David:

And I'm going to guess that one potential answer to your initial question this time, was that maybe the \$9.2 million target isn't going to be hit at that time of net revenue. It may just be there is going to be a delay. May have to be a combination of all these things, larger purchases, more accelerated smaller purchases, and just a

delay. We may not have the rate we need as quickly as we're hoping to get it or better performance by the ones we have.

Suzanne:

Can you remind me when are we supposed to hit \$9.2 million.

Rochelle:

Fiscal year 2025.

Suzanne:

And we're at what-

Rochelle:

A little over six [crosstalk 00:29:48] About 6 million.

Suzanne:

Run faster. Run for it.

David:

And we have a very solid base with the pipe safes, that's what our base is in. It's not contracting, but it's not expanding as much. We've added well, so hopefully that will help. [crosstalk 00:30:08]

Larry:

We've got two partnerships now, we're looking to do more of that. And Prem and Dennis have been working that and I've been involved as well, but they've been bringing that out.

Kevin:

[crosstalk 00:30:24] And you were out there [crosstalk 00:30:24].

Dennis:

Team, if I could just build, I've been sitting on my hands for a while here. Very good dialogue that I'm hearing here. The one thing Dave, that you had just said there, we send a skip over pretty quickly when we have it a dialogue as a team. Organically growing and monetizing the companies that we have bought, there is upside opportunity in the at event. As Larry had mentioned, we are very conservative when we buy companies, not Rochelle will not let me overpay for companies. But once we own them and we've been managing them, we've already proven once, we can over deliver that proforma. So I believe we have the right to win, to organically grow the companies that we have bought as well as monetizing the current product that we have. Well safe, pipe safe expansion and otherwise.

Dennis:

So it's absolutely deal flow on the M&A, it's absolutely larger targets, but it is also monetizing the existing portfolio that we have and the companies that we've bought. So I'm not ready yet to give up on the 9.2 in the timeframe in which we've committed, which is 2025, it'll be a key year. This last year was a key foundational year. Being able to sell two partnerships, acquire two companies and launch a product, that's a tall order in a 14 month period. But we haven't monetized those events yet, we've only executed on the deals. So executing on new deals as well as monetizing what we currently have, in my mind are the two keys to getting us to that 9.2.

David:

Good, thanks Dennis. Thank you for that. Any other questions or comments?
[inaudible 00:31:56].

Larry:

And I have one other thing in my report. Next week, we have our first community meeting on the Whitney dam, and Sunny and the engineer that works on the dam put together a very nice video that's going to be part of this community meeting, and I thought we would show you. It's only a couple of minutes long. And this was done by at Lisa de Francisco, our educator actually put this together. It's our [inaudible 00:32:34].

[LAKE WHITNEY VIDEO WAS PLAYED FOR AUTHORITY MEMBERS]

David:

You did a good job. Very good.

Larry:

Thank you.

David:

Anything else in your report?

Larry:

That's all of my updates.

David:

Okay. Any other questions? All right. RPB committees, we have finance on the 11th. Catherine, were you able to go to the regular monthly meeting?

Catherine:

I did.

Tim:

[crosstalk 00:36:45] Can't find your notes, the chairman's right.

David:

It's okay. Forgot all about it.

Catherine:

Most boring meeting I've ever been.

David:

There you go. Now we're even.

Catherine:

What did he say?

Kevin:

Now we're even.

Catherine:

You're a funny guy. The meeting obviously started with our normal safety moment, feeling or raising the issues about environmental health hazards, which were all very important. The minutes were approved. And then we had the quarterly financial report, which was given by Rochelle, it included a balance sheet revenues and expenses, maintenance tests, and year in outlook, capital budget update, investment earnings. Just a few highlights, the report have yet to be updated to include the sale of the [inaudible 00:37:51] property at that time. Rochelle reported that some cash was moved into restricted assets to benefit the debt financing. The net position on the year over year was at a \$21.2 million.

