

Representative Policy Board
Consumer Affairs Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District

*Via Remote Access

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 237 854 104 995

Passcode: QjwGqJ

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 469-965-2517](tel:+14699652517), [147571647#](tel:+147571647) United States, Dallas

Phone Conference ID: 147 571 647#

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Monday, March 18, 2024 at 5:30 pm

1. Safety Moment
2. Public Comment: Residents and customers may address the CAC Committee regarding agenda items or other issues. Discussion is limited to the presentation of information for consideration and comment on agenda items.
3. Approval of Minutes –
 - January 22, 2024 regular meeting
 - February 26, 2024 regular meeting
 - February 28, 2024 joint meeting
4. Education Program Update: Lisa DiFrancesco
5. Report of OCA – J. Donofrio
6. Approval of OCA invoices for:
 - January 2024 for \$2,967.00
 - February 2024 for \$3,633.00
7. New Business
8. Upcoming meetings:
 - **Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** – Joint meeting with Land Use Committee to review the FY 2025 Budget with management (CAC regular meeting/LUC special meeting)*
 - **FYI – April 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** – Finance Committee meets to review the FY 2025 with management.*

**RPB members are invited to attend either or both meetings*
9. Adjourn

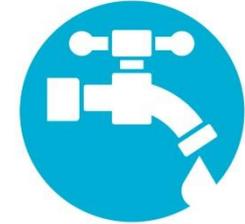
*Members of the public may attend the meeting via teams using the link at the top of the agenda. To view meeting documents, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/449v27xt>. For questions, contact the board office at jslubowski@rwater.com or by calling 203-401-2515.

SAFETY MOMENT

MARCH – OUR ENVIRONMENT

With environmental issues like water contamination, pollution, and climate change, it's natural to look for ways we can reverse the damage to our planet and keep our environment clean. Many of us think we're too small to make a difference, but when enough of us take action, we've seen the positive results we can create.

**Tap Into
Safety**



Regional Water Authority

Steps you can take to keep our environment clean and safe:

1. Vote, sign petitions, contact your leaders
2. Refuse single-use items (i.e., straws, to-go cups, etc.)
3. Buy locally, eat more plants, and compost food waste
4. Plant trees and landscape with native plants
5. Green your transportation and travel habits
6. Conserve water
7. Reduce use of chemicals & properly dispose of waste



Service – **Teamwork** – Accountability – **Respect** – Safety

Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

 Regional Water Authority

Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Consumer Affairs Committee

January 22, 2024

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Monday, January 22, 2024, via remote access. Chair Levine presided.

Members present: M. Levine, N. Campbell, S. Mongillo, A. Rescigno, and R. Smith

Members absent: F. Pepe

RPB: R. Harvey and C. Havrda

Authority: C. LaMarr

RWA: R. Kowalski, P. Singh, J. Hill and D. Bochan

Office of Consumer Affairs: Attorney Donofrio (“OCA”)

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Chair Levine offered the opportunity for members of the public to comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Mongillo, and seconded by Mr. Rescigno, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its December 18, 2023 meeting, as presented.

At 5:31 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Mongillo, and seconded by Mr. Rescigno the Committee voted to go into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss Accounts Receivable, covered under Section 1-210(b)(5)(B), pertaining to commercial and financial information. Present in executive session were the Committee members, Messrs. Harvey, Havrda, Singh, Hill, Atty. Donofrio, and Mss. Kowalski, Bochan and Slubowski.

At 6:06 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session. No voting occurred during or after the executive session.

On motion made by Mr. Mongillo, and seconded by Mr. Rescigno, the Committee voted to approve the OCA’s FY 2025 proposed budget.

Attorney Donofrio reported on two pending consumer issues currently managed by the RWA. The first concerns a customer in Ansonia who is challenging irregular consumption charges during 2023.

The second is a claim filed by a customer, also located in Ansonia, whose property was damaged by a contractor working for the Authority. Atty. Donofrio is working with the Authority to determine whether the utility was properly marked prior to the incident, which would determine responsibility.

Neither complaint has been escalated to the Office of Consumer Affairs at this time.

He also reported that he attended the RPB Executive Committee meeting last week to discuss RWA's commercial business strategy. He stated that the discussion was held in executive session so he was unable to provide details, but that the meeting was productive and helpful.

Discussion took place regarding guidelines for executive session discussions in accordance with Freedom of Information regulations.

On motion made by Mr. Rescigno, and seconded by Ms. Campbell, the Committee voted to approve the OCA's December 2023 billing for \$1,941.00.

