

SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 24, 2023

MEETING TRANSCRIPTION

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING BEGINS AT 3:26 P.M.]

David:

Before I hand it over to Mario for his initial chair of a meeting here, Jennifer, does Steve know what time-

Jennifer:

I don't think Stephen's coming.

David:

Really?

Jennifer:

Did you see that email? He had a family member coming. He was trying to find a replacement but I never heard from him.

David:

Okay. I did not remember seeing that.

Jennifer:

Yes.

David:

Okay. I'm sorry. All right, so then we don't really need to notify anybody. Brian's not waiting, is he?

Jennifer:

No, Brian, I told 3:30.

David:

Okay, that's fine. If he's not waiting then we'll do this now in order. All right. Chairman, it's all you.

Mario:

Okay. First order of business is approval of the minutes of May 25th, 2023.

Kevin:

So moved.

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Suzanne:

I'll second that.

Mario:

Thank you. Any revisions? Amendments? All in favor?

Committee:

Aye.

Mario:

Opposed? Abstention

Suzanne:

There you go.

Mario:

I wasn't here. We're going to do the lead and copper rule next, but just one of the things in meeting with Sunny and going over how the approach, I took it upon myself, so I apologize to the rest of the board, as the memos get put together, I ask that if it is an informational memo, fine, but if it's something that's to provoke the thought, the first drafts had the thought question at the end and I asked that be put at the beginning so that we can at least know what we're supposed to be thinking about as we read through it as opposed to, oh yeah, I remember seeing something and reading through it again. So you'll see that as a change. Hopefully that is a better change. And the lead and copper rule update is the next topic.

Sunny:

No, I think like you say, you're going to capture the conversations that we had with regard to few changes in terms of the nuance, but I think overall, in terms of the memo itself, we wrote the memo, I think Mario saw it, gave some feedback, [inaudible] gave some feedback so we kind of put the memos.

For the lead and copper revisions, it's continuously evolving regulations and mandates. Last week we had a conversation with DPH and the way that Lori Matthew even expressed was she's the person who heads the entire water wastewater. So there could be another revision coming up is what she said in the fall of 2023. But this captures the place where we are and in terms of the various activities that have been ongoing and we've engaged CDM Smith is a consultant for the inventory part. So you would find many different aspects getting touched upon here. So we can go through it and certainly I think we didn't pose a question at the top here because this was more informational [inaudible], but we would love to take questions, to answer questions based on the content itself.

So there's one more thing which I did not put in here that pertains to the first sentence of the memo. There is a website which we are developing for rolling it out to the customers where they can actually walk through this exercise. I have it on my computer, that's why I brought my computer. I don't know, Jennifer, you want to share it at some point of time or I can send the link to you and you can actually share it. With that, is Tom here?

Jennifer:

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Tom's here, yes.

Sunny:

I'll turn it over to Tom. Tom Barger who has been managing this even prior to when I even started even going back a year before that. So he continues to be the project manager for this and he's also the water quality. He's been here for 30 plus years at regional. He knows the ins and outs of it. I would say have him go through the memo and then any questions?

Suzanne:

Can I ask a question?

Sunny:

[inaudible].

Suzanne:

[inaudible] view, does this merit Foursquare update? It can always have addendum memos with all this detail, but is this the kind of project that will have a life over so long that it essentially will be helpful to see these were the objectives, this is what got done, this is the next milestone, this is the...

Mario:

I'll answer because this way it might be the only question I have an opinion for answering. I think that this is probably one of our biggest endeavors today, longest term and largest. There might be some other projects that have higher costs, but this is definitely as it evolves and as Sunny said and we've heard in the past, the rule keeps changing, the funding keeps changing and who's effected keeps changing. I think that's an excellent idea is to have some sort of a quick [inaudible] visual that we can see.

Larry:

We're planning on doing this project over 12 years, so you'll get 12 years of Foursquares every month.

Suzanne:

It's okay.