Catherine:

The committee members appropriately complimented management, the significant reduction in net pension liability, we talked about that earlier today. Rochelle stated that there was a proposal for an additional pension contribution, which we voted on today, that was met with high approval from the members. There was a question about whether that would get us to full funding or it's not quite yet, but headed in the right direction. There was a question about whether there was any griping about the monthly billing, the answer, essentially not really people were just getting used to it. A hypothetical query was at posed, if a customer chooses to write a larger check whether we would accept it, of course. And that would be credited to the client's account for future billings. The general consensus of the members and a unanimous vote to recommend the approval of the application for the Lake Gaillard water treatment plant filter influent valve replacement project. Good Lord.

Tim:

It's easy for you to say.

Catherine:

No it's not. Make it longer. Okay. Anyway. That the committee voted to make that recommendation. And then there was discussion about the scheduling of the special budget meetings. And Mr. Slocum was volunteer to attend the April meeting of the RWA and Mr. Jaser will attend the main meeting and then go to business and then [inaudible 00:40:18]. Fascinating.

David:

You didn't know that much after, did you? [crosstalk 00:40:26].

Tim:

Invasive species on the agenda?

David:

Well, you're going to hear about invasive species in a minute. Kevin give us a report of what happened at the Land Use Committee meeting.

Kevin:

Full disclosure, was not able to attend, but I do have the minutes. They met out at the Madison slash wall, route 70, Durham Rd, Madison. They were met by Mr. Cortes, the RWA's Forester II, to provide an update on the Madison slash wall timber update, which included the harvest, gate installation, maintenance, intrusion, preventative benefits or measures, the Connecticut agricultural experiment station and natural resources, conservation service. And they gave the standard update along with rainfall.

David:

Okay. Thank you. And I think all of us were at the first meeting, which was regarding the budget on Monday the 18th. Full disclosure, I had no volume. I could not fix my computer, by the next day it was [inaudible 00:41:35]. So I could not hear anything, but I saw the slides going through and said, "Well, this looks somewhat familiar." But Suzanne was texting me with comments. Kevin and I spoke about comments that were made and whatnot. And then I spoke to Mario and generally he said that he thought things were favorable and that we did a good job there. Some questions, as there usually are, but nothing critical, nothing ask us to change direction or give a significant criticism. That I would say, a much shorter meeting than the finance committee meeting of the same topic.

Tim:

Still an hour.

David:

It was more than an hour. [crosstalk 00:42:08] It was lasting two and a half hours, so almost three hours.

Tim:

Was it that long. [crosstalk 00:42:17]. I do a lot of meetings. [crosstalk 00:42:17].

David:

5:30 to 8:30.

Tim:

It was eight 30?

David:

Yeah. It was a long meeting. Yours was over at seven 30.

David:

I would also comment that hopefully you'll have a chance to look at the OCA's letter that just got sent out. [crosstalk 00:42:38] And I thanked him last night for it, because he sent it to me last night at dinner. She sent it out. And it was generally [inaudible 00:42:45] as well, and there're some positive comments about management or budget, they agreed with it. And we of course all agreed and we went forward with it. And affirmation of the job management has done and that we are poised to approve in May, if everything goes as all the comments that we hear. Thank you.

Suzanne:

I do want to say one thing, is that the meeting was really long and I have to say, I think it was too long for the people in attendance, both in person on the phone, to the point-

David:

And those giving it.

Suzanne:

[crosstalk 00:43:32] Yeah. And I think there's a lot of things that at this point when it comes to our capital program or O&M that I think the RPB, correct me if I'm wrong, really understands. And so while I think our attention to detail has always been of the highest integrity, when we have that much packed in one meeting, I think the RPB can't sustain moving at a little quicker pace summarizing and not worrying about get

through every single detail. I just think by the end of the meeting, people were like... I'm sorry for that [inaudible 00:44:06].

David:

Well, I do have to say that we did cut the presentation down by about half, and it's not like we just brought it out the same presentation we gave to the authority, which you want to get into the details. We cut the presentations in half, but it was the questions, wanting to know the address of where a business was located, things like that. But it was that level of question that really prolonged the meeting significantly.

