

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY**

MAY 22, 2025

MEETING TRANSCRIPTION

David:

I will call the meeting of the Regional Water Authority for February 22, 2025 to order. A few minutes late due to some technical issues. First item is the safety moment. Motorcycle safety. Weather's getting nicer. You see more and more of them around. Please be cognizant of them. With that, we'll go to public comment. Jennifer, is there anybody from the public?

Jennifer:

No public members.

David:

No public members? Okay. Then we'll move on to meet as Audit-Risk Committee.

Kevin:

I'll make a motion that we recess as the Authority and meet as the Audit-Risk Committee.

Mario:

Second that motion.

David:

Second by Mario. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Catherine, it's all yours.

[AUDIT-RISK COMMITTEE MEETS FROM 12:40 P.M. TO 12:46 P.M.]

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETS FROM 12:46 P.M. TO 1:06 P.M.]

David:

Thank you. And now we are on item six because there were no item five matters. So item six, consider and act on amendments to the 401K and pension plans essentially to put in place from the contract agreement related.

Rochelle:

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Yes, the pension for the bargaining unit and the Eleventh Amendment to the 401K is regarding the collective bargaining. So it's just documenting that there is a Twelfth Amendment that we want to separately discuss.

David:

Okay. So one at a time. The motion in there that says union pension plan. That is the Eleventh Amendment solely, correct?

All right. What's your pleasure on this?

Mario:

I'll make a motion to approve the Second Amendment to the regional [inaudible 00:37:46] party bargaining and retirement plan.

Rochelle:

It's for retirement.

David:

Is there a second?

Kevin:

Second.

David:

Right. And again, this is just to implement what we have. Any further discussion? Sensing you're ready to vote. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Thank you. Catherine, we heard that. All right then we'll move on to the 401K revolution, which is the second one that you said has the...

Rochelle:

The other one.

Sunny:

This is the 11th. Not the 12th one. The 12th is the one that we would like to have in the executive search.

David:

All right, so we're skipping and what we have on here, we're skipping to the third and final item.

Sunny:  
Right.

David:  
Okay. And brief explanation of this is...

Jennifer:  
for the bargaining unit employees that are only on the 401K, so not pension eligible individuals. And this is to also implement what was coming out of interest arbitration.

Kevin:  
What's your motion to approve this Eleventh Amendment to be a Voluntary Investment Plan that's presented.

David:  
Right. Is there a second?

Sunny:  
Second the motion.

David:  
Second. All right. Any further discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:  
Aye.

David:  
Unanimous. Thank you, Catherine. And then 401K resolution, which is the Twelfth Amendment. Do you want that in the executive session?

Rochelle:  
Yes.

David:  
All right.

Kevin:  
I'll make a motion to go in executive session for purposes of financial and employment.

David:  
Yes, you have to hit on the whole agenda thing. Okay, Kevin moved to, who would like to second that?

Mario:

I'll second that providing those present.

David:

All right. There's a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Passes unanimous.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 1:10 P.M. TO 1:13 P.M.]

David:

We have a resolution for you. What's your pleasure for the 12th amendment regarding management?  
Mario?

Mario:

Take a motion to approve the 12th Amendment, voluntary investment plan for management as discussed in executive session.

Catherine:

I'll second the motion.

David:

Thank you, Catherine. Any further discussion? All right. All those hence here need to vote. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Passes unanimous. All right, we are now on the consent calendar. Consent agenda. Any items that you wish to pull off or have expanded on?

Catherine:

David?

David:

Yes, Catherine.

Catherine:

Go ahead.

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David:

Catherine?

Catherine:

Oh, I thought I stepped on somebody else's...

David:

Let's have you go first.

Catherine:

I had comments on item 7.8.

David:

Okay.

Catherine:

And I wanted to make a comment on the AI policy and I... Sorry, I'm dealing with technology here myself. 7.6.

David:

All right. Did we take 7.6 first and hear your comment, or is it something that's going to be extensive and we'll want to take it off the consent calendar and vote separately?

Catherine:

Both items, they're simple.

David:

All right, well let's assume we can leave it the way it is and go forward with your comments.

Catherine:

Okay, so with respect to the AI policy, it's not explicit in here, but I just for the record, want to make sure that we emphasize to management that employee training on use of AI is critical and security training and additionally that policy compliance, that there's a process for making sure and ensuring policy compliance. That's my sole comment on the AI policy. Which I think is actually very comprehensive and good. I just want to over emphasize the compliance issue with respect to employees.