Chair Levine asked members for suggestions for special topics at future Committee meetings. Members commented about the recreation program at Eli Whitney, invasive species update, and other uses for the Mill River.

The next regular meeting is on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:25 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Rescigno, and seconded by Ms. Campbell, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

UNAPPROVED

Mark Levine, Chairman

Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Consumer Affairs Committee

February 26, 2024

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Monday, February 26, 2024, via remote access. Chair Levine presided.

Members present: M. Levine, N. Campbell, and S. Mongillo

Members absent: F. Pepe, A. Rescigno, and R. Smith

RPB: R. Harvey and C. Havrda

Authority: C. LaMarr

RWA: R. Kowalski, J. Hill, Sunny Lakshminarayanan, Tom Barger and D. Bochan

Office of Consumer Affairs: Attorney Donofrio (“OCA”)

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Chair Levine offered the opportunity for members of the public to comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

As there was not a quorum present, the approval of the minutes from the Committee’s January 22, 2024 meeting will be voted on at the next regular meeting on March 18, 2024.

Mr. Barger, the RWA’s Water Quality Manager, provided an update on the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, which included:

- Inventory development
- Communications
- Finance
- Vacuum Excavation

Committee members discussed timelines, community updates, locations, grants and funding, assistance programs, RPB member action and assistance, and ratemaking.

Attorney Donofrio reported that he was preparing a memo for the RPB regarding the Authority’s Application for the chemical improvements project at Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant when he received an application for the potential acquisition of assets of Target Three arrived. The OCA is examining the Application and related confidential materials and may need to issue interrogatories quickly.

Other than having to answer various consumer questions, he does not have any consumer complaints at this time in his office or in the community.

Representative Policy Board
Consumer Affairs Committee
February 26, 2024

As there was not a quorum present, approval of the OCA's January 2024 billing for \$2,967.00 will be voted on at the special joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Chair Levine reported on upcoming meetings:

- Wednesday, February 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. – Joint special meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee and Land Use Committee; and
- Monday, March 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. – Next regular meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee

As there was no new business, at 6:18 p.m. the Committee meeting adjourned.

Mark Levine, Chairman

UNAPPROVED

Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Joint Special Meeting
of the
Consumer Affairs Committee and Land Use Committee

February 28, 2024

Minutes

A special joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) and the Land Use Committee (“LUC”), (Collectively “Committee”), of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access. Chair Levine presided.

CAC Members present: M. Levine (R), N. Campbell, and A. Rescigno (R)

CAC Members absent: S. Mongillo, F. Pepe, and R. Smith

LUC Members present: P. Betkoski(R), C. Havrda, B. Eitzer (R), M. Horbal (R), M. Levine (R), G. Malloy, J. Oslander (R), and J. Mowat Young (R)

LUC Members absent: P. DeSantis

RPB: R. Harvey

RWA: L. Bingaman, R. Kowalski, A. Cosma, Sunny Lakshminarayanan, and P. Singh (R)

Office of Consumer Affairs: Attorney Donofrio (“OCA”) (R)

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Chair Levine offered the opportunity for members of the public to comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

At 5:01 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Betkoski, the Committee voted to convene in executive session to receive a commercial business update 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. Present in executive session were Committee members, Messrs. Harvey, Bingaman, Cosma, Lakshminarayanan, Singh and Atty. Donofrio, and Mss. Kowalski and Slubowski.

At 5:05 p.m., Mr. Harvey entered the meeting.

At 5:19 p.m., Ms. Campbell entered the meeting.

At 5:50 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session. No votes were taken in, or as a result of, executive session.

At 5:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Representative Policy Board
Consumer Affairs and Land Use Committee
Joint Special Meeting
February 28, 2024

Mark Levine, CAC Chairman

Peter Betkoski, LUC Chairman

(R) = Attended remotely.

UNAPPROVED

Whitney Water Center

The Whitney Water Center in Hamden offers free, hands-on water science programs for K-8 students within our district.

- Public and Private Schools
- Homeschool Organizations
- Girl and Boy Scout Troops
- Libraries
- Community Organizations

Whitney Water Center

We offer outreach and onsite programs, Project WATER field study, and water science loan boxes.

- In-school programs are most popular with early elementary educators.
- Project WATER is the most popular option for middle school educators.
- Loan boxes are growing in popularity.

Whitney Water Center

Since the inception of the Whitney Water Center in 1990, over 374,000 students have participated in our programs.

