

# MINUTES

**Joint Meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut  
Water Authority and the and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority  
Electronic Virtual Meeting  
October 21, 2021**

The joint meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Advisory Board Chairman Barry Weiner. It was determined by SCWA General Manager Josh Cansler that the requisite number of members present constituted a quorum. Chairman Barry Weiner concurred.

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Chairman Barry Weiner, Sprague; Carol Russell, East Lyme; Mary Lou Smith, Groton; James Harris, Ledyard; Anthony Siragusa, Montville; Robert Boissevain, North Stonington; Sara Baker, Stonington; Jeffrey Callahan, Stonington Borough

SWCA Board members in attendance were: Authority Chairman Edward Monahan; Vice Chairman Harry Watson, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Barbara Franciosi, Peter Balestracci, and Claudia Koerting.

Chairman Barry Weiner offered a period for public comment. There were no customers or citizens in the meeting wishing to speak.

Chairman Barry Weiner noted the benefits, challenges and rules for operating a meeting electronically and thanked members for their participation.

Since the minutes from the previous meeting were not available, Chairman Weiner deferred approval of the July 2021 meeting minutes until the next scheduled meeting.

SCWA Authority Chairman Monahan gave his report (Attachment 1) to the RAB and noted the continuing and safe operations of the Authority during the current COVID pandemic. During his discussion on Operational Activities, he gave an update on the proposed project to interconnect the Montville Division and Seven Oaks Division; replacement of the Tower Division main; the project to upgrade the Spicer Hill Booster Station; and the Robin Division Treatment Study.

Under the Administrative section of his report Chairman Monahan discussed the 2021 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN), the ongoing legal matter between Raspberry Junction Holding, LLC and SCWA, the proposed 2022 Authority and RAB Meeting Schedule (Attachment 2), and the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Audit.

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Mr. Cansler noted that the proposed 2022 RAB Meeting schedule needed to be approved by the RAB. Ms. Baker made a motion to approve the 2022 RAB meeting schedule as presented. Her motion, seconded by Ms. Smith, was approved unanimously by all members present.

Addressing SCWA Planning Activities, Chairman Monahan provided an update on the construction of the Green Village II housing complex in Salem; construction of the Millwood Subdivision in Montville; and an update on PFAS related legislation that could potentially affect SCWA, once implemented.

Also in his Chairman's report, Dr. Monahan also noted that SCWA continues its participation with the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC), the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), the Water Planning Council (WPC), and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA).

Chairman Weiner indicated there would be no report from his station at this meeting.

The Chairman of the RAB Appointments Committee, Mr. Jeff Callahan, made a motion for the approval of the reappointment of Mr. Nicholas Mullane to the Authority. He noted that his nomination came from the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), which nominates two of the seven Authority members, per the SCWA enabling legislative act (381). His motion, seconded by Ms. Baker, was approved unanimously by all members present.

Mr. Callahan also pointed out that a 3-person Nominating Committee must be appointed to solicit nominations for Representative Advisory Board Officers at the January meeting, which is considered the Annual meeting. Mr. Callahan, Jack Malone, and Sara Baker volunteered to serve on next year's Nominating Committee.

There were no other member reports. There was also not any new business.

A motion was made by Mr. Callahan, and seconded by Ms. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm, with location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,  
Josh Cansler  
SCWA General Manager

# **Attachment 1 to Minutes of the October 21, 2021 RAB Meeting:**

## **Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Chairman's Report to the Representative Advisory Board October 21, 2021**

### **I. Operational Activities**

#### **A. Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project**

In March 2021, DPH approved SCWA's Preliminary Engineering Report requesting approval of a project to upgrade the Montville pump station and complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. The first phase of the interconnection was completed in 2007. Completion of this interconnection will greatly relieve pressure on the Montville system, and reduce maintenance costs.

In April SCWA reached out to the current owners of the parcel between the end of the Montville water main extension and the existing Seven Oaks distribution system requesting a meeting to discuss an easement across their parcel. The attorney for the owners responded by asking for time to develop concept drawings for a proposed housing development, which they plan to build in the future. As of October the owners have not indicated they are prepared to discuss the future plans for this parcel.