David:

Thank you. All right. With regard to 7.8, I would just start with a piece of information that this is a draft for your review. I would note that it's a potential, if we agree to this at a future date, hopefully next month or so, it will be something that will change our community participation a little bit. Some of the other areas that we have funded, we're not funding to quite the degree and therefore there are funds available to do this.

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I'll give Kevin 100% credit for coming up with the amount and the reason of the symmetry. The 175th anniversary, that sounded a very nice way to do that. And we had talked, actually Phil sent me this way back in December, Phil Vici, and I said, "No, let's not deal with this right now." But it became time to deal with it and ask us to look at it and get your thoughts. We can get some thoughts now or we can have this as an agenda item next month if we've got room on the calendar, if not, July. What's your thoughts?

Kevin:

I just wanted to hear Catherine's-

David:

Yes, I do too. Yes.

Catherine:

I just wanted to say, I think this is a wonderful tribute to Larry. And I didn't want it to just go by on the consent agenda without comment. There are some minor tweaks, but this is, again, it's a draft, but I do... I don't know where this came from, but I think it's wonderful and I really just want to say that. That's all.

David:

Yes, the process will be, Phil had started working on this, and the process will be that if we give general approval without significant changes right now, significant changes, he would then approach the family and see about their-

Sunny:

If they're okay with it.

David:

Right, exactly.

Sunny:

Because you're going to use his name.

David:

Right. Yes. So that would just be a nice thing to do on that. But we did want your comments either now or sometime in the next month or so, if there are tweaks like you said, Catherine, that you would want to make. Certainly we're open to them. They don't have to be at this moment, but sometime before a final draft would get sent to us.

Catherine:

Okay.

David:

I just like-

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Kevin:

Oh, go ahead Catherine.

Catherine:

No, I just said, okay.

David:

Okay. Good.

Kevin:

I would just like to thank Phil, [inaudible 00:05:08], and Sunny, and whoever else has worked on this. Done a great job.

David:

Yes. All right. Seeing that that issue is addressed, let's move on to the... Yes.

Mario:

I'm sorry. Just a point, and maybe this doesn't need to come off, but we have on the agenda the consent agenda... Exemptions. And there are a number of them, so just two points. In the future ones, if it would be helpful, some of them did and some of them did not have a ballpark value of what that exemption is for the year. That would be helpful just in trying to weigh that and I'm in favor of doing that for this year, but I think that because we're going to have, hopefully all goes well, we will have some adjustments to make in the next year and therefore really to go back and reevaluate all of these and to make sure that we are taking advantage of having greater leverage in the industry, especially on some of these exemptions. I know that the industry's changed quite a bit and some suppliers have gone out since COVID, so it makes certain things very difficult, but really to have the information on what the value is of the exemption and also make sure that we look at them very hard in the [inaudible 00:06:52].

Rochelle:

Maybe just a couple of comments, Mario, like many of these are standardizations, although your point, Sunny and I have talked about it pretty extensively about the combined buying power, because that's going to be an opportunity and then a number of them are, not that we're not going to go out for competitive pricing, but if they've [inaudible 00:07:13] direct negotiation.

Mario:

I understand and also there is a process, I guess if we're getting state funded or federal funding to utilize our standardization if they accept it. So it's important that we document that it's standardized and that the board authorizes that in order to be eligible for funds, because sometimes they'll withhold.

Rochelle:

Right.

Mario:

If you say we only want ABC equipment, so... Thank you.

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Do you need a motion for the consent agenda?

David:

I don't think we have one on the table yet, so if we would like to do that, that would be great.

Mario:

I motion to approve the consent agenda as discussed.

David:

Okay. Second?

Kevin:

Second.

David:

All right, any further discussion? All right. Sensing you are ready to vote now on the consent calendar with all the clarifications. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Passes unanimously. Thank you. All right, reports of committees. We are in the month of May, so we'll go first to finance. Catherine?