Suzanne:

Yeah. I don't know what to do. It's just feedback for whatever it's worth, and maybe it's two meetings, I don't know, it just seemed to be an endurance [inaudible 00:44:40]. Including you guys, it's not a criticism. It's really-

Kevin:

Only if I may, because I think that's a good point. But our meeting was very late to populate. I think that's a big difference too, they were doing more people on the Consumer Affairs combination meeting. I think without a question. I think There was probably five people.

David:

Yeah.

Kevin:

I think it was all finance.

David:

I was actually wondering whether you even had a quorum, because I was looking at the people there and I couldn't tell who was in person here.

Tim:

I think Tom was the only person that didn't make it.

David:

Okay. But you might have had two or three people in the room. You and Mario I think were in the room.

Kevin:

Yeah, it was just me and Mario [crosstalk 00:45:15] in terms of... Yeah.

David:

Thank you. I apologize. I didn't think of those.

Suzanne:

You don't need to apologize, I'm sorry you said something and [crosstalk 00:45:26]

David:

All right. So we know what our assignments are for next month, we saw that at the reminder. We have a review of the capital projects, applications and a schedule. So this is a time where we bid a due to Mr. Slocum.

Tim Slocum:

Thank you for having me.

David:

Thank you.

Tim Slocum:

It was a pleasure.

David:

See you next month.

Larry:

See you next month Tim.

Tim Slocum:

Yeah. But I may be on that side of the benches.

Kevin:

We'll see you tonight anyway.

Tim Slocum:

That's true.

David:

And do you need the whole thing to be-

Larry:

No. What I'd like to do, we have two documents that we'd like to review. One of them is a overview of the application schedule, which there's 14 different projects over the next year or so that we plan on reviewing. However, we plan on going into executive session when we review the CIS and the Whitney dam application process, because there's some things that we'd like to talk about. We're still in negotiation

with the vendor for CIS and Whitney, we're still formulating our yeah. So that's why we're going into executive session for those two.

David:

Okay. But you're not ready for that yet.

Larry:

No. Sonny will review the overview of the RPB application schedule, and then Rochelle will review the expedited process with Whitney and then the CIS. Because they're going to proceed in tandem.

David:

I asked Larry to do this and in lieu of the fact that management really wasn't ready for us to deliberate on the application for the design money, \$2 million or plus for design money. So instead, I used the time that we had already batched out to look at the 14 projects that we have, that would be part of the capital budget that we are in the process of approval, then we'll move forward. So at least we get a timetable and the schedule of what's going on, get an update. And there are two that we'll need our approval during the month of May. One of which I'll be requesting that we meet as a special meeting a week or so earlier to give the RPB time and finance committee, time to review and to complete this.

Suzanne:

So that's my question. We spent a lot of time working on a revised approval process timeline, is all this on there?

Larry:

What you're going to see in the other document is short version [crosstalk 00:47:49].

David:

We have the two projects in parallel, you'll see the normal approval process, which is about 15 weeks, and then you'll see a shortened process that was developed, which is about four or five weeks less. So you'll be able to see it side by side.

Suzanne:

Okay, great.

David:

Yeah. You were part of that committee that came up with that. And Mario has agreed that the other project is worthy of presenting it to them in an expedited manner. But let's do the overview first, then we'll get into the two specific projects.

Sunny:

Right? So this gives you the 14 projects right there. So the valve replacement, already we sent it in, we're just trying to lengthen the name of it so Catherine will [crosstalk 00:48:26] to make it more comfortable. But anyway, maybe a 72 inch transitioning to a 54 inch, something like that. But anyway, the CIS implementation, as you go to the second page, you will see a detailed... Let's just stay on the first page there [inaudible 00:48:42]. So you'll see a much more detailed breakdown of the dates itself. The Lake Whitney, you're going to see a much more detailed breakdown. Then these are going to be the main applications that's going to be coming to the authority and then going over to the committees and RPB's. Four through 14 is the one that's planned for '23 and into '24 itself. Some of these may be moved up and down, I would say, the schedule, depending on where they fall and how quickly we are able to do the design and advance the design, and where we are on the construction schedule as well.

