

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut
or
Call in (audio only)
+1 469-965-2517, 180918311# United States, Dallas
Phone Conference ID: 180 918 311#

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.

- A. Safety Moment
 - B. Public Comment: The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Residents and customers may address the Board.
 - C. Meet as Audit-Risk Committee: C. LaMarr
 - 1. Approve Minutes – February 22, 2024 meeting
 - 2. Cybersecurity and Risk Management Memorandums – *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(19)(i)(ii), pertaining to security risk.*
 - 3. Cybersecurity Seminar Update: C. LaMarr – *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(19)(i)(ii), pertaining to security risk.*
 - 4. FY 2025 Committee Work Plan
 - D. Meet as Environmental, Health & Safety Committee: M. Ricozzi
 - 1. Approve Minutes – March 28, 2024 meeting
 - 2. 2024 Legislative Session Update Memorandum
 - 3. Asset Management Implementation Update Memorandum
 - E. Act on matters arising from Committee meetings
 - F. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Approve Minutes:
 - a. April 25, 2024 regular meeting
 - b. May 2, 2024 special meeting
 - 2. Capital Budget Authorization - June 2024
 - 3. Capital Budget Transfer Notifications (no action required) – June 2024
 - 4. Monthly Financial Report –April 2024
 - 5. Accounts Receivable Update – April 2024
 - 6. Consider and act on exemptions from public bid for FY 2025
 - G. Finance: R. Kowalski
 - 1. Consider & Act on the Resolution to Approve Bond Anticipation Notes
 - 2. Consider & Act on the Resolution to Approve Tender Refunding - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in possible executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(B), pertaining to commercial and financial information.*
 - H. Reports on RPB Committee meetings
 - I. Updates: L. Bingaman
 - 1. RWAY/CIS Update: P. Singh
 - 2. *Monthly Business Highlights - *Upon 2/3 vote, convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(5)(B), pertaining to commercial and financial information and possible executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(D) to discuss real estate matters.*
- [RECESS AUTHORITY MEETING TO ATTEND RPB MEETING]
- J. Approve FY 2025 Budget and authorize filing with Trustee

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or by conference call. To view meeting documents please visit http://tinyurl.com/3hhtm38z . For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email at jslubowski@rwater.com .
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South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

Environmental, Health & Safety Committee

Minutes of the March 28, 2024 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Environmental, Health & Safety Committee (“Committee”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”) took place on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access. Chairman Ricozzi presided.

Present: **Committee** – Messrs. Ricozzi, Borowy, Curseaden, and Mss. LaMarr and Sack
Management – Mss. Kowalski and Calo (R), and Messrs. Bingaman, Henley (R), Hill (R), Lakshminarayanan, Singh (R), and Tracy (R)
RPB – Mr. Jaser
Staff – Mrs. Slubowski

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

On motion made by Mr. Borowy, and seconded by Mr. Curseaden, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the its meeting held on November 16, 2023.

Borowy	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
LaMarr	Aye
Ricozzi	Aye
Sack	Aye

Mr. Lakshminarayanan, the RWA’s Vice President of Engineering & Environmental Services, and Will Henley, RWA’s Aquatic Resource Scientist, provided a Raw Water Quality update, which included new sampling initiatives, preventative treatments at reservoirs and the implementation of new technologies for better decision-making.

Mr. Henley discussed the automation system for use during emergencies. It allows critical changes to be made to raw water quality without personnel being on-site. The system also helps conserve water during peak or poor incidents. The current system involves making changes in advance of uncertain weather conditions, while the new system will allow for a more targeted response to emergencies.

Josh Tracy, RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, provided an update on innovative methods to eliminate invasive species on RWA owned properties. He reported on the steam weeder, which uses high-pressure steam to burn herbaceous material. The Japanese stiltgrass continues to be a problem as it grows along the road and within log landings during timber management. The steam weeder would help eradicate this plant and reduce sedimentation in the reservoirs. In addition, other methods require contractors with heavy machinery to remove the plants, while other areas can be managed by one person. The new technology is expected to increase the amount of acreage that can be treated.

At 2:16 p.m., Messrs. Henley and Tracy withdrew from the meeting.

Liz Calo, RWA’s General Manager and Head of Human Resources, provided a Health & Safety Initiative update. She reported that the RWA’s current safety programs were found to be effective; however, the company has not yet achieved its zero injury goal. The organization continues to promote awareness among employees and further improvement to the safety programs. A nurse hotline has been implemented to ensure injured employees receive prompt care.

She also highlighted the workplace safety audits and inspections program and its importance to ensure compliance with OSHA regulations. The company is also taking steps to ensure the safety program covers

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commercial operations and their adherence to regulations. The update also included focus areas for fiscal 2025.

At 2:20 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Borowy, and seconded Mr. Curseaden, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Borowy	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
LaMarr	Aye
Ricozzi	Aye
Sack	Aye

Mario Ricozzi, Chairman

(R) = Attended remotely.