Catherine:

Yes. I did attend the Finance Committee meeting on the 12th of May. Following the usual approval of the safety moment and approval of the minutes, the committee discussed the possibility of initiating a compensation study for the Five-member Authority. Generally speaking, the members thought it was unnecessary as they have sufficient knowledge and expertise on the RPB to evaluate compensation. There was a little bit of discussion about the possibility of dealing with this again, once blue drop is concluded, and there was discussion about raising a stipend for the Five-member Authority at the next meeting next month. There was a short discussion about the budget. There were lots of compliments, it was clear and measured and very much appreciated. The consolidated application for the electrical improvements at Lake Gaillard and also Lake Saltonstall were reviewed, and they were deemed complete and I think Jay's there today at our meeting. Can't see you guys Jay, but hi. The next meeting will be June 9th. That's my report.

David:

Okay. Any questions? All right, then we'll move on to Land Use. Suzanne, are you able to make that Land Use?



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Suzanne:

Yes. Thank you. The meeting was on May 14th and most significant was that Mr. Triana provided the historical overview updating the property at 233 Skip Street in Hamden, Connecticut. He reported that this was the last remaining house from the group of 15 designated for disposal and demolition since the early 2000's. The property is located near the Mill River, is designated class one and class two land, and slated for sale as part of the land we need for the water reuse program. He went into a few details related to the work that was done, the town borrowing the space, open issues related to that. There were some questions, nothing significant. He walked through other dispositions of acquisitions, rental houses again at Skip Street, forestry update, recreation, special activity permits, and some other items related to invasive species and some other special programs that are going on. And then at 5:15 they voted for [inaudible 00:11:19]. So it was informative as usual. He had a very thorough presentation. Nothing I think super significant to report to the board.

David:

Just a question, I don't know if you know the answer because that house is an embarrassment and... Really when is that? Do we know when it's finally going to be ready to be sold or finally ready to go on the market so we can get rid of it?

Suzanne:

Yes, let me tell you what we shared with the group.

David:

Because I know there was a lot of issues with the town, with the zoning, with the property lines and all kinds of issues with-

Suzanne:

Yes, and now that all that process has been completed, he's going to begin drafting the disposition application.

David:

Okay.

Mario:

It should come pretty-

David:

Come before us soon. [inaudible 00:11:59].

Because I thought we had approved that years and years ago and then it would have expired probably in that area [inaudible 00:12:05] Yes, I thought so. Yes.

Suzanne:

I think it's these... So the town borrowed the front lawn to do some work and encroached on the property. I think he had to clean all that up to make the-

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David:

Right. Okay. It was more complicated than that over the years, and we've left it that way because, "Oh, sooner or later it'll be gone."

Prem:

It'll be very soon.

David:

Thank you. Okay.

Suzanne:

We don't have to close anything else that would stand of the way.

David:

Okay, perfect. Thank you. All right.

Mario:

That is the last property that we're going to be getting?

David:

Yes, well I remember now. This was what, 20 years ago that that program started and it may be time to review again what we have in land, and see if there's others that we don't need, maybe reprioritize what we do need. I know there's a matrix of what land is priority if we want it, but it may be time to look at that and...

Suzanne:

Be a good thing to do inside the strategic plan.

David:

Yes, Yes. All right, with that we'll go to Consumer Affairs Committee. Kevin.

Kevin:

Yes. Mr. Triana again, he provided an update on the RWA's recreation program, which is popular with a lot of the RPD members and popular with the community to a certain extent. He stated that this Summer's program included boat rentals for recreation permit holders at Lake Saltonstall on Tuesday, Friday, Saturdays and Sundays. Recreation staff will conduct daily trail inspections at all locations to ensure compliance with the Department of Public Health [inaudible 00:13:37] and policies. While fewer special events take place during the summer months, there will be at least one event each month including Trails Day and Prospect, featuring a collaborative walk with the Prospect Land Trust along the extended Quinnipiac Trail.

The Connecticut Botanical Society offers walks with leadership from the Connecticut Butterfly Association and Jeff Yale. RWA's program specialist organizes an annual Archery for Kids event. I remember that. Providing equipment for youth to engage in archery efforts have been made to involve young children in outdoor activities during summer, by coordinating with camps. There can be

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challenges usually surrounding transportation or funding to get the kids out into the outdoors and on RWA property.

Last year and this year, partnerships have continued with organizations such as the New Haven Police Athletic League, the Milford Boys and Girls Club and Hampton Hall, and we discussed staffing communications. The committee members discussed this and the RWA Police Force. Attorney D'Onofrio as the OCA reported that much of his time spent in April was reviewing the budget 2026 budget, as well as ongoing consumer matters reported last month. There's a Derby customer who sought to negotiate a better deal on a payment extension related to a connection. The office of the OCA is currently finalizing a memorandum with a recommendation that will be distributed to the consumer and the RWA. If that customer is not satisfied with OCA's recommendation, it's likely that a consumer hearing would be required, which they do happen occasionally, usually maybe once every couple of years maybe.

