

**Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**July 16, 2020
Meeting Transcription**

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, July 16, 2020, via remote access. Chair Ricozzi presided.

PRESENT

RPB

Ansonia	Thomas P. Clifford III
Beacon Falls	Peter Betkoski
Bethany	Brian Eitzer
Branford	Mario Ricozzi
Cheshire	Timothy Slocum
Derby	Frank Pepe
East Haven	Michelle Verderame
Guilford	Charles Havrda
Hamden	Stephen Mongillo
Killingworth	Jamie Mowat Young
Madison	Joseph A. Oslander
Milford	Richard Smith
New Haven	Naomi Campbell
North Branford	Peter DeSantis
North Haven	Anthony Rescigno
Orange	Jasper J. Jaser
Prospect	Robert E. Harvey, Jr.
Seymour	Michael H. Horbal
West Haven	T. Gregory Malloy
Woodbridge	Mark Levine
Governor’s Rep	Vincent M. Marino

Regional Water Authority

Anthony DiSalvo
David Borowy
Joseph Cermola
Kevin Curseaden
Suzanne Sack

Management

Larry L. Bingaman
Linda M. Discepolo
Rochelle Kowalski
Edward O. Norris III
Jeanine Reckdenwald
Premjith Lakshman Singh

Counsel

Paul McCary

Office of Consumer Affairs

Jeffrey M. Donofrio

Staff

Jennifer Slubowski

Mario:

According to my watch, it's 6:30, so welcome to the regular meeting of the representative policy board on July 16th 2020.

Mario:

First item of business is our safety moment, Jennifer included in your packet, the July hurricane preparedness. She just wants to jinx us, I guess, I'm not sure, but please read through that. 10 day supply of water, so we need to get everyone to bottle up more in their homes, so revenues can go up.

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Mario:

There's no questions on that. We will move on to the approval of minutes of June 18th. [inaudible 00:02:12][crosstalk 00:02:14].

Mario:

Motion by Jay, second.

Frank:

Second, Frank.

Mario:

You got that, Jennifer?

Jennifer:

I got it.

Mario:

Okay. Any additions, corrections, or amendments? Hearing none. All in favor?

Group:

Aye.

Mario:

Opposed?

Mario:

And abstention? Okay. Passes.

Mario:

We have a few communications. The first is a notification of candidacy for authority member. This year, it's the New Haven representative, Joe Cermola. I'm not sure if Joe is on there. But New Haven is a little bit different than the other four representatives, with an agreement, for those that are new, an agreement between the RWA, when it was created, and the city of New Haven. The mayor of New Haven gets to provide nominees for the position. So there was interest in continuing, which is good, and we'll be contacting the mayor's office. We may need a review committee, so if anyone is interested in being on that review committee, please let Jennifer, or myself know, and we'll make sure to have you listed.

Mario:

The standing committee appointments, there's also a list in the packet you received. We do have extra people on the land use committee. That's always been popular, I think because of the pizza in the fall. If anyone who is on the land use committee that would like their second choice instead of their first choice then please just let myself or Jennifer know and we'll switch you to another committee. But, if not, land use, you're just going to have to squeeze into the van a little bit tighter when you do your field trips.

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Mario:

Any questions on that?

Mario:

The RPB appointments are up to date. So, Jaime has been confirmed and Brian has been confirmed so congratulations, welcome back. We're still waiting for Peter. He got an extension, and Michelle, Naomi, Jay and Vin. So if you hear anything or if you need me to contact your chief elected officials, let me know, and I'll have Jennifer do it because she talks much better than I do to those people.

Mario:

So, the [inaudible 00:05:28]

Jay:

Mr. Chairman.

Mario:

Yes.

Jay:

Jennifer, you didn't get a letter from Jim Zeoli by this time?

Jennifer:

No, not yet.