Larry:

So 150 Foursquares is fine with us if it's okay with you.

Suzanne:

Yes, it is. I think though for just distilling all this information, putting it in a context this time for me would be helpful.

Larry:

That's a good suggestion. Thank you.

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Sunny:

Absolutely.

Suzanne:

Because I got lost in this couple times, so I've a lot questions about what it says but go ahead.

Sunny:

Jennifer, I sent you the email for that ID, but once Tom, I would say, walks us through, then we can actually show that.

Larry:

We're also going to share this website with the Consumer Affairs Committee after this meeting. So the next Consumer Affairs Committee will share it there as well.

Suzanne:

And tell me if I'm getting ahead of myself. My memory's really bad. I think we've had previous conversations about this topic and we talked about the doing of the private part of the-

Mario:

Yes, we did.

Suzanne:

... and we had some sort of perspective on legal opinion about the responsibility to do that part or to not do that part. Am I remembering this correctly and did we get that legal opinion?

David:

We did get that.

Suzanne:

And so if you could refresh me of that and then secondly... Well let's start there.

Larry:

Okay, so we did have a conversation about this topic once before and we discussed whether or not it was a project or a program. Difference between the two is a project is very distinct. It starts and it stops.

David:

Oh, this is about the approval funding committee, [inaudible].

Larry:

Right, we need legal. And in the context of that, we decided from a policy standpoint, because we are responsible for delivering quality of the water to our customers, that we would undertake replacement of the lead service lines, not only those few that may be in our system, but also from the customer side.

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And in that context, we said this was a program, not a project because we're going to start it and literally we could go on for a couple of years and take a year off. So therefore it did not require RPB approval. And we did have a legal opinion on that who essentially concurred with that approach.

Suzanne:

And did the both of you discuss it?

David:

We did. And there were differences of some opinions, not among us, but of RPB members.

Suzanne:

But was the RWA unanimously-

David:

Yes. And we said we wanted to move forward on covering both the private line and the public. We wanted zero tolerance actually was the terminology that we-

Larry:

And we did review this with OCA because obviously we had the rain impact and OCA was completely in support of that position.

Suzanne:

Okay. Thank you for reminding me.

Mario:

For the customer's side.

Larry:

For us replacing the customer side and paying for it and including it in the general rates. That's the difference is that you're including the cost of the replacement in the general rate structure like we do any large capital program, whether it's a treatment plan, a pump station or something like that. So that would just be part of the rate case that we do.

Catherine:

Something like considered maintenance is... That's what we think of with respect to the other... like all the maintenance that we do with the water treatment plant and those sorts of things. So this is not considered a maintenance-

Larry:

Well you could consider it maintenance in that we are upgrading a material or a service line that's no longer acceptable. So yes, in that standpoint it could be considered maintenance.

Suzanne:

For the private side it will be a regulatory asset. That's how we're going to treat it. So be a regulatory asset so an asset, but not one that we don't want advertised to for [inaudible].

Catherine:

I see. Okay.

Larry:

There's also some complication to this because of the fact that we are doing some work on private property and we're limited to how much of the funding and what category the funding is considered. So that's very complicated from what I read.

Mario:

[Inaudible] target but it continues to just keep evolving as more and more utilities realize what's going on and what the implications are and contact their representatives in Washington and say-

Catherine:

I would also think there's liability issues associated. You come in and you do my pipes and then a year later I have a leak and they be like, okay, well that's not my problem. You came in and changed my lines, you come fix my leak. So I don't think we want to be in business of the ongoing maintenance of people. So I don't know what we thought about for the post issues associated with changing these pipes and stuff. I just think it's complicated when you start getting into that end of it. I get the moral part of it completely but I just think there's a piece of this that's complicated.

Mario:

[inaudible] hard is extremely difficult and maybe the pipe is okay, but now it's leaking around the pipe into my foundation-

Catherine:

And my foundation cracked.