Sunny:

But just to touch base on one, two and three, we have just given some dates. If you go to the second page there, Jen. So the valve application was submitted, the finance committee goes to May 9th, the RPB gets it on the 26th. The tentative public hearing is going to be on the 23rd of June. The decision will be the next one, July 21st. So for the CIS, we are planning the normal, I would say, not expedited, the normal schedule, May 26th, finance committee will be the June 13th, the RPB would be the June 23rd, the public hearing is slated to be on the July 21st. Depending on whether we need one or two public hearings, it might either be the August 25th or the September for the decision.

David:

I think it's July 28th.

Suzanne:

Thank you.

Sunny:

July 28th?

David:

Yeah. Because we move to the fourth.

Larry:

Yeah, I know.

Sunny:

Yeah, you're right, it's the 28th.

Larry:

Okay. Just to make sure because I'm away [crosstalk 00:50:31] Okay.

Sunny:

Yeah. So the application... Go ahead.

Larry:

No, but the flow is right.

David:

Do you want us to vote to go into executive session?

Suzanne:

I'd like to make a motion that we are in executive session for the discussion, with the scheduling of CIS and the Lake Whitney Dam applications.

Catherine:

I second that motion.

David:

All right. All those in favor signal by saying, aye.

Group:

Aye.

[AUTHORITY MEETS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 3:49 PM TO 3:59 PM]

Larry:

We'll come out of the executive session and nothing else for management to report.

David:

Okay. Thank you.

David:

All right. So we're fine, our own understanding of this looks like, the 16th is working for us at 8:30 in the morning. Does that work for you, management?

Larry:

That'll work for us.

David:

Good. Then let's set it. All right. 8:30, hopefully we're out in an hour and maybe less if we get all the stuff ahead of time and we look at it and get our questions in. Sunny, that was the end?

Sunny:

Yeah, I think so.

Rochelle:

Scheduling is more than the design.

David:

All right. Well, we are out of the executive session. It looks like May 16, 8:30. [crosstalk 01:01:52].

Kevin:

Yeah, 8:30 sounds good. We can all get out with our day jobs. Except Larry who it's already his day job. That's good because I have a 9:30. [crosstalk 01:02:11].

David:

Yes. Oh yeah, absolutely. In fact it's-

David:

Sure, we should do our job and ask questions, but we just want to let them design the rest of the project. That's what we're really [inaudible 01:02:22]. It's just such a large project that [inaudible 01:02:26]

Prem:

Just to get it right, the May 16th, I think the Consumer Affairs is also on May 16th in the evening. [crosstalk 01:02:36].

Suzanne:

It is.

David:

Full disclosure, I got a text from my sister-in-law asking what water company I am dealing with? And I said I work this one. She said, "Well, I just got hired by a company." I don't remember the letters. What's the name of the company doing this work here at Whitney. [crosstalk 01:03:02]. That's the company. She works for them, she just got started working for them.

Suzanne:

Your sister?

David:

My sister-in-law. And I have no idea whether she's working on this project. We don't talk about our works, that's why she wasn't even sure what water company I [inaudible 01:03:17]. But I just want you to be aware of that. I actually ran into Jeff Donofrio because [inaudible 01:03:22] town turned out, and since he's around here. I said, "What should I do?" He said, "Just disclose to the board, you're not hiring her." I don't know if she's working in this or not, I have no influence over that anyway. To be full disclosure at our board meeting. I don't know who I would write a letter to or anything like that for disclosure, so I thought I would just let you all know at a meeting.

Suzanne:

We have two attorneys on board, you can write to them.

Larry:

I don't want it. I think the minutes can reflect that the disclosure is fine. You're good.

David:

Yeah, exactly. All right. So what else we got? It's already four o'clock.

David:

Okay, good then. Who would like to move to adjourn?

Kevin:

So moved.

Catherine:

Second.

David:

All in favor say, aye.

Group:

Aye.