The same consumer also raised concerns about a commercial property that currently has one tenant and has two meters. The tenant utilizes and is responsible for their own meter and utility bills. However, there was an ongoing issue with one of the meters being broken and efforts have... Being made to install a new meter. Approximately five years ago, a service representative recommended removing the meter and it's been five years since the last inspection. The RWA is going to conduct a field visit to get that taken care of. So just as a side note, the significance of that is if they're not taken care of, that could lead to either water loss or water theft or somebody getting a huge bill. So that's one of the reasons that when these things come up, it's good to get them addressed.

Attorney Donofrio also provided an update on the status of a homeowner in East Haven who experienced a significant increase in a water bill after operating a valve inside the home, which directed water to a vacant area of her property that is not monitored. When the valve is closed, the water flow stops indicating that the excess usage was linked to private plumbing rather than the authority system. The authority grant granted, which they occasionally do a waste adjustment, a one-time waste adjustment and removed interest charges. The customer believes it was the authority's responsibility to alert customers of high water usage. As another aside, we had these conversations when we talked about the... [inaudible 00:16:43] That was going to put a burden on us to alert people of potential problems. So I'm sure this will not be the last this is heard of. And this customer was also presented with a 24-month interest free repayment for the adjusted balance, which they declined.

They seek to have all interest fees and the waste adjustment waived in addition to having the bills or cutting the bills in half. The authority provided a final offer as conveyed at the time of the meeting last week. And if unsatisfactory, the OCA will issue a memorandum with the recommendation that would be submitted to the customer in the RWA. And then there was a discussion that a hearing would also be required and that committee members discussed with Prem and Dana Bochan will review the records to determine the length of time, continuous use for this property and report back to members. And also committee members discussed notification requirements, which was going to be an ongoing thing. So if anything it's highlighting what's going to continue to happen.

David:

With 120,000 accounts, we have so few that...

Sunny:

Exactly.

David:

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All right.

Mario:

He indicated how long the water use was?

Kevin:

For that one particular customer?

Mario:

Yes. Especially with monthly bills now it shouldn't have been that long. Not quarterly.

David:

No, I don't know exactly.

Sunny:

We're doing some lookup the data, it started off around March 3rd and it's going into mid-April timeline. And we have more data now that shows that actually the customer was using, whether they're turning the valve on or off, but seems like they have an irrigation system tied to itself. We trust the customer, but we look at the data, data says the facts. So we just want to go back and have a discussion.

David:

Yes. Thank you.

Sunny:

Thank you.

David:

All right. And we have your assignments for next month. With that we'll move into updates.

Sunny:

[inaudible 00:19:20] I'll make, I would say much easier and say Singh will present the updates, right? So first we'll go to CIS. It makes it easier.

Prem:

Thank you. So Yes, I think for this month's update, I think as you all heard from last month's update, we are live with the system and start off with a little bit of a budget. We're still tracking the \$16.01 million budget, and we are doing very well. We have held back some of the monies for the upcoming fiscal year because of the post go-live stabilization, but we are still on target. So that's the good news. Some of the accomplishments, we have successfully built all 17 cycles for the month of April.

There are only nine outstanding final bills, based on the process that we review, which is very good news. We are actively in the 90 days post go-live stabilization phase. That being said, we are going through a lot of challenges and issues that we are resolving as we find, and I think material that we report on in here. But there's quite a bit of work. Things like for example, the call volumes have been elevated. So we typically used to get 350 calls, now we are looking at 600 calls on average a month,

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which is an elevated level calls. But that's no surprise. We kind of expected some of that to happen in the post go-live stabilization phase. So we'll work through the storm, it's a perfect storm, we're working through it.

Going into our current activities just to highlight a few things as we all discussed, we haven't turned on our shut process that's happening on June 2nd. So we'll be looking at some of the interest charges, turn on and the shut process, turn on in the month of June, June 2nd. And then we have a solar SPAC update that's going to happen also at the same time. So the team is working through towards that. At some point we'll decide when we will stop these updates. But this time I think until we have a shut process enabled, it's critical for us from a cash collection standpoint. So we'll be reporting the CIS update until then. So that's a current activities thing. Going on to the risks, we have actually, again successfully closed our April month, but we are still working on our year-end close.

