

MINUTES
Representative Advisory Board of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Montville Public Safety Building
October 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**; Mary Lou Smith, **Groton Town**; Mike Cherry, **Ledyard**; Anthony Siragusa, **Montville**; Barry Weiner, **New London**, Michael Macina and Robert Boissevain, **North Stonington**; George Jackson, **Salem**; and Jack Malone and Dennison Allen, **Sprague**. Members of the SCWA Authority present were Chairman Edward Monahan, Nicholas Mullane, Harry Watson, Paul Eccard, and Peter Balestracci.

Mr. Chairman Jackson announced the opportunity for public comment before the RAB. Ms. Carol Russell of East Lyme spoke on the topic of research, study and publications of fluoridated water supplies.

There was no further public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Siragusa and seconded by Mr. Weiner to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2019 RAB meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Report from the SCWA Chairman

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Chairman Dr. 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. 1. Vandalism and Break in at Tower Large Pumphouse.

Chairman Monahan reported of the vandalism at the Tower Division Pumphouse on September 23. It was the third and most serious event as the storage shed was breached, spare parts were damaged and a fire was set. The vandals dumped motor oil in the retention pond and created general mayhem. Chairman Monahan reported they did not tamper with the water supply or the equipment providing the water supply. He said all authorities were notified, there was wide dissemination of the event to the consuming public and action was taken to ensure the integrity of the water supply. The damaged on the site was repaired that day and camera have been installed. Testing of the water supply that day and it was found to be safe. The Connecticut Department of Public Health issued an administrative order on September 27 and a corrective action plan was being prepared. There was discussion of the responsibility of protecting the water supply to the level now required by the federal government and the cost associated with keeping the water supply safe.

A. 2. Water Main Outage at Tower Division

Chairman Monahan reported on the outage resulting from a water main break in a supply pipe. Customers were notified of the outage and cautioned to boil water until testing was accomplished. Chairman Monahan noted the incident brought to light the need for a more comprehensive customer alert system and the authority contracted with an agency—Codeder—to carry out that ongoing task. The Authority also authorized the repair of the pipe at its September meeting.

A. 3. Tower Division Well #3

Chairman Monahan also reported the Authority is moving forward with its plans to replace Tower Division Well #3. Statutory authority to allow the installation was granted and full approval was given on September 26. A test well was installed and the results are being evaluated. The Authority is waiting those results and a full cost proposal for the permanent well.

B. Thames Aquatic Club. Chairman Monahan indicated the authority has asked for more explicit clarification on SWCA's responsibilities regarding water received at the Thames Aquatic Center.

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

- A. Following extensive review, Chairman Monahan signed on behalf of the SWCA and easement for the section of property where the SCWA pumphouse and wells are located.
- B. Raspberry Junction Holding, LLC v. SCWA has been scheduled for trial in April of 2020.
- C. The year-end audit has been concluded and the findings will be presented to the RAB at its January 16, 2020 meeting.
- D. A meeting schedule for RAB for 2020 has been established and presented. Meetings will be held January 16, Groton Public Library; April 16, Waterford Public Library; July 16, Montville Public Safety Building; and October 5, TBA .

His report concluded with a brief description of SCWA Planning Activities that included:

- A. PFAS (per-and Polyfluoralkyl update
- B. Montville Manor Distribution system replacement.
- C. Update Asset Management plan
- D. Four-log Applications and North Stonington Chlorine Treatment Application
- E. The state water plan
- F. Continued interaction with SCCOG, CWWA and WPC.

Following Chairman Monahan's report there were questions relating to the vandalism at the Tower Division pumphouse. Mr. Mullane noted the SWCA was keenly aware of its need to be proactive in all areas of maintaining the safety and integrity of all water systems. Mr. Chairman Jackson offered that he thought the SWCA would be well served with a proactive approach to security.

Mr. Weiner spoke on the possibility and inevitability that there might have to be instituted a surcharge on customer bills if security measures became a costly ongoing expense.

A motion was made by Mr. Weiner and seconded by Mr. Allen that the RAB made a recommendation to the Authority to consider a line item surcharge specifically for the cost of security of the water systems—initially for those are being addressed currently and that which has to be accomplished in the future and that it be ongoing only for security measures. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Siragusa and seconded by Ms. Smith to adopt the RAB meeting schedule and locations for 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no further questions for Chairman Monahan.

Report of RAB Chairman

Mr. Chairman Jackson did not present a report

Report of RAB membership

There were no reports from the membership

New Business

Mr. Cherry addressed the topic of the interconnection and expressed his concern about the time lag to get the interconnections operational in the case of an emergency. Mr. Chairman Jackson responded that Mr. Cansler intended to discuss the issue with Groton Utilities and would provide an update once the meeting took place.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Macina and seconded by Mr. Weiner to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Groton Public Library in Groton.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Malone
Secretary
RAB

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