

**Minutes of the October 15, 2018 Water Authority Meeting
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT**

Present

Authority: Chairman Edward Monahan, Vice-Chairman Harry Watson, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Barbara Lee Franciosi, Peter Balestracci, Nicholas Mullane and Claudia Koerting.

Authority Staff: General Manager Josh Cansler

Call to Order

Chairman Monahan called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Public Comment on any Item on the Agenda – None

Approval of Prior Minutes

On a motion of Mr. Eccard, seconded by Mr. Balestracci, the Authority approved the minutes of the September 10, 2018 Water Authority Meeting, by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Correspondence – None

General Manager's Report

1. E-Coli Violations Cedar Ridge

Routine bacteria samples taken at the Cedar Ridge Division in North Stonington on September 18, 2018 indicated a presence of total coliform in the distribution system. The State Department of Public Health (DPH) requires repeat sampling with 48 hours to verify the presence of total coliform. Repeat samples taken on September 20th indicated the presence of total coliform as well as e-coli bacteria. While total coliform bacteria is common in the environment (soil or vegetation) and is generally considered harmless, e-coli bacteria is a product of fecal contamination, and can be harmful. Both total coliform and e-coli are generally treated out of raw water through a chlorination treatment process, which Cedar Ridge uses. General Manager Cansler stated that most likely the total coliform and e-coli got into the system, or samples, as the result of heavy rains just prior to sampling.

As required, SCWA called DPH immediately and we were advised to issue a boil water advisory until the system could be inspected, heavily chlorinated, and flushed. The boil water advisory was issued the same day to all 123 customers in Cedar Ridge. On September 24th more samples were taken, and all came back negative the next day. The boil water advisory was lifted the same day. Mr. Cansler said that SCWA will still be required to conduct a DPH Level II Assessment of the system, and that fortunately our Foreman, Brandon Belair, is trained to conduct the Level II Assessments.

2. Tower Division - Well #3

SCWA continues to work with the State Department of Public Health for approval of a well to replace Well #3 at the Tower Division. In May it was discovered that the screen in the well had failed, and was full of sediment. LaFramboise Drilling and Welling and Lenard Engineering both agreed that because of the position of the well inside the pumphouse it would be very expensive to replace the well at its current location. They recommended replacing the well a few feet away, outside the pumphouse.

SCWA submitted an application to DPH for a replacement well a few feet from Well #3. In July DPH visited the Tower Division site and informed us that they could not support the proposed location near the old well, because of wetlands constraints. SCWA immediately submitted an application for an alternate well site, about 100 feet from the pumphouse. The alternate site meets the current wetlands requirements. In August, Lori Mathieu, Chief of the DPH Drinking Water Section, visited the Tower Division site. She approved the proposed alternate well location 100 feet from the pumphouse, however at the request of SCWA, she agreed to reconsider approval of the original requested location, just outside the pumphouse. SCWA is still waiting on word back regarding approval of that site.

In the meantime, General Manager Cansler, in conjunction with SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple, is continuing to work on easements required from the Town of Ledyard, and the Avalonia Land Conservancy, for the approved alternate well site. The State requires a 200 foot buffer zone around all wells over a certain capacity. Mr. Cansler and Attorney Kepple met with Avalonia Conservancy in August, and are scheduled to meet with the Town of Ledyard in October.

Mr. Watson asked how much more the approved alternate site would cost versus the site near the pumphouse. General Manager Cansler stated that he had not done a complete cost analysis, but that the major additional costs would be for the extra 100 feet of pipe and electrical conduit.

3. Emergency Interconnections with Ledyard/Groton Utilities

In 2017 SCWA signed an agreement with Groton Utilities and Ledyard to install emergency water main interconnections between all five SCWA Ledyard divisions, and the Ledyard WPCA system. These projects are to be fully funded by Groton Utilities in conjunction with a \$15 million DPH DWSRF (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) funding package they received to assist with financing the upgrade of the Groton Water Purification Plant. SCWA received a copy of the plans from Groton Utilities in July 2018, and met with DPH and Groton Utilities in August to discuss the review comments and construction schedule. Groton Utilities began construction, starting with the Tower/Ferry View Division interconnection, the first week in October. Groton Utilities plans to complete the interconnections at Tower, Barrett, Ledyard, and Chriswood Divisions this year. They plan to complete the long interconnection between Ledyard and Gray Farms Division next spring.

Chairman Monahan asked if SCWA staff were involved in the construction. Mr. Cansler stated that our foreman was present when Groton Utilities dug the test pits, and he checks on the construction of the interconnections regularly. Chairman Monahan mentioned that both utilities need to make sure there is regular flushing of the interconnection ends to avoid problems with disinfection by-products (DBPs), specifically Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic acids (HAA5), which can occur in chlorine treated water at the stagnate ends of mains, generally in the warmer months.

4. Thames Aquatic Center –Ledyard

SCWA continues to work with the Town of Ledyard regarding support of the proposed Thames Aquatic Center project, as well as the proposed extension of Fairway Drive in Ledyard; both of which are in the SCWA Exclusive Service Area. Although SCWA proposed alternatives to provide water from our Ledyard Center system, DPH granted approval of a well for the Aquatic Center, with the stipulation that they connect to the water main on Fairway Drive extension once it is installed, and that the Aquatic Center use SCWA for all required testing and monitoring of the well. Sitework and excavation began earlier in summer, and in August the well was drilled. Clearing of the site is still ongoing. The Thames Aquatic Center is only one of several ongoing projects in SCWA's Ledyard Center ESA at this time. Chairman Monahan stated that SCWA needed to continue monitoring the Aquatic Center project.