Jay:

Okay. Because it was taken up at, I believe, the July meeting, which was around the eighth of the month. Okay I'll follow up on that because he spoke to me prior to that time to just reaffirm the fact that he wanted me to stay on, but I'll follow up on that.

Mario:

Thank you, Jay.

Peter:

Mr. Chairman?

Mario:

Yes.

Peter:

Peter Betkoski.

Peter:

Mario?

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Peter:

Yeah, Monday night they confirmed that I'm getting put back on, so I don't know if Jennifer wants to reach out to Gerard Smith, first selectmen. But they appointed me Monday night.

Mario:

Okay.

Peter:

All right.

Vin:

Mr. Chairman leave the governor alone, he's too busy right now.

Mario:

Yes, sir. No problem. I will not write him any more letters.

Stephen:

Mario, this is Steve Mongillo. Can you hear me?

Mario:

Yes, Steve.

Stephen:

I was not able to get into the Zoom meeting, for some reason. The link didn't work for me for some reason, but I am here.

Mario:

Okay. Yep, I saw you on the list. Very good.

Mario:

Takes us to our next item, which is the RPB dashboard quarterly report. There's a copy that's in your packet. The finance committee looked at it in detail. There are some items, perhaps consumer affairs, if you want to take a look at that. Just to go through the report to understand it. Make sure you understand it. I'm sure that Rochelle will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Mario:

Is that okay Rochelle?

Stephen:

Yeah, I think...

Rochelle:

That's fine.

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Mario:

Okay, and Steve?

Stephen:

Yeah, no, I think that's a great idea. I'd like to have my committee look at that in a little more detail.

Mario:

Okay. Very good. How about you guys schedule it then.

Stephen:

Okay.

Mario:

Any other communications?

Mario:

Hearing none.

Mario:

Items for consideration and action is the RPB second quarter compensation for 2020, and I'll recognize Tim, if I may?

Tim:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Everyone received the quarterly compensation report in their packets, presumably, and I presume them to be complete. So, with that I would move that they would be approved.

Mario:

Can you discussed the finance?

Tim:

If now you want me to refer to the putting off the increase, is that what you're referring to?

Mario:

Yes, sir.

Tim:

Okay, finance, that was going to be part of my regular report and I do apologize. I wasn't clear, I thought you were going to put up a motion. The finance committee discussed the increase that was pending last quarter and basically agreed, after some discussion, and complete agreement upon the members, to forego the increase, and review this again the next quarter, which, at this point, is moving along, so that was essentially the motion made by Mr. Harvda and Mr. Jaser and recommended that it freeze it for another quarter and review it again. That is essentially what we did as a recommendation to the RPB.

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Mario:

And is that the motion?

Tim:

If that will fall into the canyon of the motion then that's the motion.

Mario:

Okay.

Tim:

That we freeze it.

Mario:

Is there a second to accept [crosstalk 00:09:44].

Jamie:

Second.

Mario:

Okay.

Mario:

Any discussion?

Mark:

Yeah, how much is the increase?

Bob:

Nothing.

Naomi:

Nothing.

Mark:

It's what? \$3 or something?

Mario:

It's about \$3 a meeting.

Mark:

You think that's going to make a difference to the RWA?

Tony:

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Symbolic, symbolic.

Tim:

Yeah, this is really symbolic, it is chump changing in many respects, but again we thought it merited consideration, in light of what the organization is doing as a whole. And also, to be clear, it's all retroactive, so it will all be accrued and coming forward, as I understood, at the other evening.

Mark:

Does that mean the five member authority is going to make a cut too?

Tim:

This isn't a cut.

Tony:

No we're not making a cut!

Tim:

Not a cut.

Tony:

We forego our \$5000 increase.

Mark:

When did that come about? [inaudible 00:10:51] I must've missed it.

Tony:

You must've missed that meeting.

Mario:

Yeah, Mark, there was no increase for the five member authority this year.

Jamie:

Do we have the authority to wave?

Mario:

We froze, yes.