Mario:

It cracked and that antique faucet that's upstairs is irreplaceable. [inaudible]. Absolutely.

Catherine:

Sorry.

Mario:

No, it's fair. We've seen this before.

Catherine:

Sorry.

Mario:

Okay.

Sunny:

Just to open it up to Tom. Tom, there's no deck for this, so it was only the notes, so if Tom wants to add some more comments or just walk through, I would say the different aspects of it at high level and I think we take questions if there's more. Hey Tom, you want to add something to the conversations with regards to where we are?

Tom:

Yeah, sure. Sunny, I appreciate that. Good afternoon everyone. Yeah, I think as Sunny had mentioned earlier, what we're looking to do here is just provide an informational update on what I would consider to be some of the key areas of focus as we're moving through this particular program. And I am just going to go over them briefly. There's a lot of moving parts to this particular regulation. As you folks were just discussing, this is going to be a long-term effort. It's going to involve a lot of people in a lot of different sets of consideration.

So what we're working on, and Kevin Watsi as Director of Public Affairs, is really focusing on when he's working on this particular project is any number of communications. So he's developing as mentioned earlier, and hopefully we'll get a chance to take a look at that, the website that's under development, really the purpose of which is to provide information to our consumers as to really what this whole issue is about and how they can help us help them. So I think this is going to be a very interactive website, very meaningful and productive website for our consumers.

We continue to work with and meet with our municipal partners. I know again, Kevin's group meets with the municipal leaders as we have for many years at the Authority as you're aware. I'm also meeting with specifically the eight health districts on a regular basis and this is a standing item on our agenda is to provide updates on these revisions. Again, this rule has been around for 32 years, so it's not something that's necessarily new to the health departments, but the revisions are significant and they have actual responsibilities under these revisions and I want to make sure that they're clear on what those responsibilities are.

We're going to be getting out into some field investigations in the not too distant future. I know Sunny has recently submitted a proposal for vacuum excavation for approval by the state health department and Kevin's trying to develop the communications that will accompany that field work so that we're ready to go on all fronts and folks are advised at least 30 days in advance of what we're up to. Part of a lot of the information that we have gleaned from written records here that we have, old tap cards, different service records, construction database, is being put together with information that's being gathered in the field on a daily basis by our construction crews and then supplemented by field service and cross connection groups. So we're building all of that information into the next topic on the summary and that's referred to as lead cast.

So part of our relationship with CDM is working with one of their subsidiaries to gather all this information and put it in a mapping format based on GIS. It is a requirement of the revisions. We'll go live with that in October of 2024, but we're constructing that currently and building upon that on a daily basis.

Rochelle heads up the funding issues of which there are many, many issues to give consideration to. And I think this is one of the areas, at least for me that is most confusing, in part because of the way we're structured as an organization with our legislative mandates and restrictions, if I can put it that way. But

also different buckets of money coming out of the federal government and how they're being wheeled through state government and the approvals that are necessary. Each of these buckets of money having their own sets of circumstances and conditions so it's not making it any easier. And of course Rochelle is looking at other opportunities as well to fund these programs to the benefit of all.

Field investigations will be kicking off shortly in the form of vacuum excavation. We're going to be focusing on the cities of New Haven and West Haven initially. I'll get into why in a minute. We have put together with CDM a proposed methodology for doing this. And again, this is now in the hands of the state health department for approval. Once approved, once we have all the communications in place, we can step forward and we're looking to do about 500 homes for purposes of gathering information that we currently don't have from New Haven and West Haven in particular initially. Look at New Haven and West Haven as almost like a pilot program that we're going to learn some information from and then be able to apply that more largely across the district.

One of the things that I just want to take a minute and talk about is the EPA accelerator program. So the Environmental Protection Agency chose four states, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin to pilot what their referring to as their lead accelerator program. In Connecticut, 10 utilities were selected by the state health department for inclusion in this pilot and we were fortunate enough to be one of those utilities. So we're looking forward to working directly with EPA and their subcontractor consulting group and learning a little bit more about how the whole process works. We're hoping for some clarification at the federal level as to how we address some of the anomalies that we're coming into contact with and learning from others, learning from our peers in those three other states as to how they are approaching this same issue. We're all in this same wagon together having to comply so we're trying to learn from folks that are out there with us.