Included in that total:

- 17,000 students participated in Project WATER
- 54,000 students have used our Water Science Loan Boxes

Classroom Programs Trends

Pre-COVID Average

School Years 16-17, 17-18, 18-19

4,200 students

COVID Average

School Years 20-21 and 21-22

2,015 students

(-52%)

Current School Year

Programs booked YTD

4,820 students

(15% from Pre-COVID average)

Popular Classroom Programs

These two classroom programs are 30% of the booked programs this year

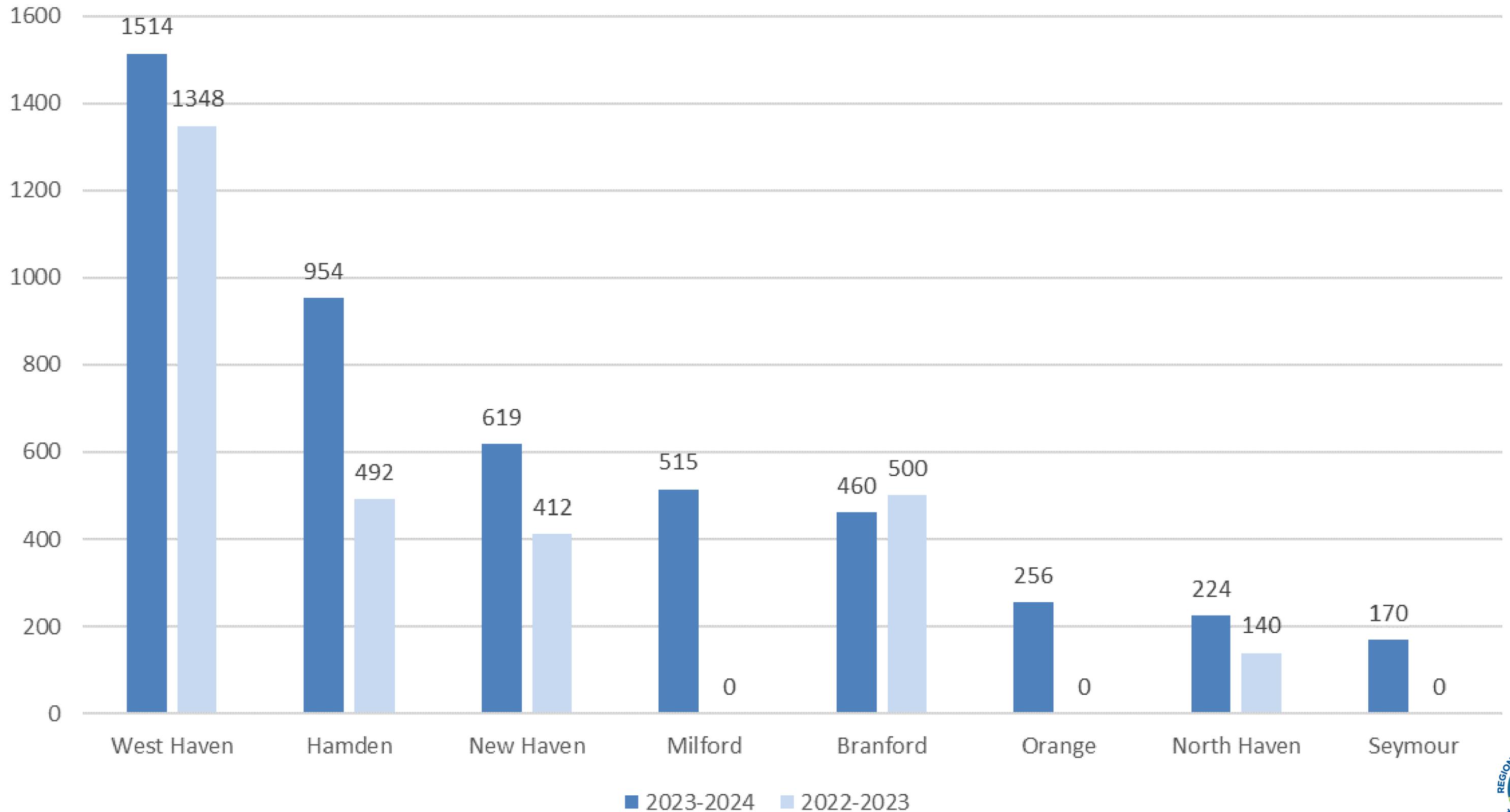


Invasion of the Aliens
Invasive Species



Problem with Pollution
Water Quality

Top Towns by Total Students (Classroom Programs)



Expanding our Reach

The Whitney Water Center is happy to announce that for the first time since 2009, we have two educators!

- Promoting our programs through emails and brochure mailings.
- Collaborating on program improvements.

The Results are In !



