

SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

**ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

AUGUST 22, 2024

MEETING TRANSCRIPTION

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING BEGINS AT 12:37 P.M.]

Mario:

Thank you very much, everyone. The first item on the agenda is approval of the minutes of May 23rd, which was [inaudible 00:07:48].

Catherine:

So moved:

Kevin:

Second.

Mario:

Any discussion? All in favor?

Committee members:

Aye.

Mario:

Any opposed? Thank you. Next are the updates. We postponed the trends in the water industry supply and consumption hot topic, which was going to be scheduled for this month, and also the business continuity which dealt with environmental hazards, digital threats, and staffing retirements. Because of all the items that are on our agenda, those will come up in a future report. So for today, we have an update on the lead and copper service line investigation. And Sunny and Tom Barger, who's our water quality manager, will be assisting in that report, which was in your packet so if you'd hit the highlights.

Sunny:

Yeah, I think... Thanks, Mario. I'll have, I would say, Tom give the highlights real quick, given I would say the [inaudible 00:08:48] of time. Tom, if you want to touch the highlights, just I would say go through the highlights and then if there are any questions, we'll take the questions.

Tom:

All. Very good, Sunny, thank you very much and good afternoon to everyone. Just briefly in terms of the LCRR update, I want to focus on the activities specific to the development of the comprehensive service line inventory. Looking at the approximate 26,000 unknowns out in our system, we're looking to provide vacuum excavation on about 10% to 12% of those. And by midpoint of August, we were close to 60% in completion, having looked at about 2000 lines. So things are going along very smoothly there. It's been a productive undertaking. Of those 2000 lines, incidentally, we've identified four lead service lines all in

the city of Milford. Along with this, we're also dropping off sample bottles, which gives us, really, three items of benefit. First of all-

David:

Sorry, Tom. Keep going.

Tom:

Keep going? Okay. I'll keep going.

All right. Really, looking at the drop-off of sample containers, we're recognizing three benefits. First of all, we're confirming the success of our existing corrosion control program. The bottles are providing us the opportunity to practice fifth-liter sampling protocols and it's also providing confidence to our consumers that their water quality is safe even if they have a lead line, even if they have a galvanized iron line. We're also incorporating into this opportunity shrink up direct access into the Leadcast software. That's working out very well in the areas of field service and cross connections. We anticipate the consultant Trinex to be modeling of the data very soon to be able to fill in data gaps that'll provide us for additional information as we lead toward our compliance deadline of mid-October of this year. We're continuing to meet with towns and update our municipalities on the status of this project and that's been well appreciated. We're continuing to communicate in a variety of different forms with consumers. And as Rochelle and her team have been busy obviously pursuing DWSRF and other funding mechanisms to maximize grant potentials.

Sunny:

We've been working with DWSRF folks. We are trying to maximize the grant portion of it. It looks really, I would say good at this point in time.

Tom:

And we do not anticipate any issues in terms of our compliance.

Sunny:

Hey, Tom. I might be able to continue Tom, so I'll, I would say, catch up. Okay. So the compliance deadline is October 14th, 2024. So we are very much in line to have the inventory spreadsheet submitted to DPH as per the deadlines. We should be hitting the 10% to 12%, I would say, on the [inaudible 00:11:55] excavations plus field verifications [inaudible 00:11:58] by sometime in September. We are pretty much done with most of the big towns. The only two big towns that are left is pretty much, I would say Brantford as well as West Haven, which we're going to start really soon. So given, I would say, the trends we are seeing, it's very positive. We have had only four, I would say, lead service connections verified through the building so far. There's a few, I would say, in terms of the galvanized, we have seen about 3% to 4% turning out to be galvanized. So based on those numbers, we will submit the inventory plus we'll also revise the October [inaudible 00:12:32].

We'll work, I would say, on refining the budgets for the tenures. [inaudible 00:12:36] and I have been working with the DWSRF folks. The grant portions really look attractive so we should be able to get the significant portion of the inventory work subsidized almost of the tune of 75%. Then we are actually applying for the next phase, which is the inventory replacements. Again, we are looking at a significant portions to be subsidized, given that I would say there was significant funding from both the

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infrastructure, the bill, bipartisan infrastructure law, as well as the other funding that came through. So there could be \$5 billion worth of subsidy going forward in the next few years. So given that, we are really looking, I would say, all positives are coming together. The lead lines are really looking very small in number as compared to our original assumptions.

The sampling, which Tom was talking about, our corrosion control is working really well. The third is the funding is also looking very attractive. So three major things. So nice takeaways from what we have done so far. And the customers have been very friendly, cooperative. Maybe a few issues here and there, but overall not bad at all.