#### **B. Tower Division Upgrades**

In August SCWA crews installed a new backup water main leading from the Tower Division pump stations to the main distribution located on East Drive in Gales Ferry. This project, along with the new valves installed in the original water mains last year, will eliminate the water outages resulting from breaks in the water main leading into the distribution system. This project will also allow for SCWA to replace the original water mains without shutting down the system. A test of the new back-up water main using SCWA's trailer-mounted mobile pump station was successfully conducted on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In August SCWA also installed a new perimeter fence and three new gates around the Tower pumphouses. In addition a cellular monitoring system was installed in May. These projects along with the cameras previously installed greatly increase security at Tower Division, and significantly enhance the ability of the SCWA field staff to react to changes in the system such as power outages, low water pressure, and fluctuations to the chemical feed systems.

#### **C. Spicer Hill Booster Station**

Next year SCWA plans to replace the existing hydropneumatic pressure tank at the Spicer Hill booster station, which is now part of the Ledyard Division. This project will include the installation of a small booster pump package, new piping to reroute distribution through the new pumps, and the elimination of the pressure tank from the system. In September the Authority approved a proposal from Lenard Engineering to complete the engineering, design, and specifications for the Spicer Hill Booster Station, at a cost of \$4,200. Total estimated cost for this project, including design/engineering, is \$30,000. This project will be financed using funds received as part of 2021 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN).

#### **D. Robin Division Water**

In April the Authority approved a motion authorizing the General Manager to contract with Lenard Engineering to conduct a manganese treatment study, and chemical feed modification design for Robin Division in Montville. Over the past few years SCWA has received an increasing number of calls regarding discoloration, and occasional sediment in the water, from residents of Robin Division. SCWA received the design for a proposed phosphate injection system at Robin Division in July. SCWA has submitted an application to DPH requesting approval for this new treatment system at Robin Division.

## **II. Administrative Activities**

### **A. 2021 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)**

Based on the long-term Capital financing plan approved last year, the 2020 BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) was rolled over into another BAN this year. At the September meeting the Authority approved issuance of the 2021 Ban and an amendment to the 2019 Bond Resolution. The purpose of the amendment was to add two new projects to the list of proposed Capital Projects approved in the 2019 Bond Resolution. The Bid Opening for the 2021 BAN was on September 22, 2021, and the Closing occurred on October 14, 2021. The total issuance is \$270,000 which includes the \$175,000 issuance from last year. The two new projects added are:

1. Upgrade of meter reading software and office computers. SCWA had hoped to put the meter reading software upgrade off a few years, but we were informed in July that next year is the last year our current software will be supported. The cost for this upgrade, including new meter readers is \$20,000. Also included in this proposed project is an upgrade to the office computers. Our current computer hardware ranges from 7-12 years old.
2. Replace the roofs on three pumphouses. The roof at Ledyard Division leaks regularly, and the roofs at Chriswood and Barrett Divisions are sagging. Estimate to replace all three roofs is \$30,000.

### **B. Claim by Raspberry Junction Holding, LLC vs SCWA**

In 2016, Raspberry Junction LLC, owners of the Bellissimo Grande Hotel in North Stonington, filed a legal claim against SCWA for losses incurred during the water outage that resulted from the rupture of a pressure tank in 2015. This claim was forwarded to our insurance company at the time, Gladfelter Insurance. After a series of hearings at the lower courts, the case was forwarded to the Connecticut Supreme Court. On August 23, 2021 SCWA was informed that the Connecticut Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's granting of their motion for summary judgment in this matter. Unless the Plaintiff appeals this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals, this matter is resolved. The Plaintiff has 90 days to file an appeal.

### **C. 2022 Meeting Schedule**

The Quarterly Representative Advisory Board (RAB) meetings are generally held on the third Thursdays of January, April, July, and October, at rotating locations, within the SCWA district. Pending approval by the RAB, the Quarterly RAB meetings in 2022 are scheduled for January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 20. Due to the uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic the format (in-person or virtual) will be determined at a later date. Once in-person meetings are authorized again RAB meeting locations will be confirmed.