I think that concludes my summary. If there's any questions that have come up as you've reviewed this previously or as a result of the conversation thus far, I'll be happy to see what I can do about clarifying or answering those questions.

Catherine:

I do. So since we've been selected, this might be a great opportunity for us to lay out our concerns about the private side reconstruction of things and why we want to do this but here are all our concerns about actually doing this and that be a part of the experiments that people learn from. I think it's possible we're going to dig open somebody's front lawn to an apartment building and we're going to find that the water goes right through the septic bleaching system. So does that mean we'd have to put a whole new bleaching system in somewhere else to get the water pipes fixed. Or we find that something wasn't put up to code and so now we have to do construction into the access of the building to make sure it gets up to code.

So I just think doing this opens up this huge Pandora's box for us that if we don't have legislation for limited liability or something as a backdrop protection, I think the booby prize is going for the high moral ground will be a very costly endeavor for us that could sink us. So I just think if we're going to be a part of this we should seize this opportunity to say we've got to have both at the end of the day. And I don't know what those both are, but I'm sure the other utilities are equally concerned and I would talk to them about their concerns and making that happen.

Larry:

We can keep in touch with the city of New London. They've been actively replacing both sides of the service lines and they've been quite aggressive at that. Matter of fact, they were I think the first utility in

Connecticut to actually launch that. So my point is we have somebody that has a case study that we can learn from to see what they're finding and actually pose those questions.

Catherine:

Right, and how long after the work is done does the RWA step away from it.

Mario:

And as you're looking at that and you're looking at the funding opportunities, because that's really the other piece that you get into, you have to look at methods of contracting for that work because can you share the liability or shift the liability to the property owner by somehow even having, these are 10 pre-qualified contractors, you contract with them and we pay that cost.

But these are the things that, again, being part of the accelerator program may enter into opportunities and the liability having some sort of a limit on the liability is key.

Sunny:

No, I got it. Very good point. So I think touching back to both you Mario as well as I would say the question Suzanne had, actually some of the cities have already done the work [inaudible]. One of premier, I would say, one of the early, I would say, guys who did this because they were mandated by the state to do this, they did both the private side as well as the utility side. And CDM was actually the consultant who worked through both the design inventory and construction management. So we do have the right set of skilled knowledgeable people in the right areas who are helping us out bringing that kind of knowledge.

As part of the EP accelerator, one of the early meetings that we took was also people who were actually coming from Cincinnati and all that. They actually got involved. They were the utility directors there. So she was very much part and parcel of their inventory replacements and all that. So we are taking that expertise as part of this, as well as taking into consideration what you suggested because some of the towns in Massachusetts also adopted this kind of a hybrid where they subsidize, Boston Water and Sewer does that where they actually say it's \$7000, we'll give you 3500, you put in something. So there's many hybrid models that are available out there, which cities have already done in a few cases. So certainly very good points. We are actually looking at a very holistic approach on it. Yeah, go ahead.

Catherine:

Did the state of New Jersey give Newark money?

Sunny:

Correct. They subsidized it big time and pretty much it was like \$130 million out of that 90 million or something the state gave it.

Catherine:

Yeah. So see there they're more indifferent to-

Sunny:

Correct.

Rochelle:

But also, Newark was under a consent order, which is very different than our situation. The other thing I just want to mention on the funding side is one of the things that's pretty clear and I don't expect to change is we won't get the grant unless we do pay for both sides.