UNAPPROVED

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut 06511-5966
<http://www.rwater.com>

To: Authority Environmental, Health & Safety Committee
Mario Ricoszi, Chair
David J. Borowy
Kevin J. Curseaden
Catherine E. LaMarr
Suzanne C. Sack

Cc: Larry Bingaman, President & CEO
Sunny Lakshminarayanan, VP, EES

From: Nicoletta Blevins, Government and Community Relations Manager, Communication

Date: 15 May 2024

Subject: 2024 Legislative Issues Update

Question:

For the next legislative session, the RWA will be working on PFAS related immunity for water utilities. Are there other legislative initiatives that the RWA should work on apart from PFAS?

The 2024 Legislative Issues Update

Summary: Last Wednesday, the legislature adjourned the 2024 legislative session. During the course of four short moths, over two thousand bills were introduced; but only about 200 of those would pass into legislation. A few major pieces of legislation that successfully made it through the legislative process include the expansion of paid sick days; an expansive bill to improve nursing home conditions; and a bill banning the use of products made with PFAS, targeting manufactures. More notably, there were several priority bills for both chambers that did not make the cut. These bills include the omnibus climate change bill; legislation to promote transit-oriented development; and a bill that would have authorized employee health benefit consortiums.

The most notable piece of legislation that crossed the finish line for the RWA was House Bill 5277, our enabling legislation revisions. Our bill successfully made it through both chambers unanimously, a very rare occurrence in today's incredibly partisan world. Many legislators praised the RWA for being open and thorough throughout the legislative process and noted that many of the changes we are making are "common sense" updates. Larry did an excellent job testifying during the committee process. One of the legislators that asked him a question during the public hearing ended up co-sponsoring the bill. Bills in Connecticut automatically become law if the

governor fails to sign it within 5 days during legislative session or 15 days after adjournment from the day it was presented to him. For the water industry as a whole, it was a lowkey session. Out of the 33 bills tracked for the Regional Water Authority, the 10 highlighted below were priorities and or of particular interest for the RWA.

HB 5227: AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT WATER AUTHORITY (support, passed)

- The Regional Water Authority's enabling legislation updates passed unanimously out of both chambers. Before it becomes law, it will be given a public act number. After it becomes a public act, it will go to the Secretary of State, then it will be transmitted to the Governor. I have spoken with Lamont's Deputy Legislative Director, and she said she can put it on the list for a proper bill signing

SB 292 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PFAS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS: (support, passed)

- This bill generally regulates the sale and use of certain products containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. It authorizes the DEEP commissioner to enforce the bill's provisions. She may also coordinate with the agriculture, consumer protection, and public health commissioners to do so.
- This bill had bipartisan support. Although some of the original language of the bill had been watered down, it still had enough support to pass. This bill does not target water companies, only manufacturers.

HB 5290 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES: (support, passed)

- This bill clarifies and revises certain provisions on private and semipublic well testing, such as specifying that (1) DPH or the local health authority (with DPH's approval) may share test results with certain people (such as the current or prospective property owner) and (2) newly constructed wells must not be used for domestic purposes until the local health authority determines that their test results are satisfactory. This bill also codifies existing practice by authorizing DPH to issue certificates for water treatment plant or water distribution system operators-in-training.

SB 192 AN ACT CONCERNING DAM SAFETY: (support, passed)

- This bill enables the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to more readily take action to protect the public safety when a dam poses an imminent risk. the bill also authorizes the DEEP commissioner to correct a problem with a dam and makes a person who owns or is responsible for the dam liable for the department's costs and expenses.

SB 3 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION: (support, passed)

- To (1) declare the state's policy concerning broadband Internet access service, (2) require certain broadband Internet access service providers to provide affordable broadband Internet access service, (3) require certain fee disclosures and prohibit deceptive and excessive fees for consumer goods and services, (4) prohibit public entities from purchasing or operating certain small unmanned aircraft systems, (5) impose various requirements concerning connected devices, (6) require net neutrality by imposing requirements on certain broadband Internet access service providers, (7) regulate streaming service billing practices, and (8) impose various requirements concerning repairs of electronic or appliance products.

HB 5475 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING, CHALLENGES TO CERTAIN DECISIONS OF MUNICIPAL AGENCIES, AND THE CONVERSION OF VACANT NURSING HOMES INTO MULTIFAMILY HOUSING: (oppose, died)

- This bill would eliminate individuals' and organizations' standing to intervene under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act, in proceedings on residential building permit applications unless they own real property that abuts, or is within 100 feet of, the land that is the subject of the application; 2. narrows who may file a protest petition on changes to zoning regulations or district boundaries; and 3. allows municipalities to adopt ordinances identifying certain areas that could support increased development and exempting developments in those areas from inland wetlands agency approval requirements.
- This was a priority bill for the House Majority Leader. This bill would have negatively impacted wetland protection and scaled back the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. Killing this was a collaborative effort between CWWA and environmental groups.