Mario:

Any other questions? Okay, hearing none.

Stephen:

Mario, I was muted. I'm confused about this. Didn't we already have this discussion?

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Mario:

We did it for the first quarter, and finance is looking at it each quarter to see how the organization is doing and whether it makes sense to go forward with the increase, or keep it frozen.

Stephen:

But finance doesn't have the authority to do that.

Tim:

No, we just made a recommendation

Tony:

They recommended.

Tim:

And that's been advanced as a recommendation. So, it's now in the form of a motion before this body, who has the authority to accept the motion, or reject it, based on the conversation. Unanimous votes are not required.

Stephen:

Okay.

Mario:

Any other questions?

Mario:

All in favor.

Group:

Aye [crosstalk 00:12:26]

Mario:

Opposed.

Mark:

No! I'm opposed!

Mario:

Abstentions? No? Okay.

Mario:

I believe the ayes have it.

Mario:

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Moving on to reports, Tim, finance committee.

Tim:

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Jay:

Excuse me, a point of order, Mr. Chairman, Jay Jaser.

Mario:

Yes, Jay.

Jay:

I believe we normally have a motion on the second time the quarter compensation. That's the one on the agenda we should be voting on.

Mario:

The motion was.

Jay:

Pardon?

Mario:

The motion was the compensation with the freeze.

Tim:

Right. That motion was made, Jay, I advanced, basically, the report that we had all received was substantially complete.

Jay:

I heard that, I heard it all.

Tim:

So, that was, certainly, the first phase of the motion, and the freeze was the other phase.

Jay:

Okay. And then I would just say, as a reminder, that I did have the position at that time, and at that time I didn't vote in the [inaudible 00:13:52]. But to hear a member vote negative this time when they voted for it last time, I don't understand that.

Mark:

I don't think I voted for it last time.

Stephen:

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It wasn't your vote.

Mario:

All right, so is there anything else? You want to move on to reports? Tim?

Tim:

Thank you, Mario. Finance met on Monday of this week, that was July 13th, another lucky day for us. And we had a meeting that substantially went over the quarterly financial report and year end distributions. It was really an excellent report, and it was very fulsome in its discussion, we just talked about the balance sheet, the statement revenues, operating and maintenance expenses, and the year end disposition. And, I don't know if Rochelle is here today, and intends to review any of that later, but I thought it was a pretty good report given our circumstances. And, so that's essentially what took place.

Tim:

We also reviewed the RPB dashboard metrics for the fourth quarter. She did ask members if they had any comments on its construct. There were a few. Nothing major, and I think, generally, coming out of our committee, mostly, perhaps, Rochelle's suggestion was that we, perhaps, make the report less voluminous with all the columns that are presented. But, essentially, no redesign was contemplated, as I understood it. So, that was essentially the tenor of the report. So, that's my report.

Mario:

Thank you. Any questions for Tim?

Mario:

Okay. Land use committee.

Mario:

I'd like to thank Mark for his many years as chair of the land use committee.

Mark:

Let me give the report before you thank me. Okay. We had a very good discussion from Mr. Henley, and Mr. Tracey on an overview of the water chestnut invasive aquatic plants, and the machinery and how they did it. We were supposed to go out there but there was an impending rain storm, so we didn't make it. How those invasive plants affect the water quality, harvesting update, and project cost duration, we talked about all that, and the drone imagery, we did see some pictures from the drone. They're in the process of making a video of the machinery at work, doing the job, and the aftermath. The before, during, and after. I suggested that they're going to try to come to our August meeting and the September one, but probably our August one, and I suggested that they show this video to the whole RPB. So I look forward to this coming forward.

Mark:

This current year, the reservoirs are at 90%, the previous year was 99%, June was 2.33 in rainfall, 2.33, historical average is 3.74, so we are a little lower. We still have plenty of water. And also, elected chairman was Peter Betkoski from Beacon Falls, and I look forward to working with him. Thank you very much and it's been a big ride.