Rochelle:

Challenging.

Prem:

We have challenges there. We do have, I think at least six different critical reports we're working on from a financial report's perspective. I know I should probably have a lot more details, but the team has been very helpful, engaged with us, both the vendor team as well as our own team. I've been working through that. So still more things and some of the things are getting the numbers right and making sure that all its manual, how do you really put an automated process in place?

But as far as we can get the numbers, doing a good job of closing. And with Rochelle's blessing, we are working through that process. So more to come on that, a few more weeks to go. And if you remember, we talked about a whole scene center of AutoPay, where all the customers have a go back and re-enroll this whole thing. So highlights, we had around 18,000 customers, which we are supposed to re-enroll. As of yesterday, we are 11,250 customers enrolled, and I think it's still come in, and as we are working through, so that does have an impact on the cash side as you can imagine. So we are working through that whole process, and as of May 21st, I believe it was \$6.5 million that was collected in cash. We are looking at-

Rochelle:

\$3.4 million more-

Prem:

\$3.4 million more to go.

Rochelle:

Sorry. This is something that... We are watching it very closely, there was definitely an impact to our cash in April, although we expected that. But to get to be consistent with our target for year-end, we need \$3.4 million to come in the next short time.

Prem:

So we have, just on that note, we have done a few things. As an example, so for the AutoPay as an example, we have engaged a vendor called CBSI that we use. We typically don't go with the vendor, but we have engaged with them to really literally call these, we have around 9,000 or so customers two

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weeks ago. So we're calling every customer. So they're actually calling and requesting to pay and enroll in another piece. So that process started off late last week into this week, into next week. So we are hoping, fingers crossed, it is just going to need to call and look and have the customers to enroll and make the payment, and that process ongoing. But to Rochelle's point, \$3.6 million is our target. We are focusing on getting that number.

Suzanne:

So can I just say what I understood you just said, is that because of the implementation of the system on so many people who were on AutoPay, our system couldn't automatically re-enroll them in AutoPay. We have a bunch of people who may be unbeknownst to them, haven't paid their water bill on time.

Prem:

That's right.

Suzanne:

And we have to raise that cash before a certain time to manage and balance our budget.

Rochelle:

You had to meet our projected coverage.

Sunny:

Correct. That coverage, even if they enroll in AutoPay, it'll only kind of look at the future bills. So what we're doing is we are chasing the past bills as well.

Rochelle:

You might've noticed in the AR sheet that we prepared, that current is elevated just like it was a prior month, which sort of suggests that people who usually pay are probably not realizing that they need to enroll and make a payment.

Suzanne:

From the calls that are being made, is that what we're discovering, is that people are like, "Oh dear, I didn't know. And sure, here I'll pay you."

Prem:

Yes. Actually that's one of the reasons.

Suzanne:

Worried that we're a scam, trying to call them and get them to pay.

Prem:

Yes. See that's absolutely right. And I think we did anticipate this challenge will come, we planned for these things. If you remember we did all the communication, told them this is an activation code, please pay it, AutoPay, and we did all of those things, but we did anticipate there will be a challenge like this and we pre-planned proactively to do this stuff. And I think of the 18,000, it's been like 45 days going in

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and we got 11,000 to the customers already. And now we are trying to get to those customers who probably don't look at their bill or whatever.

And now we are trying to literally call those guys and say... I think if there was an opportunity for us to transfer everybody, we would have done that. But as compliance, everybody has to go through the same exercise, and that's why we are doing all proactive measures to get those people back on. So again, fingers crossed we are calling everybody trying to get them to pay. So again, I think it's a great opportunity for us to also see and really make sure that not only those customers that are actually on AutoPay, we are also getting customers who are new, because of the new platform. So the chances are that we will be in much better shape as we progress in the future.

Rochelle:

Just that we're trying to be very careful that once somebody does pay, that they're not getting multiple calls so they don't feel like...

Prem:

Yes, that's a good point because we don't want to make customers feel harassed. So we are doing a reconciliation on a daily basis. So every day in the morning we are reconciled this so we know who paid. So we are tracking that as well.

Mario:

For people who are on the digital, do they still get a hard bill?

Prem:

If they have not signed up for e-bill, they get a hard bill. If they signed up for e-bill, then they get an e-bill.

