

DRAFT

MINUTES

**Representative Advisory Board of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Montville Public safety Building
January 17, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Advisory Board Chairman Jackson. It was determined by Mr. Cansler that the requisite number of members present constituted a quorum. Mr. Chairman Jackson concurred.

Those Advisory Board Members in attendance were Steven Coit and Jim Bonanno, Bozrah; Carol Russell, East Lyme; Martin Artale Jr., Groton City; Mary Lou Smith and Conrad Heede, Groton Town; Anthony Siragusa, Montville; Barry Weiner, New London, George Jackson and James Fogarty, Salem; Jack Malone and Dennison Allen, Sprague; Jeffrey Callahan and Micheal Adair, Stonington Borough.

Mr. Chairman Jackson announced the opportunity for public comment before the RAB. Mr. Watson, SCWA Vice Chairman spoke regarding the appointment process employed by the participating towns. Specifically he addressed the concern that an active member of the RAB who also served as the vice-Chairman, was replaced without notification being given to the RAB from the town.

Mr. Watson questioned whether that process was done in keeping with state statute which promulgate appointing town authority and procedure and if it was not an action partisan in intent.

Mr. Chairman Jackson indicated the statute called for an appointment by the town to the RAB and that once a Representative was appointed he or she would serve until the town chose to make a replacement.

There was an acknowledgment that a clerical oversight resulted in the RAB not being informed of the replacement action by the town.

Mr. Cansler added to the discussion that the statute directs that the participating towns appoint members and are silent on RAB acceptance of the appointee and his or her political affiliation.

There was no further public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Callahan and seconded by Mr. Fogerty to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2019 RAB meeting. Mr. Fogerty indicated his recommendation that the details of an amendment to the minutes of the April 19, 2018 meeting, deferred from the July 19, 2018 meeting and adopted at the October 18, 2018, should have been specified in the those minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chairman Jackson suggested that members be given an opportunity to review the FY2018 Annual Audit in anticipation of a teleconference with the Auditor.

Mr. Norris asked the group if consideration should be given to a reduction of rates as a result of the audit showing a modest surplus. Discussion followed.

Mr. Cansler noted the Authority was anticipating some capital expenditures in 2019 that would possibly exceed the Authority surplus. Mr. Chairman Monahan concurred there items needed to be done in 2019 that were not done in 2018 and would not recommend a reduction in rates at this time.

Mr. Eccard noted the immediacy of drilling a replacement well in 2019.

Report from the SCWA Chairman

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Chairman Edward Monahan delivered his quarterly report to the Advisory Board. A copy of his report is attached.

His report addressed the following Operational Activities topics:

- A. Emergency Interconnections with Ledyard/Groton Utilities.
- B. Tower Division Well # 3.
- C. Thames Aquatic Center. Chairman Monahan indicated the project could be a positive venture but currently TAC is engaged in discussions with DPH about the source and volume of water required for its state licensure.

Chairman Monahan's report also addressed the following Planning Activity topics:

- A. SCWA will hold off on moving forward with two Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) applications until the Authority determines the cost of replacing the Tower Division Well # 3.
- B. An explanation and update on the Connecticut Water Plan was offered and it was reported that its adoption, while having cleared the Legislative review of four standing committees in 2018, remains pending.

His report concluded with an explanation of the continued cooperation and participation of the SCWA with the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments and its Regional Water Committee. He also noted that SCWA is also represented at the Connecticut Water Planning Council and the Connecticut Water Works Association.:

There were no question for Mr. Chairman Monahan.

Report of RAB Chairman

Mr. Chairman Jackson did not present a report

Appointment of Officers

A motion was made by Mr. Callahan, Chairman of the Appointment Committee to elect a slate of RAB officers for the next term. The slate included Mr. Jackson, Chairman, Mr. Wiener, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Malone, Secretary. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Callahan to appoint Mr. Eccard to another term on the Authority. Mr. Fogerty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports from RAB members

Ms. Smith reported there were no appeals pending.

Mr. Weiner said there was no legislative action pending.

Mr. Callahan suggested a review of the bylaws vis-à-vis RAB appointment and nominations. Mr. Chairman Jackson concurred and ask members to write out proposed changes for submission and consideration.

New Business

Mr. Bonanno motioned for the acceptance into the bylaws of wording that calls for the defining of personal opinions presented by members as such should be noted in the record of the meeting. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion. Discussion followed on the merits of the motion.

Mr. Chairman Jackson noted that if there was to be action taken to amend the bylaws that it would have to be taken up at the next meeting. Mr. Callahan expressed to the group his concern for cautiousness on matters requiring an amendment to the bylaws.

With his agreement no action was taken on Mr. Bonanno's motion.

A conference call was made to the auditor for the purpose of members asking their questions regarding the annual audit. Following that a motion was made by made by Mr. Weiner and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt the annual audit. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted by Mr. Chairman Jackson that going forward the Finance Committee should meet with auditor prior to the audit being presented for approval by the RAB.

Chairman Jackson noted there was no new business to come before the Advisory Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Weiner to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the Groton Public Library in Groton.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Malone
Secretary
RAB