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Mario:

Thank you. Peter, do you have anything to add.

Mark:

Take it off mute. Peter take it off...

Peter:

How's that? Guys? Can you hear me?

Mario:

Yes.

Peter:

All right, I just appreciate the knowledge I learned from Mark in the past three years. Tough shoes to fill there, and I'll do the best I could, and I'm excited to take the position.

Mario:

Just as long as you don't wear sandals into the woods.

Mario:

Any questions for the land use committee?

Mario:

Hearing none.

Mario:

Consumer affairs. Steve, please.

Stephen:

Consumer affairs has not met since our last meeting, but we will be meeting this coming Monday.

Mario:

Okay. Thank you.

Mario:

Any questions for Steve?

Mario:

All right. In that case, authority and management? Tony?

Tony:

Thank you sir. We met today, and we met first as a pension committee, and Suzanne's going to give you that report.

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Tony:

Suzanne, are you still here?

Suzanne:

I am.

Tony:

Okay.

Suzanne:

Thank you, everyone.

Suzanne:

I wanted to let you know that Morgan Stanley, our investment advisor, came to talk to us today, about our investment performance, and I want to give you information for the quarter, for the first half and 12 months, for performance. And in addition to that, we talked about market commentary, and discussed their asset allocation, of course, and associated expectations of returns or strategies for the future.

Suzanne:

But they reviewed our quarterly performance for the pension and the VEBA plans, and returns for the quarter, ending in 6.30.2020. The pension and the VEBA plans was recorded to be, approximately 12%, and/or 10.25% higher than the actualized return for the quarter, of 1.75%. So, essentially, we had a very good quarter, compared to our benchmark.

Suzanne:

Net returns for the first half of the calendar year were reported as -3.19%, or 6.69% lower than the six month actuarial return of 3.5%.

Suzanne:

And then, lastly, the net returns on the investment for the fiscal year, 2020, were reported at 4.54% or 2.46% lower than the 12 month actuarial of a return of 7%.

Suzanne:

So, that's how our investment performance has been for the quarter 6 months to date, and the fiscal year to date.

Suzanne:

And I'd be happy to entertain and questions if anybody has them.

Peter:

Suzanne?

Suzanne:

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Yes.

Peter:

How does that compare to the generalized market? I mean, our returns versus [inaudible 00:20:50]. To me it sounds, given what happened, that it's not so bad.

Suzanne:

So, I would agree with the second statement, that considering what happened, it's not so bad, and our investment advisor even reported to us that his expectations of the performance return, meaning the recapture of loss, was quicker than he expected. So, we're happy for that. Having said that, as it relates to how we perform against market and other benchmarks, we are very close to those benchmarks. We don't outperform, for example, the S&P or the Russell 3000 by a great deal, or underperform. Our portfolio is so diversified that, in fact, in large measure, it moves the portions of it, that relate to the benchmarks, move very close to the benchmarks.

Brian:

Okay. Thanks.

Stephen:

Suzanne, this is Steve Mongillo. I was at the authority meeting today. I'd like the RPB to know that the presentation was about an hour in length and it was a very detailed analysis of the market, and I really appreciated your insight into it and the question that you were able to ask of that resource for the authority. So, great job.

Suzanne:

Oh. Thank you very much Steve. Appreciate that. They do a good job, they're very smart.

Stephen:

Yeah, I was impressed.

Suzanne:

Yeah.

Suzanne:

Any other questions?

Suzanne:

Thank you Mario, thank you Tony. I'll turn it back to you.

Tony:

Thank you sir, ma'am.

Tony:

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Joe ran the compensation committee and he's got a report for you.

Joe C:

We reviewed and discussed the CEO and fiscal year 2020 goals; was an update to that. Then we discussed the CEO and officer's salaries for market competitiveness, compared to the willis tower report updated.