Mario:

So they might be looking for the electronic bill and just not getting it. And do we have those email addresses so that we could send them an email saying, hey-

Prem:

Every day.

Mario:

Okay. That's good. Thank you.

Prem:

Yes. Yes.

Mario:

And I'm sure it was passed along, but last month I know you weren't at the meeting. Thank you very much, and it was a long hard road and-

Prem:

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Thank you. Yes.

Mario:

It was difficult for you and the team, so thank you very much. I'm sure it was passed along, but still.

Prem:

Thank you. Appreciate it. Yes, I passed it back to our teams and again, we're still in post stabilization. There's little bit of a stress, team is working through. I think it'll all settle in after the 90-day period, fingers crossed. Yes.

Suzanne:

Yes. And also at all subcommittee meetings for RPB where this was presented, a lot of kudos was passed along to the RPB members as well.

David:

Thank you. Many of whom remember 20 years ago, 15 years ago, whatever it was. Yes. Again, thank you. That's great. Hopefully we are on the top of it, for the one issue which we did expect. Are you comfortable that June 2nd we'll be ready for the last modules to be activated and...

Prem:

I just had a discussion even this morning. I think we have completed our testing for all the delinquencies, so we're good on that. Interest wise, we had a lot of discussion on the turn on, we are good on that as well. So everything is in order. So just on that note, although we turn it on June 2nd, the actual first shuffle happened in mid-July because of the different levels it has to go through and the chat notices. So we anticipate that everything will be smooth from there on. So Yes, I'm comfortable.

David:

All right. And Rochelle, are you comfortable that you'll get all the documents you need to be able to do the audit and the closing and everything? You have a means to get them?

Rochelle:

We do have. I will say that the vendor in... A key person in particular has been extremely helpful, personally very helpful working through things. I do expect it will be a challenge again.

David:

Okay. Thank you for that. Support update.

Sunny:

Yes, I can actually go through a real quick update on this. So the commercial business, we are on track to meet our targets for this year. In terms of I would say the strategic acquisitions, it is a post till the blue drop kind of, I would say we get it and after that we kind of go through, we'll go into more details when the strategic and the commercial business meeting come in next month. In terms of the regional supply strategy, the applications, there were many interveners as we kind of expected it is the usual bunch which came up for the public hearings. Metro Cog, the West Cog as well as some of the towns



individually also came in as interveners. A few surprises, like Save the Sound, and things of that sort. So we are watching it.

In terms of the other, the Unitel one, we kind of sent out a press release which kind of gave input on what we are doing with that. The other big, I would say nice positive stories is the JD Power award. This was something that Larry had been working on for a long time. So I think he would have been very happy to have seen this come true. We were evaluated on eight criteria, information provided, level of trust, quality and reliability, ease of doing business, a total monthly cost of rates, people, resolving problems and complaints, digital channels. So of all these things, I think we came first. Monroe in New York came second, Aquarion was third. So it was something, a dream come true for a long time.

I think kudos to everyone involved. The governance bodies, the teams, management teams, the entire 300 plus people, and I think quite honestly, I think the customers. So I think without them I think it would not have happened. So it was maybe decades in the making. So finally we were able to get it. So kudos to everyone I guess. So for certainly I think Larry would have been extremely happy. This was something that he was wishing it could happen. Then again, the next one is a very good story as well. I think this is our first patent applications. We did the powder activated carbon. We are seeing extremely good results. Kudos to Jim, Jesse Culbertson and Shervin Gormley who joined as a planning engineer. He had been working on research and development. He's got a PhD in all these things. So we recently got him, maybe eight months ago. So he's also been value adding. So Jim, if you want to kind of shed some more light on it.

Jim:

Sure. Yes. Essentially we submitted two patent applications at the end of April. We completed a full scale pilot at the Whitney water treatment plant. So we weren't doing any bench scale, it was all full scale testing. And as Sunny mentioned before, we actually utilized the Nodes truck for a pilot plant for South Cheshire Wellfield. So we got some pretty exciting results and looking forward to creating a system at South Cheshire.

Sunny:

I mean, one of the advantages is it's going to reduce our capital expenditure for that South Cheshire project. I think at this point of time between I would say, Rochelle, myself, and Jim and Martha, we are examining the options on how to monetize this. So there are a few ways to do it. We are still in the early stages of looking at how to monetize it. For sure we will be able to get the benefits internally because it's going to reduce the capital budgets by a significant... So that is a very positive one. So this one is also quite positive, even though it is not as monetization. But the Route 80 control valve, which we've been working on, again, just like 233 Skip Street, this has been a project for maybe six, seven years.