Authority meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month, unless the Monday conflicts with a holiday. The Authority meeting schedule for 2022 was approved at the last Authority meeting, on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **D. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Audit**

Sandra Welwood LLC conducted their annual audit visit of SCWA in August and September. Ms. Welwood intends to present her audit findings to the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) Finance Committee and the Authority prior to the January 2022 RAB meeting. Based on the ongoing pandemic her presentation will be virtual. Ms. Welwood will be available to answer questions during the Finance Committee's presentation to the rest of the RAB that same evening.

### **III. Planning Activities**

#### **A. Green Village – Salem**

In November 2020 SCWA signed an agreement to take over as the owner/operator of the pumphouse and water distribution system at the new Green Village development in Salem once it is completed. Green Village will be a 55 and over community with 48 townhouse units, each unit with individual meters. The General Manager and Foreman visited the site on September 10, 2021. Most of the units are nearing completion. The developer informed SCWA that he plans to be open by the end of the year. He also stated that he has a waiting list.

#### **B. Construction of Millwood Subdivision (part of Hillcrest Division) in Montville**

Sun Communities, Inc. is continuing construction of the new Millwood development, adjacent to their Hillcrest subdivision in Montville. The roads and infrastructure were completed in 2019 before Jensen Communities was sold to Sun Communities. The proposed Millwood development will have 46 modular homes for people aged 55+, and will tie into the existing Hillcrest water distribution system. The first home was sold last month, and several more homes are nearing completion.

#### **C. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)**

This year's approved State Budget included \$408,000 in FY 2022, and \$420,000 in FY 2023, to support Department of Public Health (DPH) implementation of recommendations of the Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force. This will include additional staffing for toxicological expertise, permitting of more Connecticut laboratories to do PFAS testing, support testing of public water systems, and a PFAS education program. The State legislature also approved bills that prohibit using firefighting foam with PFAS substance, and as well as banning the use of food packaging made using PFAS materials. In addition there are several bills before Congress proposing various PFAS regulatory requirements.

#### **D. Regional Considerations**

**1) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) last met in May 2020. A Statewide WUCC meeting was held virtually in September and included updates from the WUCC workgroups addressing: Interconnections/Regionalization; Non-Community Water Systems Design Requirements; Updating Process requiring Non-Community Systems to Connect to an Existing Community Water Systems, and Conservation/Drought. In an effort speed up progress a decision was made at this meeting to reorganize the WUCC four workgroups into two workgroups, prior to the next meeting.

**2) SCWA Interaction with Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG):** SCWA and the SCCOG continue to interact cooperatively. To this end, Chairman Monahan frequently attends the SCCOG Regional Water Committee meetings. The General Manager participates on the SCCOG Regional Water Committee's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS).

**3) SCWA Interaction with the WPC and CWWA:** The General Manager is co-chair of the State Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG). His term ends January 1, 2022. He also represents SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) Legislative Affairs Committee.

Edward C. Monahan, Chairman  
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

## Attachment 2 to Minutes of the October 21, 2021 RAB Meeting:

October 18, 2021

TO: Municipal Clerks of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Region

FROM: Secretary, Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2022

### 1. Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Meetings:

Notice is hereby given that the regularly scheduled meetings of the Authority will be held at 5:15 PM on the following dates:

January 10	July 11
February 14	August 8
March 21	September 12
April 11	October 17
May 9	November 14
June 13	December 12

Authority meetings are held at the SCWA office, which is located at 1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry Commons, Gales Ferry, CT. *(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic meetings are currently being held virtually using public meeting guidelines established by the Governor to limit the spread and impact of the virus. These guidelines may extend into 2022).*

### 2. SCWA Representative Advisory Board Meetings:

Regularly scheduled joint meetings of the SCWA Representative Advisory Board and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority will be held at 7:00 PM, at rotating locations, on the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 20	Waterford Library (Tentative)
April 21	Groton Library (Tentative)
July 21	TBD (To be determined)
October 20	TBD

3. All meetings are open to the public.

Joseph C. Cansler  
Secretary