HB 5004 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES: (oppose, died)

- This bill would implement certain measures relating to climate change including advancing and implementing the state's goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the phasing out of the use of natural gas, investment in renewable energy and green economy startup businesses, incentivizing sustainable purchasing by local governments and the enhancement of nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change.
- This bill in its original form would have negatively impacted streamflow regulations. Although the problematic language was taken out, this bill would end up dying due to failed negotiations and lack of support from moderate democrats.

SB 2 AN ACT CONCERNING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: (oppose, died)

- This bill would establish requirements concerning the development, deployment and use of certain artificial intelligence systems; (2) establish an Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council; (3) prohibit dissemination of certain synthetic images; (4) prohibit distribution of, and agreements to distribute, certain deceptive media concerning elections; (5) require

state agencies to study potential uses of generative artificial intelligence and propose pilot projects; (6) require the Commissioner of Administrative Services to provide training concerning generative artificial intelligence; (7) require the Chief Workforce Officer to (A) incorporate artificial intelligence training into workforce training programs, and (B) design a broadband outreach program; (8) require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to establish (A) a "Connecticut Citizens AI Academy", and (B) certificate programs in fields related to artificial intelligence; and (9) require the Department of Economic and Community Development to (A) develop a plan to offer high-performance computing services, (B) establish a confidential computing cluster, and (C) conduct a "CT AI Symposium".

SJR 193 RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS: (oppose, died)

- This resolution would amend the state's Constitution to include the right of all people to a clean, safe and healthy environment, and set the State of Connecticut as trustee of its natural resources. The bill would potentially hold water companies and the state liable if any citizen felt their constitutional right to clean water was infringed upon.

SB 149 AN ACT CONCERNING FORECLOSURE, ASSIGNMENT AND OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS FOR UNPAID SEWER ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER FEES AND CHARGES: (oppose, died)

- This bill would prohibit foreclosure, assignment and other enforcement actions for unpaid sewer assessment and other fees and charges in the case of owner-occupied real property for which the principal of such unpaid assessments, fees and charges is less than four thousand dollars. It was a bill that Senate President Martin Looney sponsored, but it never got called for a vote in the House of Representatives. In future sessions, this is something we will watch closely.

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To: Authority Environmental, Health & Safety Committee
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Catherine E. LaMarr
Suzanne C. Sack

Cc: Larry Bingaman, President & CEO
Sunny Lakshminarayanan, VP, EES

From: Tiffany Lufkin, Planning & New Services Manager

Date: May 2024

Subject: Enterprise Work and Asset Management (EWAM) Update

Question for Consideration:

In April of 2023, RWA undertook a reinvigoration of strategic level asset management planning. This effort was determined to update the 2015 Enterprise Asset Management Plan to the state of the business and priorities of today. The approach for this work was in line with prior lessons-learned at RWA and taken from a ground-up perspective.

Work began with a reintroduction of past work to the business and then a series of interdepartmental workshops were held to baseline current status quo, assess prior program implementations, and identify remaining needs. This effort delivered an Enterprise Work and Asset Management (EWAM) Roadmap in an actionable format - Ardoq. The Roadmap and a new program organizational structure are being used to push this strategic initiative forward.

Key takeaways, substantial discoveries, and accomplishments over the past year are highlighted below:

- EWAM program success is dependent on adoption of new practices by the business, on both a programmatic and individual level.
- Approximately 30 interdepartmental workshops across 16 departments and conducted over 9 weeks were utilized to collect information for the Roadmap development.
- Benchmarking analysis was completed of RWA's EWAM program against 4 utility water companies.
 - RWA was evaluated to be "relatively mature" or "relatively versed" in all items when compared to peers, outside of two items.
 - RWA was evaluated to be "relatively behind" in the Technology & Implementation area for "Scanning Technologies", and "BIM & Digital Twin Models"
 - After the evaluation, RWA piloted a BIM scan model of the West River WTP, capitalizing on the ongoing capital project.

- The interdepartmental workshops led to identification of 103 items for the EWAM Roadmap.
- Completed multi-year sequencing and grouping of Roadmap items into various Tracks and Phases, in alignment with EPA practices for asset management.
- Evaluated the impact to the business on a departmental level by item, within Ardoq (Figure 1).
- Developed a Program Organizational Structure (Figure 2).
- FY 2024 kick-off of Roadmap items in September of 2023 with 11 items and a goal to complete 5 by end of fiscal year.
 - Due to prior assignment of strategic program priorities for the fiscal year, a small oversight team was utilized in FY 2024 consisting only of program director level resources.
 - Items which did not require any substantial outside resources or capital spending were prioritized.
 - Of the 11 items identified for immediate pursuit in September, 5 have been completed by May 1st, and all 11 are underway, along with an additional 12th item underway to upload vertical assets into the CMMS environment, an item highlighted for its alignment with the FY 2025 Strategic Plan.

The EWAM Roadmap creates the framework for asset management program development work over the next seven years. The bottom up and cultural change approach builds expertise within the organization. With each item's development and implementation, RWA's day to day work becomes more closely aligned with overall program ideals and information. Together this work compiles into a transformative change for the organization, in alignment with long-term Strategic goals.

Figure 2: EWAM Program Organizational Structure Chart