Finally, the easements came through and we were able to do the street work and now it's the left of the control valve vault and all that needs to be done in the phase two. But this work is done. We are actually paving the streets as of today or tomorrow we should be completing that. Demobilization should happen next week. So another big, I would say checkbox done on one of the major projects. So then Arbor Day was pretty good. I think we had a good number of folks who joined me and the rest of the folks from regional as well as the state route for East Haven and North Haven. North Haven, I wasn't there, the East Haven I was there for the Foreknown session. We planted three trees. I think they were native. So I learned a lot about tree planting. So it was pretty good. I enjoyed it. The day was pretty good. 70 degrees, great day.

So in terms of the next one, again, another good demo we had, I had actually gone for a demo for this kind of work, but the demo was more oriented towards medical applications. Then I said this could be

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useful for knowledge transfer, knowledge capture and training because of the aging workforce and aging infrastructure. So the gentleman who's running the company came and gave this to both of our engineering and operations teams. So initial hesitations, but overall, I think at the end of the training session, the folks were pretty happy in what they saw.

I think going forward, going into what Mario said in terms of asset management and all that, this is something that we plan to use if it becomes... In terms of how we deploy it, because there is initial capital in terms of digital twin models we have to develop. But overall, I think it is something that we want to do as part of our knowledge capture and training going forward for the future workforce. Then I think Chuck Delvecchio, the controller, did budget and cost control managers had a special kind of a financial acumen in terms of how we go about the processes. Not sure if you want to elaborate more.

Rochelle:

This particular session was geared to year-end protocols to really get the support and understanding throughout the organization about how we get through the year-end audit and how they can support that. And we also touched upon information about budgeting.

Sunny:

That's pretty much it.

David:

Okay. Any questions on the board report? All right, last item is an update on Blue Drop. So I think Jay will let you... You get to go home early. We have an executive session.

So, let's take a break. Let's take a 10-minute break.

[BREAK FROM 1:50 P.M. TO 1:57 P.M.]

David:

I know I said 10 minutes, but I think we're all ready. We're not waiting for anybody. Okay. All right then why we come back, Jennifer, you're all set?

Jennifer:

I'm all set.

David:

Okay. All right then let's... We're on the Blue Drop update, so I would like us to consider going into executive session for that. And you're raising your hand on the alert. You want to move that motion?

Mario:

I do.

David:

Okay. Second?

Suzanne:

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I'll second that.

David:

Second. All right, we're going to executive session, inviting those present for purposes as stated in the agenda. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Passes unanimously.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 1:57 P.M. TO 2:45 P.M.]

David:

We are out of executive session. Is there any other business?

Authority members:

No.

David:

Does someone want to make a motion to recess the meeting and then we will meet back here after the RPB meeting tonight?

Kevin:

I'll entertain a motion to recess the Authority meeting.

Mario:

Second.

David:

We are adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

[RECESS TO ATTEND RPB MEETING]

David:

All right. I will call us back to order and note that the one last item on the agenda is consider and act on resolutions to approve fiscal year '26 budget and authorize filing with the trustee. What's your pleasure?

Mario:

I'd like to make a motion, Mr. Chair, to approve the resolution as presented in our package to adopt the fiscal year 2026 budget and authorize the filing with the trustee.

David:

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All right, thank you. Is there a second?

Catherine:

I'll second that.

David:

Seconded by Catherine. I think we heard from the RPB, their strong support, and we heard that during the workshops as well, but it was nice their resolution, they unanimously voted on. Didn't always used to be that way years back. So we appreciate their working with us, and us working with them.

I think management did a wonderful job putting it together. You folks did a great job in making it reasonably explainable because it can be a complicated document. And I think that helped with the support from them, but also from us, and I think it's a good positive process.

Mario:

Think so.

Catherine:

Thank... Yes.

David:

Any other comments? Right. Sensing you ready to vote, all those in favor signify by saying aye?

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

All right. With that, I'll ask for a motion to adjourn.

Mario:

I'd like to make a motion to adjourn.

David:

Is there a second?

Kevin:

Second.

David:

Second by Kevin. All right. All those in favor say aye. Aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

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David:

We are adjourned for the month. We'll see you all in June.