Joe C:

We had a unanimous recommendation from the leadership team that no executive maintenance team employee will be receiving wage increases, this fiscal year, until the RWA financial outlook improves. So, hopefully sometime in the fall or this year, we'll be able to revisit that.

Joe C:

And then the committee discussed the CEO performance and the chairman asked for the members to fill out a survey of his performance and what we think. So, in a future meeting we will be discussing his performance. And that was it.

Tony:

Thank you Joe.

Tony:

Anything else?

Tony:

Larry do you have something to add?

Mario:

Mute, Larry.

Tony:

Mute, mute, mute.

Larry:

Thank you. No, that covers it all for the compensation committee.

Tony:

Any updates?

Larry:

Yeah, we'll have Jeanine step in for Beth and provide an update on the COVID-19 and I will then provide a brief financial report.

Jeanine:

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Okay. Thank you Larry.

Jeanine:

Good evening, I hope everyone is doing well. As Larry mentioned, Beth carefully prepared a report to give you an update about the status of our COVID situation at the Regional Water Authority.

Jeanine:

So, the good news is, as of today, we have no employees that are in either isolation or are suffering from COVID. You may remember from probably the April meeting that we had two employees that contracted the COVID virus at the very beginning. One at the end of March, one at the beginning of April, but we're happy to report everybody is safe and they are not sick. You may also remember that Beth presented a three phased reopening plan. Some of the things that we have worked on since June. We have made many facility improvements to support a soft opening, which we had on June 29th. We provided welcome back kits to all employees, that included a mask that has an actual Regional Water Authority logo printed on it, some hand sanitizers and some mint in that welcome back kit, there was also a one page version of a return to work safety orientation that was put together by our communications and outreach team. We also developed an employee playbook, and we had five short training videos from everything around how to take your temperature, and use this app that we have to how to put a face mask on safely.

Jeanine:

The month of June [inaudible 00:26:09] self certification software app that I just alluded to. So, each morning we're asking people to take their temperature and the app asks them five short questions about their health at the moment And we ask people that are reporting to any work environment, whether that be at 90 Sargent Drive, or out in the field, to participate.

Jeanine:

We're just in the early stages of that, and it has gone well so far. We've also been able to, in places where we could not maintain six feet of separation, between employees at the 90 Sargent Drive location, we have installed plexi glass. If you were to come into our office you will see that all up and around, specifically in our customer service department.

Jeanine:

We have installed touchless faucets. We have taken a review of all the common workspaces, including the [inaudible 00:27:05] area and conference and meeting rooms, to make sure that we have limited attendance in those rooms. The phase two soft opening, like I mentioned, was on June 29th. Customer service is now reporting full time to that location. We have had staggered reporting in other areas, where people are working, still, primarily, at home, but reporting occasionally into [inaudible 00:27:36].

Jeanine:

We've also reintroduced on Monday, the cafeteria re-opened on a very limited basis for us. There was lots of asks for people to bring that back. It's open just for lunchtime, limited hours, we've put plexi glass up in front of the cafeteria window. We have instituted ordering over the phone, and have asked people to limit the use of actual money, and pay by card.

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Jeanine:

We are continuing to utilize work site report appropriate, we also continue to isolate the treatment plants. 90 Sargent Drive is still only open by appointment for the public. So, anybody that needs to come into 90 Sargent Drive needs to recognize that ahead of time because the front door and the lobby area is still locked down.

Jeanine:

The next phase is slated for [inaudible 00:28:38]. However, as you might imagine, we're still trying to figure out what's going on. We're closely monitoring things as things start popping up around us and states are going backwards in their COVID reopening. We're taking a conservative approach and making sure that we monitor the Connecticut infection rate before we bring more people back into the workplace.

Jeanine:

And that's it. Any questions?

Tony:

What [inaudible 00:29:08] are you using for [inaudible 00:29:12]?

Jeanine:

I'm sorry, say that again Tony.