“Wonderful presentation by Paris! The kids and other teachers thought this was a fantastic experience. We are hoping to schedule another day!”

“Paris was extremely knowledgeable and professional, and kept the kids on task and interested.”

“Miss Paris was a hit with my students. They absolutely loved her and the lesson. I really liked how she would repeat their ideas using scientific vocabulary.”

The Results are In!



THANK YOU!

Dear Ms. Paris,

Thank you for coming and showing your lovely presentation. I really admired it. Now I know which animal is a good invader and which is not.

Thankyou,

Atharva

P.s. For short I like A.J!

THANK YOU FOR COMING!!!

To: Ms Paris
From: Melisa

Dear Ms. Paris,

I am so glad you came in. It was truly amazing. Also your socks were so cute. I loved all the things you taught us. Thank you so much.

Sincerely, Melisa

Project WATER Trends

Pre-COVID Average

School Years 16-17, 17-18, 18-19

800 students

COVID Average

School Years 20-21 and 21-22

676 students

(-15%)

Current School Year

Programs booked YTD

790 students

(equal to Pre-COVID average)

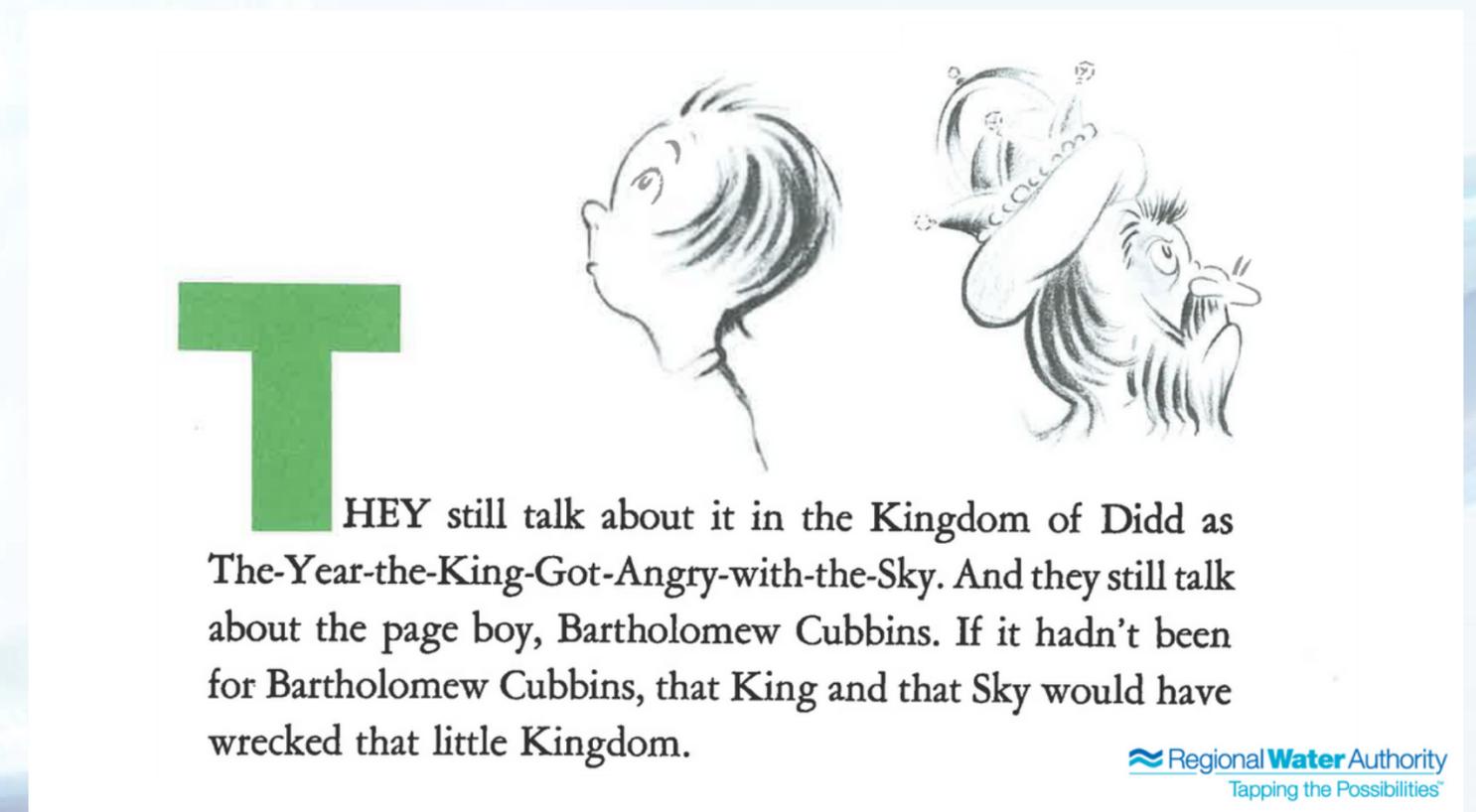
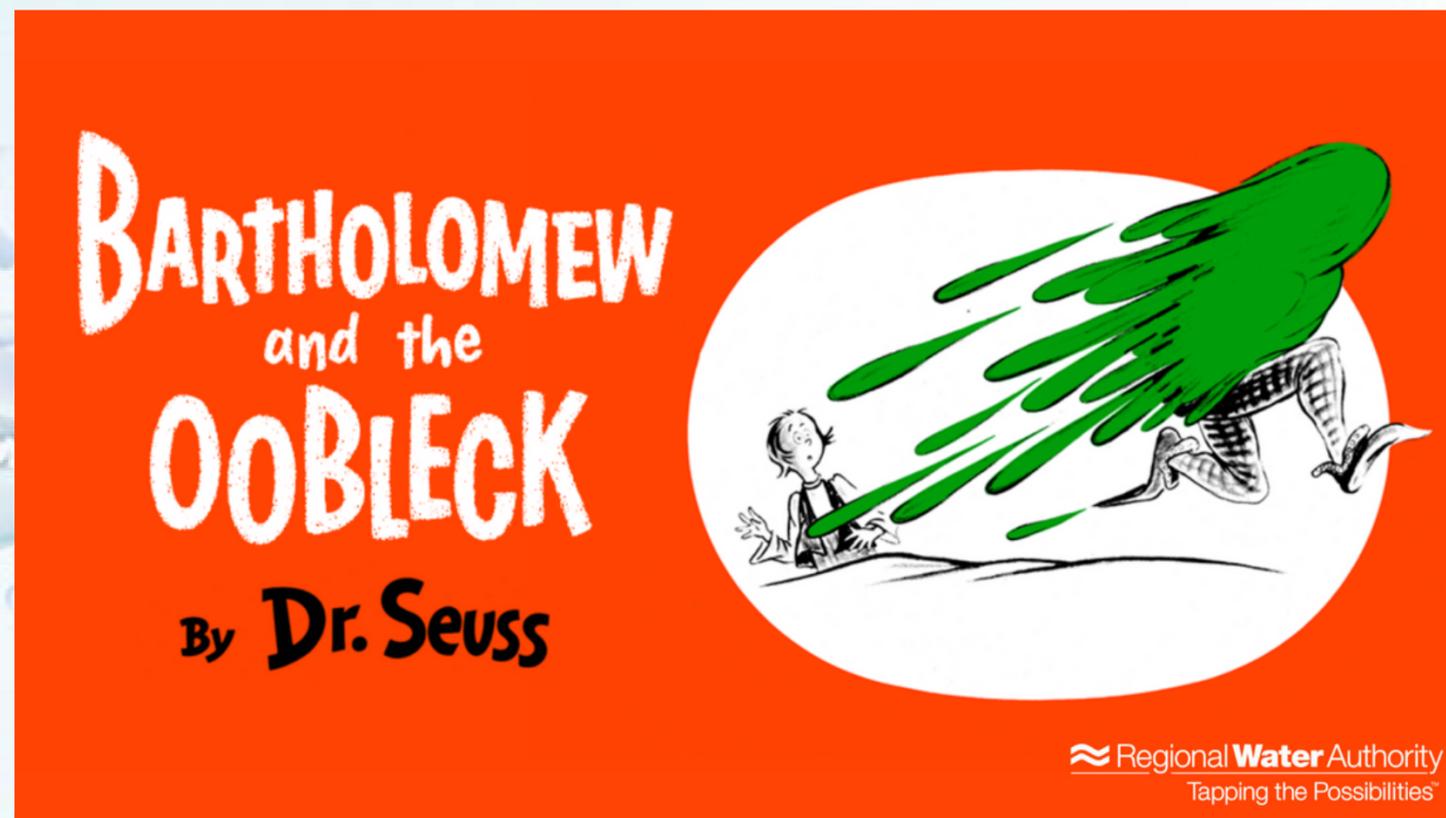
Project WATER

Project WATER continues to benefit from digital improvements

- The guided videos used for the prep classes have been well received by the teachers.
- The teachers also post the videos to Google Classroom for the students to access for review.

YouTube Trending

My narrated video of *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* continues to grow in popularity and has over 134,000 views on YouTube



Questions?