David:

The other town that's in the service area that aren't listed here, is the vacuum exhibition occurring at all towns of the service area or are we just doing a sampling? I can't recall.

Sunny:

The inventory is being done in pretty much all the towns.

David:

Okay.

Sunny:

So that's the way the software generates the more randomized-

David:

That's [inaudible 00:14:02].

Sunny:

Right? [inaudible 00:14:02] I feel that there could be a little galvanized [inaudible 00:14:10].

David:

Got it. Okay.

Sunny:

So we are not targeting the ones that we already know that there's no galvanized iron.

David:

Got it.

Sunny:

So the sampling is being done more on a targeted basis.

David:

Got it. Thanks. In fact, the couple things, the other [inaudible 00:14:26] system got a little bit ahead of us in terms of [inaudible 00:14:26] things. We're a little ahead of some others [inaudible 00:14:32] but of the ones who have more experience, are they [inaudible 00:14:34] also that there's a lot less of what they thought?

Sunny:

In terms of, I would say, Connecticut as well as even other towns [inaudible 00:14:43], we are pretty much ahead of most of the towns except the ones that were mandated in New Jersey.

David:

That's the one I had in mind.

Sunny:

Correct. So if you take out Flint, Michigan, New Jersey, Newark, Trenton, they were mandated as a health contingency and then they have actually followed up on it. But in terms of most other towns and municipalities, even you take even Connecticut ones, we are far ahead. What are they finding? I think they are finding New London is one that's been ahead of us, but they have a lot less in terms of 3000 lines and they found 150, 200 lines or something [inaudible 00:15:14] to the original ethics. But as they keep going into replacement, they're still finding those numbers to be coming down as well. So more on the positive trend rather than the negative trend.

David:

And then the second question. The cost of this is going to significantly affect a ten-year plan. We were looking at \$200 million and now we're looking at pennies on the dollar on that.

Sunny:

Correct. Very, I would say, depending on, knock on wood, if I would say the trend line continues, just taking the amount of lines we have found so far, four out of 2000, almost 0.5%, and the galvanized is about, say, 3% to 4%. And that includes both the utility side as well as the customer side. Only the goosenecks is something [inaudible 00:15:55].

Catherine:

I was just going to raise the goosenecks.

Sunny:

Yes. Only the gooseneck is something we've not taken in. But if you look at the overall, I would say, numbers [inaudible 00:16:09] if it goes up [inaudible 00:16:18]. It [inaudible 00:16:18] significant impact towards [inaudible 00:16:21] those numbers. I think that's what we expect to see, actually, in the October month.

Catherine:

The goosenecks [inaudible 00:16:40].

David:

Yeah, that's a good question.

Sunny:

The goosenecks, a lot of us can respond, but we incorporated into our estimate the replacement of what we believe are the remaining goosenecks and that's not insignificant [inaudible 00:16:42] of dollars.

Tom:

So that's not...

Sunny:

It's covered because the definition of a line is more than two feet and we believe most of our goosenecks are over two feet.

Tom:

Are we finding that it's the same trend with the goosenecks or is there, we haven't looked at the goosenecks yet?

Sunny:

We haven't really seen the goosenecks but [inaudible 00:17:00] goosenecks [inaudible 00:17:04] replaced as part of a longer term [inaudible 00:17:10] when crews come across they will [inaudible 00:17:20]. Tom touched base on the [inaudible 00:17:22] Leadcast. And they find [inaudible 00:17:29] also the day before we actually walked into a lot of basements in West Haven and New Haven and without doing vacuum excavation, we were able to access a lot of [inaudible 00:17:39] and we are finding, I would say, those turning out to be more copper and other, say, material of the construction than [inaudible 00:17:46]. So we believe the goosenecks which are being replaced not just under LCRR.

Tom:

Yes.

Sunny:

That's a program that we've been following for a long time. We should see those numbers. I would say, getting positively back.

Catherine:

Okay.

Sunny:

There is a significant [inaudible 00:18:03] 70 plus [inaudible 00:18:03].

Kevin:

[inaudible 00:18:03] goosenecks.

Tom:

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The report's been submitted and the program to do the replacements has been worked out so we at least know what is going on. [inaudible 00:18:28].

David:

Tom, thank you. Sorry for the electronics not working right. [inaudible 00:18:45].

Kevin:

So moved.

Catherine:

Second.

Sunny:

Hey, Tom. Thanks.

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ENDS AT 12:48 P.M.]