Tony:

What temperature are you using for cut off?

Jeanine:

The CDC recommended 100.4.

Tony:

Thank you.

Jeanine:

You're welcome.

Stephen:

Jeanine. It's Steve Mongillo.

Jeanine:

Hi Steve.

Stephen:

Hi. At the plant, is the same rules apply there, and was it easier to achieve social distancing in those areas?

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Jeanine:

So, at the water treatment plants, what Beth did at the very beginning was we had shifts rotating. So, we had certain people, like work groups together, so in the event that we had an infection break out we would only have to isolate half of the people. We have since gone back to a full 7-3.30 or 7-3 schedule, and we haven't had any problems. Nobody can come in the plant from the outside, again, unless they make an appointment, and we've done [inaudible 00:30:12] done a good job. Facilities have continued to keep it clean and so far, no problems.

Stephen:

Great, thank you.

Jeanine:

You're welcome.

Larry:

Okay. Thank you.

Larry:

In terms of the financial results, after one month of actual results through June 30th, our accrued operating revenues are under budget by about \$143,000. That's due to total water revenues being under budget by 246,000 due to lower than anticipated water billings. However, that's been offset by other revenues, which are over budgeted by about 103,000 due to our non-core revenue, primarily the outside lab and pipe safe. We're now projecting a short fall of 11.4 million to meet our coverage of 114%, and that projected shortfall, though, is about \$600,000 lower than the budgeted shortfall of 12 million dollars.

Larry:

You'll recall that, when the senators became aware of the pandemic and the potential impact that it might have, here in Connecticut, Rochelle and her group ran about 20 different scenarios on what the projected impact could be, picked, not the worst case, but certainly a conservative one, which projected that 12 million dollar shortfall that we'd have to draw from the rate stabilization fund or the other funds [crosstalk 00:31:56].

Larry:

We are, so far, to date, the impact of COVID-19 on our cash receipts has not been as severe as originally forecasted, and this has been partially offset by lower projected interest earnings because of, obviously, what's going on with the fed. But there is still significant uncertainty regarding the impact of the pandemic and our revised budget, which assumed a full return to normal in January. And I think, quite frankly, that's in question at this point in time, but we're running a very conservative financial scenario, right now, until we see things getting better.

Larry:

So, the last thing I wanted to report is that, as of July 13th, our water storage was 88%, compared to a long term average of 85% for this time in the physical year.

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Mark:

How are we doing for draft Larry?

Larry:

Well, let's see, we're running about 57 million gallons a day, which is lower than last year. Excuse me, 52 million gallons a day per average, compared to last year, at this time, at about 55.8 million, so we're about six and a half percent below last year's draft.

Mark:

But weren't we pouring our water during that heatwave [crosstalk 00:33:33]

Larry:

During the month of June we were almost 22% over last year, at this time, [inaudible 00:33:42] 56 million gallons a day for the month of June, compared to...

Mark:

And then we asked everybody to conserve water. I'm a little confused because we're not a drought state yet. Have we reached any drought stages?

Larry:

No, we have not reached any drought triggers. We are above that, but you'll recall that the high volume of water was causing significant discoloration in the distribution center.

Mark:

I mean. Is there any way we can look forward to that next year? In other words, do some open hydrants earlier, do flushing earlier?

Larry:

Beth is looking at a more aggressive flushing regimen that we can take a look at, using unidirectional flushing and starting at, probably this fall, because you typically don't do that during the summer. They're also looking at a new technology that allows you to flush from hydrant to hydrant as opposed to opening a hydrant and letting it run out on the street and in the sewer system. So, they're exploring new technology which would allow us to flush any time during the year without fear of being perceived as wasting water.

Mark:

I was a little disappointed, we were really on a good roll, and I thought we would keep that up when the water turned brown, we really have to do something because, at one point we used to put out a hundred million gallons a day, of water.

