

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY**

AUGUST 22, 2024

MEETING TRANSCRIPTION

David:

Let's call this meeting to order. Regional Water Authority's August 22nd, 2024 meeting. And with that, the first item on the agenda, well, just to note that Suzanne is away and just texted. She has texting signal but no other signal. So she's trying hard to find a place for tonight so she can be logged in, but she doesn't expect to join us this afternoon. All right. So with that public comment, Jennifer, is anybody here from the public?

Jennifer:

No public members are present.

David:

All right. Then with that, no members of the public present, next item is to meet as a sole member of the Claire C. Bennett Watershed Fund. And we have a report in here and we have the presence of the president of the fund, Brian Stone. I saw his picture up there a minute ago. Brian, how are you?

Catherine:

You forgot the safety moment?

David:

Oh no, I apologize. Bring to your attention the safety moment. This one was about school safety with buses and very apropos with school starting in many places next week. So hopefully that'll be top of mind for this week.

Catherine:

I reported a school bus running a red light this morning.

David:

All right. Now I know why you brought that to my attention.

So Brian, can you hear us?

Mark:

Your volume's very low. It's hard to hear you.

David:

All right. Jennifer's working on that.

David:

Is that better?

Mark:

A little bit.

David:

We heard you much clearer. All right. Part of the items under the Watershed Fund meeting is to review the report. Hopefully we've all had a chance to look at that. And then act on the recommendation of Brian, the chair, for the reappointment of three of the four directors whose terms are up. One of whose terms is up has decided she did not wish to serve anymore. She served while she was an employee here at the RWA for many years and then continued to serve after her retirement.

Brian, can you hear us? Thank you. All right. So then Brian, it must be something at his end. Does anybody mind if we review the motion and... Forward? Second? Any discussion? I know you serve with them.

Catherine:

I do.

David:

And you're supportive of this?

Catherine:

I am absolutely supportive of this and I will also just give an additional endorsement of Tom Clifford, who has been extremely supportive of all the fundraising.

David:

Oh, great. Okay, very good.

Mario:

There's the chair of the Fundraising Committee.

David:

And Brian, we know, has worked very hard as well. Ms. Moore has been on for many, many, many years. Well, with that, are we ready to vote? Then all those in say aye. Aye.

Authority Members:

Aye.

David:

All right. We'll give Brian one last chance. Brian, are you there? Can you hear us? All right. Well, with that, we will have to move on then. Next item on the agenda is to meet as the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee. Mario, you have a motion?

Kevin:

I move that we recess to meet as the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee.

David:

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority  
August 22, 2024

All right.

Catherine:

Second the motion.

David:

Sensing you're ready to vote. All those in favor and say aye. Aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Passes four zero. All right, we are now meeting as your committee.

[ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETS FROM 12:37 P.M. TO 12:48 P.M.]

David:

Thank you. Thank you, Tom. Thank you, Mario and Sunny. All right, so we're on the consent calendar. And what is your pleasure? Anything here we have questions on or anything you want removed? Then who would like to move this? Second?

Kevin:

So moved.

Catherine:

Second.

David:

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Aye. Passes with a unanimous four-zero vote. We are now up to finance, consider an act on the project loan obligation, the DWSRF, right?

Rochelle:

Yes.

David:

Rochelle if you want to [inaudible 00:19:28]-

Rochelle:.

So actually, the resolution that we put forward, this actually would authorize our signing the loan end subsidy agreement, not yet the PLO, but [inaudible 00:19:40] to do that next month. But as Sunny mentioned, and we put in the resolution, we are anticipating 75% of the five million and we are working together and working with the DWSRF to optimize how we plan out the program and how we submit our applications to maximize the grant.

David:

Any questions? Pretty standard. We've had a few of these. Motion.

Mario:

Motion to authorize.

Catherine:

Second.

David:

Any further discussion?

Mario:

I want to thank everyone for working so hard with the state on getting 75% grants. Unheard of in Drinking Water State Revolving.

David:

All right. Sensing you're ready to vote. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Passes unanimously. We are now on our RPB committee meeting reports. And so this would be August. Finance was...

Mario:

So I'll do the July 31st special Finance meeting.

David:

Oh, right. Okay.

Mario:

Here they approved the completeness, accepted the application on an expedited basis and requested a public hearing on the application for acquisition of Aquarion Water Company. That was their one item on the agenda. Did that expeditiously.