5. Town of North Stonington School Upgrade Project

SCWA has been working with the engineers and contractors, as needed, on the project to renovate existing facilities, and construct some additions, to the Town of North Stonington Elementary School and Middle/High School. Over the past several months SCWA staff have been working closely with the construction contractor during the installation of the new water distribution system and fire suppression systems for the new additions to the schools. During a pressure test on September 19th the contractor continued the pressure test longer than recommended and caused the pressure throughout the system to drop significantly. Mr. Cansler said that customers at the ends of the distribution system experienced water outages for up to an hour until SCWA staff could re-pressurize the system.

6. 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. They hired Attorney Stephanie Berry, of the law firm of Tang & Maravelis, in New London, to handle the case. Although Gladfelter, working with SCWA, has proposed settlements on two occasions, Raspberry Junction has not agreed to either proposal.

In January the Authority approved a motion to hire Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, a specialist in appellate law, to provide legal representation for SCWA, and assist Attorney Berry with preparation of the case vs Raspberry Junction. Last week Attorney Berry informed SCWA that the case is scheduled to be heard on November 13, 2018.

7. Sanitary Surveys

Sanitary Surveys are conducted at each community public water system (PWS) by the DPH Drinking Water Section every 3 years, and at each non-community PWS every 5 years. A Sanitary Survey is an on-site inspection of the water sources, treatment, distribution system, finished water storage, pumping facilities and controls, monitoring and reporting data, system management and operation, and operator compliance with State requirements. SCWA Community systems that are scheduled for inspection this fall are:

Mohegan Division, Montville	September 28, 2018
Barrett Division, Ledyard	September 28, 2018
Chriswood Division, Ledyard	September 28, 2018
Robin Hill Division, Montville	October 4, 2018
Birchwood Division, Montville	October 4, 2018
North Stonington Division	October 18, 2018

The two Preston parks that SCWA monitors as a part of our certified operator contracted operations were inspected earlier this year as part of the 5-year non-community system sanitary surveys.

8. Future DWSRF Projects

In December 2017 DPH informed SCWA that several proposed SCWA projects were eligible for funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). This program provides low-interest loans, with the potential for up to 25% subsidization, for eligible projects in the form of principal forgiveness. In January General Manager Cansler submitted Part 1 of the required Financial Assistance Application for two projects; Replacement of Tower Division Pump Station, and Interconnection of Montville and Seven Oaks Divisions. In June General Manager Cansler made a formal request to DPH to carryover the Seven Oaks-Montville Interconnection project from the FY18 DWSRF funding list to the FY19 list.

9. Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Audit

Sandra Welwood conducted her on-site audit visit on August 7, 2018. Mr. Cansler said that unfortunately she did not receive the information she needed from the State in time to complete the audit prior to the October Authority or RAB meetings. She will have to present the draft audit to the Authority and RAB Finance committee in December or January, prior to presentation at the January RAB.

10. Regional Considerations

a) State Water Plan: On June 14, 2018, Governor Malloy signed an executive order directing the state's Water Planning Council (WPC) to immediately implement the State Water Plan that was submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly in January 2018. The plan, which was ordered by the General Assembly through Public Act 14-163, was developed by the WPC to balance the needs of public water supply, economic development, recreation, and ecological health. The proposed State Water Plan still has to be approved by the State Legislature in 2019. It passed through this year's legislature cycle without being voted on.

b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The next meeting of the Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) will be on November 14, 2018 at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) office. This meeting is open to the public.

c) SCWA Interaction with SCCOG: SCWA and the SCCOG continue to interact cooperatively. To this end, Chairman Monahan often attends the regular monthly SCCOG meetings, and frequently the SCCOG Regional Water Committee meetings as well. The General Manager participates on the SCCOG Regional Water Committee's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS).

d) SCWA Interaction with the WPC, and AWWA/CWWA: The General Manager represents SCWA at the Connecticut Water Planning Council (WPC) Advisory Group, which meets monthly. Mr. Cansler is currently Chair of the WPCAG Nominating Committee, which prepares the annual membership slate for appointment/reappointment of members to the WPCAG.

Mr. Cansler is also a member of the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) Legislative Affairs Committee, which meets monthly between November and June.

11. 2019 Authority Meeting Schedule

(Attachment #1 – 2019 SCWA Meeting schedule)

Attached is a calendar with the proposed Authority Board, and Representative Advisory Board (RAB), meeting dates for 2019. General Manager Cansler proposed that the Authority continue to meet at SCWA on the second Monday of each month, unless the Monday conflicts with a federal holiday. The RAB schedule will remain the same; quarterly meetings, at rotating locations within the SCWA district, on the third Thursdays of January, April, July, and October.

Mr. Cansler said the only conflicts were in October, when Columbus Day fell on the second Monday, and November, where Veteran's Day also fell on the second Monday. Due to these federal holiday conflicts, he recommended moving the Authority meetings in October and November to the third Monday of each month, October 21st, and November 18th, respectively. Mr. Eccard made a motion for the Authority to approve the Authority meeting dates as presented, and for the Authority to recommend to the Representative Advisory Board approval of the RAB meeting dates, as presented. This motion, seconded by Mr. Watson, was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Other Business – None

Report from Chairman - None

Report from Authority Members - None

Public Comment – None

Adjourn

On motion of Mr. Eccard, seconded by Ms. Franciosi, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:47 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on November 5, 2018, 5:15 pm at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler
Secretary