Larry:

Well, no, our high point was 56 million gallons a day, which was in the year 2000. We've reached 90 million gallons a day, I think, on the July 4th weekend of 2010 or 2011, something like that, we did 90

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million gallons a day. Also, had some dirty water back then as well because it was going through some 48 and 60 inch water mains, which is very difficult to flush.

Mark:

Yeah, I just think we should try to, when we get a rush like that and hot weather like that, we should try to throw out as much water as we can, billable, billable water.

Larry:

I agree, Mark, but we still did 10 million gallons more on average, per day, during the month of June.

Mark:

Can we ask everybody to conserve? Are we close to a drought? Not at all, right?

Larry:

We're not close to a drought.

Mark:

Not at all right?

Larry:

Not at all.

Mark:

Thank you.

Tim:

As a follow on to Mark's comments and question about the flushing. Do the impacts of COVID on staffing and anything else have any impact on those flushings or we were just doing a normal flushing regimen that we did last year at this time?

Larry:

We have flushed over our system, around 22% or something like that, we try and do 25% a year, we have been concentrating on doing what's called compliance flushing, in areas where the water mains, where the flow's not as heavy and the water tends to get higher disinfection bi-products in it. So, we flush in those areas in order to keep the water moving so we meet the disinfection bi-products standards.

Larry:

So, we have been flushing but we're going to be more aggressive in the coming year. And, plus, looking at this technology will help us as well.

Tim:

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And then I had a secondary comment, and it was mostly reserved for the code red, the application of it is extensive use, I should say. I thought it was extensive and it's been used. Was it totally necessary? And I'm not questioning anyone's judgment but I thought getting three calls was really amazing to get into Cheshire. I don't think I've had three calls ever from the water authority. And, yet I presume it's because the problem was persistent, and...

Larry:

That's really [inaudible 00:37:38] higher demands. The Cheshire area is fed by wells, and it was really straining the well system. So we were asking people to conserve, particularly in that part of the system, because of the strain on the wells, in the Southern part of the system, in the West Haven, East Haven areas, New Haven, we were asking for conservation because we wanted to reduce clients, to reduce the dirty water.

Tim:

Okay, so they were different problems, in a way, I guess is what you're stating.

Larry:

Right.

Tim:

I don't remember, during our drought several years ago, getting, maybe, but one call about water conservation. But maybe the cost has gone way down for using service, I don't really know.

Larry:

I think it's about the same as it has been.

Tim:

Okay, okay. Thank you.

Stephen:

Larry, this is Steve Mongillo, I have a couple of questions, but first I want to respond to Tim. That it was a rather extensive report on the distribution system, today, at the authority meeting so I wouldn't assume that just flushing is the only issue here. It's a little more complex than that.

Larry:

That, as you know, Steve, is the primary way of keeping your mains clean and reducing the likelihood of discolored water.

Stephen:

Yeah, no, I realize that, but it isn't only that.

Stephen:

What we sold in June was higher but you have not collected that yet, so.

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Larry:

Well, no, and that's the problem, that's why there's so much uncertainty because we're still billing quarterly, so we're not going to know until September/October whether the people that are using all that water, during the month of June, whether they're going to pay for it.

Stephen:

Okay. We can assume they would.

Larry:

I hope they do.

Stephen:

No, even though it's backed off, have you correlated that to the message to conserve water or do you think there may be some other factors as well?

Larry:

Well I think the weather's not quite [inaudible 00:39:54] as it was, number one, and [inaudible 00:39:56] probably had someone [inaudible 00:40:00] with it considering the fact that we're pretty aggressive about getting that message out.

Stephen:

Okay. But we have a heatwave coming up so hopefully there's more water use. Thank you.

Larry:

Okay, thank you!

Frank:

Larry I have one question for you on the flushing, Frank Pepe. Have you cleaned any of those pipes or reamed them lately, in the last 10 years?