Sunny:

Right, and one of the things, just going back to the early conversation that last week I was talking about, this point came up because DPH actually presented, one of the presenters did mention that right now the regulations don't require the private site to be replaced. Lori actually intervened and said either she probably spoke to the EPA and kind of I would say guessing is where it's going. But she said just be very careful with how we are actually saying it because things might change come forward. So the EPA might mandate both sites to be replaced. That was something that we took out saying that maybe that EPA probably knows what's going to come in the future. But she did let that I would say slip out.

Going back, I think to Mario's point and Suzanne's point, there's a lot of liability and risk that we also envision going to private property. So we will have some kind of a release liens and all that when we get these things worked out.

Mario:

But you need to make sure that the funding is traditionally EPA and state does not fund anything private property.

Sunny:

Correct.

Mario:

And they also don't have an understanding of what the cost is to do replacements on private property they come up with, oh it's \$2000 and not realizing it's \$10,000. And what Newark saw was we have to go in, we have to do it, they did it, everybody knew. We have so many different municipalities, so many different areas that we'll be working in, it could be very painful.

Larry:

It is.

Rochelle:

A couple things I just want to mention also on the funding. So at this point, we did submit, so Connecticut DPH is well aware of our current estimate, which is not insignificant at all. The other thing I want to mention, and Larry and I participated on calls with our legislative representatives, there is the Flow Act that is before the legislature, which should address if we do our own RWA bonding to remove the IRS cap of the 10%. Also, the state needs to keep this in mind, but for DWSRF, assuming we're using DWSRF money, that the requirement will be on the state of Connecticut to make sure they meet the IRS guidelines and the IRS guidelines don't get changed.

Mario:

Oh, right.

Sunny:

On that point, Suzanne, you did mention the expressing our needs. So there is a needs assessment form which we filled out as part of this accelerator, which we just finished off. We have highlighted most of these issues saying that we need help in these activities. I think originally when we were set up it was supposed to gear towards communications and public outreach and all that, but then we had the first meetings and subsequent meetings after that we did elaborate to them saying this is great but we also need help. And that's one of the reasons why we want to focus on West Haven and New Haven because the reason why West Haven and New Haven were chosen was because they found pediatric blood levels were much higher in terms of lead in these two towns. And that's when these two towns were put under the accelerator. So which regional water was kind of purveying water to.

So we might get a lot more in terms of targeting those towns because they would come under the elevated blood levels. Second reason would be the census tracts plus the environmental justice areas also kick in, so you're trying to maximize the grant aspects of it on the funding aspects. But on the risk as you've mentioned, there's plenty of risks, even once you get the funding, the risk is still open to us as to how long we are responsible for the service line and do we damage... As to Mario's point, I have gotten involved in construction where blasting used to happen. We do the pre-blast, post-blast, but even still somebody would come and say, "You broke my vase in the basement." So very well aware. I know Catherine you were supposed to say and I interrupted. Go ahead.

Catherine:

No, I'm a little concerned about the mandate, well actually it's not really a mandate. But what happens when you have a landlord that doesn't comply.

Suzanne:

Won't give you access?

Catherine:

Yes. I'm not concerned about the homeowners, I'm also not concerned about the tenants. I'm concerned about certain landlords that have not great reputations in the city of New Haven where if there's anything that has to do with their property that costs them a dime, they won't participate.

And the other thing they have a little bit of knowledge on, at least in New Haven, is that the issues with respect to the high lead blood levels in children tends to be from lead paint and not from water. And I know our health department has done, when a kid has an elevated blood lead level in the city of New Haven, we have this lower standard of an actionable blood lead level. They not only test the paint, but they also test the water. And water has not come up in New Haven as a factor with the children with high blood lead levels.

And it's great that the city's part of this program, but I also know that with certain landlords in the city of New Haven, even though there are great programs for lead paint abatement, they won't even take advantage of it. And it's free money, you know I love free money. It's a mortgage. But it gets eliminated 20% per year for five years so all they could do is just do the abatement and maintain it. But these landlords still won't do it until we get a court order and even then they don't.

