

**Draft Minutes of the February 14, 2022, Water Authority Meeting
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually using public meeting guidelines established by the Governor to limit the spread and impact of the virus.

Present

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

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. Watson, the Authority approved the minutes of the January 10, 2022, Authority Meeting, by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Correspondence - None

General Manager's Report

1. COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic Update

General Manager Cansler noted that SCWA had its first staff member test positive for COVID-19 in January. That employee missed a week of work and experienced some minor illness and fatigue. SCWA operations were not affected. The Authority continues to meet virtually until further notice.

2. Proposal from Regional Water Authority (RWA) to partner in Pipesafe Program

In October 2021 the Authority received a letter from the South Central Regional Connecticut Water Authority (RWA), proposing a partnership with SCWA in their service line protection program, which is called PipeSafe. RWA's proposed partnership would allow RWA to enroll SCWA customers in their PipeSafe program, and in exchange SCWA would receive a percentage of the monthly fees charged our customers. After an RWA presentation regarding the PipeSafe program at the December meeting, the Authority voted to move forward with the proposed agreement between the two utilities. After reviewing the initial draft agreement at the January meeting, the Authority agreed to forward the draft agreement to SCWA Legal Counsel, Mr. Nick Kepple, for review.

Attorney Kepple responded with his legal review on February 4, 2022. After discussion of the legal review, Mr. Eccard made a motion to accept the modifications proposed by Attorney Kepple in his legal review. His motion, seconded by Mr. Mullane was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Eccard then made a second motion to forward the modified proposed agreement to RWA for their review. His motion, seconded by Mr. Watson was approved unanimously by all members present.

3. Capital Projects Update

a) Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project

Last year SCWA began the planning and engineering of a project to complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. The first phase of the interconnection was completed in 2007. Completion of the second phase will require an easement across property owned by 100 Waterfall LLC. This parcel lies between the end of the Montville water main extension and the existing Seven Oaks distribution system, which was originally developed by the same owners. SCWA reached out to the attorney representing 100 Waterfall LLC last spring, and eventually received a response back in November 2021.

In their response the owners stated they were willing to grant an easement for a water main that follows the street plan for their future proposed development. Their proposed route is about 1900 feet longer than the SCWA proposed route. The SCWA route follows a more direct route to interconnect with the water main completed in 2007. In December General Manager Cansler sent a letter to the parcel owners, through Attorney Heller, stating that their proposed longer route will result in a significant project cost increase, and that there are other routes available that do not cross their property, and may be more economically feasible. General Manager Cansler stated that as of today SCWA has not received a response to our December letter.

b) Spicer Hill Booster Station

At the September meeting the Authority approved a proposal from Lenard Engineering to complete the engineering, design, and specifications for replacement of the hydropneumatic tank at the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard Division. This project includes replacement of the existing pressure tank with a small booster pump package, installation of new piping to reroute distribution through the new pumps, and the elimination of the pressure tank from the system.

General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA received the initial engineering, plans, and specifications from Lenard Engineering in mid-January. He said based on their engineering analysis the only way to eliminate the hydropneumatic pressure tank at Spicer Hill would be to install variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at the main pump station in Ledyard. Mr. Cansler said that he requested a cost estimate and updated design to install VFDs at Ledyard. He added installation of VFDs at Ledyard will allow SCWA to eliminate the pressure tank there as well. Elimination of hydropneumatics pressure tanks is a top priority of the State Department of Health.

c). Tower Division Upgrades

Over the past year SCWA crews installed new valves and a backup water main leading from the Tower Division pump stations to the main distribution located on East Drive in Gales Ferry. The second phase of this project will be replacement of the original water mains. General Manager Cansler stated that replacement of the water mains has been delayed by supply chain issues. He said there is currently a 16-week lead time of piping and some valves.

4. Green Villages I and II (Salem and East Haddam)

November 2020 the Authority authorized the General Manager to sign a New Water System Agreement between SCWA and Green Village II, a 48-unit, 55+ Community complex being constructed in Salem. Once completed SCWA will take over as the owner/operator of the Green Village pumphouse and water distribution system. This complex is nearing completion and the developer, Colchester Construction, plans to start leasing units in early 2022.

Last fall Colchester Construction approached SCWA about taking over an almost identical development which opened in East Haddam in 2020. After legal review the Authority authorized the General Manager to move forward with the process of acquiring the water system at Green Village I in East Haddam.

5. 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. Mr. Cansler stated that the first three homes were sold last fall, and several more homes have been completed.

6. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

SCWA continues to monitor new guidelines and regulations pertaining to PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). The 2022 and 2023 Connecticut State Budgets included funding for 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. In September the EPA released their "Strategic Roadmap to confront PFAS contamination nationwide". This roadmap established a list of goals and milestones for the EPA moving forward. General Manager Cansler said that he is waiting to see what legislation is proposed regarding PFAS at the Connecticut Legislative session, which just started.

7. Truck Purchase

The SCWA Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Capital Program included the acquisition of a new service pickup truck. General Manager stated that he requested quotes for a basic white 3/4-ton truck from the dealers listed on the Connecticut State Contract for the Sale of Light Trucks. Unfortunately, the response SCWA received back from these dealers was that none of the manufacturers for Ford, GMC, or Dodge trucks are taking orders currently because of supply shortages, specifically computer chips. He said the dealers indicated that they would not be able to order trucks before May/June of this year. In addition, none of the dealers had any white heavy-duty trucks in their inventory. Mr. Cansler said that he intended to reach out to other dealers in the local area to see if they have any trucks on their lot, matching our required specifications.

8. Appointment/Re-appointment of New Authority Member

General Manager Cansler stated that at their January 2022 meeting the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) re-appointed Ms. Barbara Franciosi to another 5-year term on the Authority. Her previous term expired at the end of 2021. At the same meeting the RAB Chairman requested nominations to backfill the vacancy on the Authority created when Mr. Balestracci's passed away last month. The Authority discussed different possibilities for backfilling this vacancy. Mr. Eccard stated that he would reach out to a former Authority Chair for ideas.

9. Regional Considerations

a) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): General Manager Cansler stated that the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met for the first time in two years on February 9, 2022, and that the next Statewide WUCC meeting is scheduled for February 16th. Currently the Statewide WUCC is trying to address several topics involving interconnections/regionalization, non-community water systems design requirements, conservation/drought, and the process requiring non-community systems to connect to existing community water systems.

b) SCWA Interaction with SCCOG: SCWA and the SCCOG continue to interact cooperatively. To this end, Chairman Monahan attends the monthly SCCOG meetings if there are items relating to water on the agenda. He also attends meetings of the SCCOG Regional Water Committee, which meets only as needed. The General Manager participates on the SCCOG Regional Water Committee's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS).

c) SCWA Interaction with the WPC, CWWA, and AWWA: The General Manager represents SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG), which meets monthly. Mr. Cansler is also a member of the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) Legislative Affairs Committee, which generally meets monthly between Nov. and June.

10. Meetings

General Manager Cansler said that in addition to meetings discussed previously in the General Manager's Report, he had recently attended several online training sessions on use of the State WebEOC website. He stated that SCWA is now required to provide updates on WebEOC regarding issues that might affect water treatment or water distribution at any of our systems. He mentioned that the State had inadvertently moved all of the SCWA records under the RWA site in WebEOC.

Mr. Cansler also mentioned that SCWA staff had completed submittals of all the Annual Diversion Reports required by DEEP. He said that our submittal requirements had increased significantly over the past couple of years.

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 6:10 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on March 21, 2022, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler
Secretary