Larry:

I think the area that was causing us the problem, I think the last time it was flushed was, I think it was four years ago and the reason it's longer than what we normally do is that we had a drought one year where we literally couldn't flush, so that extended the flushing regimen by a year, and then we have had other priorities. Sometimes we've been slammed with call before you dig, and our distribution crew that would normally be flushing has been involved in markings for call before you dig. There's been a couple of different issues that have created some of the issues with the inability to flush as aggressively as we'd like.

Frank:

Thank you Larry.

Larry:

Thank you.

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Larry:

Any more questions?

Brian:

I just have one quick question. How close was the sewage spill to spotting into Lake Whitney? Did we really just dodge a bullet there?

Larry:

I'm sorry, Brian, I can't hear you at all.

Brian:

I was asking about the sewage spill at Lake Whitney. How close was that into getting into Lake Whitney?

Tony:

He's asking about the sewage spill, Larry, along Whitney Avenue. How close was it to Lake Whitney?

Larry:

It was below the dam, so we were fortunate there. So, the spill was below the Whitney dam.

Tony:

I think we lost Brian, there he is. He's coming back.

Mark:

Larry, how much water? When you opened the Whitney center, Whitney water every day, you know, the pump station? At Whitney? Are we doing that every day?

Larry:

Are we running Whitney?

Mark:

Yeah.

Larry:

I think we run it two to three times a week.

Mark:

Okay.

Tony:

Brian did you get to hear the answer?

Mark:

You've got to fix your speaker, Brian.

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Brian:

[inaudible 00:42:51] card [inaudible 00:42:54] put them out further north or something.

Tony:

We can't understand a word you're saying Brian.

Mark:

You've got to get your audio fixed.

Mario:

Okay, he's popped off again.

Brian:

I'm just curious if we have to consider that in the future.

Mario:

Okay.

Mario:

Anything else?

Tony:

Nope. All good unless you have more questions. I'm actually learning how to run a water company from you guys.

Mario:

I'd like to see if Jeff can offer? Do you have anything to add, or?

Jeff:

Thank you Mr. Chair. One thing I would like to say is I think this is Linda Discepolo's last RPB, correct?

Mario:

It's coming up.

Linda:

Yes it is. This is it, this is my last one!

Tony:

[crosstalk 00:44:07]

Jeff:

Linda obviously has been a critical member of Larry's turnaround team and has really been an exemplary professional, not only on the financial side of things, but also stepping in on the customer service side,

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and has been my office's primary contact for several years, and really, I can't say enough about her responsiveness and her professionalism. What an absolute privilege it's been to work with her, so.

Linda:

Thank you so much, I appreciate that, thank you.

Linda:

Thank you.

Linda:

I'll miss you guys too.

Stephen:

This is Steve Mongillo. In consumer affairs, Linda has overseen our committee, I would certainly agree with everything Jeff said. I couldn't say enough things about Linda. I'm really upset that she's leaving, I think it's a huge asset that the RWA is losing and I wish her the best of luck. And thank you for making it a joy to work there with you.

Linda:

Oh, thank you so much. I appreciate all the kind thoughts.

Linda:

I'm onto my next career.

Tony:

We told her we'd send her a folder of papers every day.

Mario:

Very good.

Linda:

Thank you everybody, I appreciate it immensely. It's been great.

Greg:

Good luck, good luck.

Mario:

Congratulations Linda.

Linda:

Thank you.

Mario:

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I'll see you down at the creek.

Linda:

I'll see you in Branford.

Mario:

Yeah. I was going to mention that but, of course, Jeff got ahead of me.

Mario:

Paul McCary do you have anything? Welcome, thank you for coming?

Mario:

If he doesn't say anything then we don't have to pay him.

Paul:

No, I'm all set, thank you, Mario. I don't have anything to add, thanks.

Mario:

Okay.

Mario:

In that case, we will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mike:

I so move. [inaudible 00:46:16]

Frank:

Second.

Mario:

We are adjourned.