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority  
August 22, 2024

And then at their August 12th regular meeting in August, they approved the 2025 rate application as a complete. Recommended acceptance by the RPB and scheduling a public hearing for September 26th at 7:00. That was the Finance Committee activity.

David:

Sure. All right. Any questions? Thank you. Land Use was last Wednesday. Catherine?

Catherine:

Yes. We met at the Seymour Wellfield. Karen was there as well. So was John, Jim Hill, and Sunny. John talked about the acquisition of the land and how it came to be, which was very interesting. And they talked about the replacement of the well filled generator and grate. Again, more cheap and free money involved in dealing with the cost of that. It's a beautiful location right along the side of Housatonic River. There are four wells, over four million gallons of water per day available. And John Triana gave his usual comprehensive report on the land we need for the water we use. Let's see. Just some small highlights. It's nice to see that permit holders for the year are up slightly over last year. And additionally, the drone was used to map out some additional invasive species. The chairman has asked me to make sure that everybody understands that there was a sea plane that went by on the river, which I don't know why everybody was so excited about that. Growing up in Alaska, I saw a lot of that.

Mark:

Because nobody ever saw sea plane go up the river. Nobody ever saw a sea plane up that river. Our next meeting will be September 11<sup>th</sup> at Furnace Pond in Branford.

David:

Just to expand on that a little bit is where we've been doing the harvesting in the pond for the last couple of years.

Mario:

For the invasive species.

David:

For the invasive species, right. So that might be worth a look if anybody else is interested in that. It was a very full meeting.

Catherine:

Land use is usually pretty well attended.

David:

Yes, it was nice to see. All right. Thank you. And with that we will go to the Consumer Affairs Committee, which was Monday.

Kevin:

Yes. The Consumer Affairs Committee met. A large portion of the meeting was in executive session pertaining to matters covered under the agenda statutes pertaining to security risk. No votes were taken. After the executive, as a result of the executive session, once the committee came out of it, Attorney Donofrio reported he's preparing for the public hearings scheduled this week, as we know, tonight. And he noted that he issued his memorandum August 15th, 2024. He also stated that the RPB Finance Committee met earlier in the month and found the authorities rate application to be complete. Scheduled for the hearing starting this evening, the first hearing and [inaudible 00:25:47] on September 26th, 2024 if possible.

No consumer escalations reported by the OCA at this time, however, he's currently monitoring a consumer issue. He has received no direct communication at this time as he had with that division. And then that was the extent of the meeting and they have a new chairperson, I think. That was her first meeting. This is my first meeting since Naomi Campbell's been the chair. So it was a good meeting.

David:

Good. Any questions? All right, thank you. All right. So moving right along. We are on item H, business updates. And we are at the RWAY, the CIS update. So [inaudible 00:26:30] first, and then Prem.

Larry:

Prem was going to provide that and he has an update that we wanted to inform the board about in terms of timing. Become a bit more solidified and also the budget implications as well.

David:

Prem. Thank you. Very good.

Prem:

Thank you, Larry. And very quick update. As Larry had mentioned, we looked at in terms of timing and the [inaudible 00:26:54] schedule as such. So a couple things just to mention the board. First thing, there's no budget impact. That's a good thing. And budget and everything as per our plan. We looked at in terms of the overall product schedule and all the way from goal [inaudible 00:27:09] starting at the product testing and then the go live. One thing that was very clear was, if you remember, I kept talking about the three weeks that we need for testing phase. So where we landed after three weeks is that we're almost cutting close to our December holidays and we looked at the whole schedule and then we took into account rate change impact because we are going with our rate change in January and February.

So the team actually did a good job where, of course there was a whole conversation with our partners, et cetera. But really making sure there's no impact for our rate change. So as you all know, as we put through our rate changes in January, we are going to have a partial rate change happening in February because of the way the cycles run. We'll have a full clean billing cycle in March. So the way we decided on in terms of the go live, we are looking to schedule the product in a way where we are looking at the resource impacts, we are spreading the resources so we can contain the cost.

So the team came about with the April 2nd go live. So again, taking into account rate change impacts and the training and the needs that we have in terms of making sure we're ready. We now want to repeat the situation we have in the SAP. So there are a lot of conversation about that. So team did a, and I would say, a great job on looking at that. We are still closing out some conversation. But like I said, we are able to cover within our budget of 16 million. So there's no budget impact on that. That's where

we landed. And I'm sure there are many questions. I can answer questions as we go into [inaudible 00:28:40]. But high level, I think overall it seems to be a scaling impact but no cost effect. [inaudible 00:28:40].