Suzanne:

Right, and so in that particular case too, if we change all the pipes to the building, but the building pipes are a problem, is that our responsibility? Is it to the faucet or is it to the building?

Mario:

To the building.

Sunny:

The building.

Mario:

Not to the meter.

Larry:

It is to the meter if there's lead. If there's lead from the inside of the building to the meter.

Sunny:

Right, from the meter, it actually is the homeowner's pipe that runs from the meter to the faucets. But technically the sampling is still to be done at the faucet. At this point of time, the regulations still say we are responsible only up to the curb. Technically the homeowner is supposed to pick up from the curb. And the way our rules and regulations read, also reads in the same fashion where we are not responsible for any lines all the way up to the house. If in the future the LCR changes to say that it mandates the requirement of replacement up to the meter, the question is still valid as to what happens to the meter to the faucet or any other pipe within the building.

So that could be like 1890s and just to again, I would say reinforce Catherine's point, if you attended the last consumer affairs meeting, there was a case that Jeff discussed that pertains exactly to what you said. So we are very painfully aware of the landlords actually. Personally I'm painfully aware of it.

So given the point, we still have to do the [inaudible] sampling, which goes and takes the samples out of the faucets and there is a clear, I would say EPA's methodology on how we have to do it. But our responsibility at this point, given I would say our rules and regulations, given the EPA regulations, it ends at the curb valve. So that's how we see it. We'll see how it emerges and that's the way we're doing it. Going back to Larry's point, yes, as a good utility and what we stand for, we have taken into the budgetary considerations of replacing the private side, knowing all the risks that's associated with it. So we'll have to go forward and see how we mitigate those risks.

Catherine:

I think I'm suggesting that if we have knowledge of regulatory changes, that one of our comments should be that there ought to be an enforcement mechanism with respect to the property owner and their cooperation.

Mario:

And hopefully that enforcement isn't screw the health department as opposed to we don't want to be enforcement-

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Catherine:

Thank you very much. State enforcement.

Suzanne:

So I have another question. This is getting bogged down too many details, just let me know. So if we go to the meter or wherever we're going to and... Oh my God, I lost my question.

Catherine:

Sorry.

Suzanne:

No, that's not your fault, Catherine, what were we just talking about prior to that?

Catherine:

The lead to the faucet?

Suzanne:

It'll come back to me. Sorry.

David:

GIS leadCAST I presume is a layer within our GIS system. We're not having someone developing a separate GIS system.

Sunny:

Technically the leadCAST is a software that's by Trinnex and it's subsidiary of CDM. So what happens is that leadCAST is the artificial intelligence machine learning software. It's close to BlueConduit, so it's a competitor of BlueConduit. And so we feed the data and then we run the simulations. So you're familiar with BlueConduit. So what we are going to do is we actually mirror that leadCAST information onto the GIS, but eventually come October 2024, we have to make it public. So what we will do is we are planning not our GIS, but we're going to throw a link to the leadCAST because the lead cast gets updated continuously.

We may not open our GIS out, even though we have a GIS person who updates it. It's not a layer that rests on it, but the leadCAST itself has the GIS shaped file that works on it. But we are going to use the leadCAST that's part of the vendor's leadCAST that we are going to present it because that's the way Newark, Trenton and all that did. So it's easier rather than mirroring it. But we have it for our own sake in terms of capturing the data onto our GIS.

Mario:

Just caution how you depict that it's potentially lead as opposed to it is lead because if you're using AI that'll be inherent problems. Kevin, did you have any questions?

Kevin:

No, thanks.

Mario:
Okay.

Suzanne:

I remember my question. So we are not actually going to be the workforce that replaces all the pipe to the meter correct or we don't know yet?

Sunny:

We plan to do it. I think we would eventually be one contractor who will actually do the utility side as well as the private side. How we mitigate the risk is something that we will have to think about and either have a release or some kind of a pre post survey to be done. That's typically part of construction how anything happens with the private, I would say homeowner, if we end up doing those service lines. We have not come to that stage yet, but we do understand the risk matrix is pretty heavy. We will develop a risk matrix in terms of what are the risks that are going to come and how do we go about mitigating. But certainly at this point of time, we envision doing both.