Mario:

The rate application will be filed under the SAP system. That way we'll be able to run that and then switch over to [inaudible 00:28:50].

Prem:

Yes.

Mario:

That's been taken into account as part of [inaudible 00:28:54].

Prem:

Exactly. Because we don't want to have an impact. As you all know, there [inaudible 00:28:59] project. We don't want to add and make it even worse for us and putting a rate change in it. So we want to keep it separate. So the good news is we have done this SAP change again and again. So we are pretty confident with that. So we just want to put that through and then go live with this project.

David:

All right. Do you need us to hear anymore?

Mario:

I don't think so.

Larry:

So the April date will allow us to also do the year-end close and the new system. So that shouldn't affect.

Prem:

Yes. And we actually don't want-

Larry:

A little bit of stress. Okay.

Prem:

Yeah, we don't want to get too close. Any closer, I think, would be problematic.

David:

That's why I asked the question. Okay. It seems a sweet spot between the rate case taking effect and you're getting done for the end of the year. So, all right. Do you have more?

Kevin:

And just in terms of when you do the go live, you're doing a complete hard cut over. You're not going to run SAP in parallel for a month or two.

Prem:

Probably not. But we are doing the test. We are going to be doing the testing, panel testing. As part it, but yes, you're right.

Kevin:

Okay, thank you.

Prem:

Yes.

David:

All right. Did you have... That was the only one?

David:

Do you have a comfort level with the team being, now that you've got a little extra time keeping them up on their toes and keeping everybody alert and recognizing that, oh, okay, we take a long trip at Christmas and that stuff can wait?

Prem:

No, we actually did plan for holidays but we have the team on their toes and the plan is still good and viable.

David:

All right. Okay. Any other questions then regarding this? All right. Okay. Then we will move on to the rest of the, which is the monthly business highlight. Is there parts of that that you want to do before we go into executive session or is it all-

Larry:

No, this will be all in executive session because it'll be confidential information on the update for the Aquarion-

David:

Oh, all right. So Mark, I'm glad you came... [inaudible 00:35:14] do that first.

Kevin:

I make a motion that we go into executive session pursuant to the statute listed on the agenda pertaining to trade secrets and commercial and financial information inviting senior management, [inaudible 00:35:29] Authority, and what else?

Mark:

You want me to leave?



David:

As soon as we vote, yes, I think... We appreciate you came back on, but we're actually towards the end part of the meeting.

Mark:

Yes, I know that.

David:

Trying to keep it short for tonight's meeting. Okay?

Mark:

Okay. No problem. All right. I'm going to leave then.

David:

Thanks, Mark. We'll see you tonight. Thanks for coming back.

David:

All right, let's vote on that motion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Passes unanimous. [inaudible 00:36:01]. Jennifer, do you know who 917 is?

Jennifer:

No.

David:

We thought it was maybe Suzanne.

Jennifer:

Who's on 917-912-9327? They left the meeting.

David:

We were going to drop them anyway because we're in an executive session, but it would've been nice to know for sure. That one was on there since the beginning. So we did have somebody here.

Mario:

Yes. [inaudible 00:36:27] members of the public.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 1:05 P.M. TO 1:48 P.M.]

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority  
August 22, 2024

David:

Would everyone like to take a five minute break?

Larry:

I would.

David:

Okay. Let's come back at 2:00 o'clock and then we'll meet, take the vote now to recess as the Authority to meet as a Compensation Committee when we come back. All in favor?

Authority members:

Aye.

[BREAK FROM 1:48 P.M. TO 1:58 P.M.]

[COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MEETS FROM 1:57 P.M. TO 3:20 P.M.]

David:

Aye. All right, we are back as the board and items of recommendations from committees is our last item on the agenda. What's your pleasure?

Kevin:

I make a motion that we approve the salary increases as presented in executive session with the comments that were just made at the committee level.

David:

All right. Is there a second?

Catherine:

I second the motion.

David:

Any additional comments? Sensing you're ready to vote. All those in favor say aye.

Authority members:

Aye.

David:

Aye. Passes unanimously. All right with that, who would like to move to adjourn? So moved. Is there a second? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Catherine:

Aye.

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority  
August 22, 2024

David:

Passes unanimous. Quick meeting. Important meeting, but we have a lot to do tonight.