Mario:

[inaudible] very heavily.

Catherine:

Also, do we have enough people without subcontracting it out?

Sunny:

We'll have to subcontract. When I say we don't really mean Regional Water's crews actually.

Suzanne:

We'll that's what I mean.

Mario:

That was what the question.

Sunny:

Oh, sorry.

Mario:

No, not at all.

Sunny:

[inaudible] contractors.

Mario:

Okay.

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Sunny:

I would say contractors. We don't actually [inaudible]. Absolutely.

Mario:

Any other questions on this topic?

Larry:

But that doesn't give the liability to them because we're contracting them to do it.

Suzanne:

Right.

Larry:

And that's where [inaudible] at.

Suzanne:

That's exactly what I mean.

Larry:

I know. I could tell.

Sunny:

But even still Mario's point I would say of having the 10 shortlisted contractors and then having the homeowner actually contract them at the same time, we give them some kind of a subsidy. I think that might be something that will kind of mitigate the risk for regional At the same time, make sure that it is done right. We do the inspections and that might be another risk mitigated factor.

Suzanne:

Okay, and can I ask one last question? For it to get the money, it is the last one, to get the money does it have to be 100% reimbursement?

Catherine:

Yes, absolutely. Both sides.

Suzanne:

Okay. No, 100% reimbursement.

Catherine:

Hundred percent of-

Suzanne:

Okay, thank you.

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Mario:

There will be more. It's just ongoing.

Sunny:

This is ongoing.

Mario:

Yes, and they will keep changing.

Sunny:

We'll keep updates, good point of-

Mario:

All right and Tom, thank you very much for the synopsis, appreciate it and the memo.

Sunny:

Thank you, Tom.

Tom:

Thank you.

Mario:

For putting up with my suggested edits. Business continuity work plan, there's a memorandum in there from Sunny, talked about the upcoming urgency response, and I guess if there's any questions from anyone on this? I asked for more granular detail than was the initial, just in case anyone wanted to follow it because everything had basically the date was [inaudible]. You can blame me, but you should be able to look at the top line and know what is included under the app. But if there are any questions.

Catherine:

Not a question, but I have participated in an exercise or two in the past and I would love to do that.

Sunny:

Oh sure.

Mario:

Yeah. You have the tabletops, if you wouldn't mind sending out an invite?

Sunny:

Oh, absolutely.

Mario:

Anyone else? Kevin?

Kevin:

Yes. I'm sorry.

Mario:

Any questions?

Kevin:

No, thanks.

Mario:

Okay. All right. Move on to the HazWaste update. This is a topic that has been around and we have a very successful program. This one does have a question. It's not anything we're going to resolve today, but just keep in mind, is it beneficial to keep the same pattern and program going or are modifications needed? So hazardous waste, everybody had them all in their houses years and years and years ago because that was commonplace. They're no longer as available until you go to clean out your grandparents' home and end up finding the sorts of things that you can't pronounce.

I think there's been improvements throughout society in the use of and purchasing of hazardous waste. So each town has a representative on committee that really runs as we cycle. And I wanted to know if there were any questions on, we're going to be getting data as to where we are, where we've been, what the costs are, and asking the towns to then start to think about is this something that they want to continue with.

Big success, I think is the conditionally exempt small quantity generators, which is the small commercial businesses that we can now accept. And that's where some of that hazardous waste is going to continue. Sorry, I should let you do the speaking, but this is a topic at least I know. And we're also at a point where we may be looking at improvements to the site and/or the building and other thoughts as far as the property. And so we probably need to take this into consideration.

David:

It is fully funded by the municipalities that participate in the program so that's a very positive aspect. So we're providing a community service. The history on this was we started this 20 years ago because we wanted to make sure that people weren't dumping these toxic materials on the watershed and therefore getting into our water supply. So we actually did this as being proactive so we could protect our watershed and water supply.

Catherine:

David, do we make... Go ahead, Suzanne.

Suzanne:

Just quick, do we make any money on this?

David:

No.

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Suzanne:

No.

Mario:

Breakeven.

Sunny:

Breakeven.

David:

It's a breakeven.

Mario:

The RWA costs are covered by the town.

Catherine:

I will tell you that when I did my pension renovation four years ago, I cleaned out everything and I took advantage of this program. I think it's good for the environment and it's a brilliant public service and we should continue to do it. And I have some things my garage I need to get rid of.

Mario:

The question I think is more of should it morph to something a little bit different? This was the first permanent location. It's open May to October. We've now added satellite locations. Should it be a satellite or rotating? Should it remain as permanent? What is the cost to the towns now as opposed to initially? And there's a lot of things that have changed over the 20 years and [inaudible] way at the time was the first one in the state to build a permanent facility. All the other [inaudible]-

Catherine:

If I have my consumer hat on. I don't care where it is, I'm going to use it. If I have my board hat on, it doesn't cost us any money and it's a benefit to the community. I don't care where it is. So I don't know if it should change.

Mario:

[inaudible] all the towns.

David:

Personally, I like it a lot. We're the northernmost town where I come from and I use it every year and I was very upset when I was off the town council for a few years and they dropped out of the program. So the first thing I got back on the council, we put it right back on. The company we used before was somewhere in the valley and you had to go there once or twice every three months. It was not at all convenient. This is important for us to protect the environment and the fact that the towns are paying more. We are paying as [inaudible], we are paying a little bit more than we did for the other company, but the service is just much, much better. I like the stable location because it's easy to know that it's

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here. I wish it was longer. I could see not going into November because it could be cold, but I could see April because people do spring-cleaning by then. So it'd be nice if it was started earlier.

But satellite ones, if they do the satellite ones, I reread it now and I still didn't see the answer. If St. Orange says they want one or Cheshire says we want one, does that town pay whatever the costs are of having it there or is it spread out throughout the program?

Sunny:

I think the town pays. I haven't seen, I would say the exact breakup. Steve, are you there? Is Steve there?

Jennifer:

Who, Steve?

Sunny:

Steve Vitko?

Jennifer:

No.

Sunny:

Okay. So I can get back to you on that.

David:

Okay.

Sunny:

Lori was managing it. She's no longer.

David:

Right.

Sunny:

So I will get back to you on the question who picks up? I know for sure we get fully reimbursed, right? Dollar to dollar, we get full reimbursement. But in terms of satellite locations too, I'm guessing that the individual towns pick up or somebody.

David:

Well, [inaudible] wants to do one because they're in our group, but if they want to do one because it's far enough away, it might be expensive for them to do it. But if all 20 towns that participate pay for that, knowing some of the western part of the district would go there might make it worthwhile to consider doing a satellite. Okay, northwest and the east.

Mario:

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Yeah, the satellites are just a weekend.

David:

Right, yeah, just the one time.

Sunny:

You have six right now you want to see whether more could be added?

David:

Well or keep them because they are just once, just continue them each year.

Sunny:

Yes.

Mario:

So there will be more info if there's any other questions. Trying to keep your meeting going.

Sunny:

Yeah.

Catherine:

Thank you.

David:

Thank you.

Mario:

[inaudible] memorandum. [inaudible].

David:

Mr. Chairman, I knew that we go into executive session to discuss security matter per relevant general assembly.

Mario:

[inaudible] 200(6)(C).

David:

Okay.

Suzanne:

I'll second that motion.

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Mario:

Thank you.

David:

I know says in here which is the right one. I couldn't find it.

Mario:

All those in favor?

Committee:

Aye.

Mario:

Okay, we're in executive session.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 4:12 P.M. TO 4:20 P.M.]

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNS AT 4:20 P.M.]