

**Draft Minutes of the February 13, 2023, Water Authority Meeting  
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority  
1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT**

*This meeting was held virtually per Public Act No. 22-3, which permanently established the requirements for virtual public meetings in Connecticut.*

**Present**

**Authority:** Chairman Edward Monahan, Vice-Chair Harry Watson, Claudia Koerting, and Nick Mullane.

**Authority Staff:** General Manager Josh Cansler

**Call to Order**

Chairman Monahan called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

**Public Comment on any Item on the Agenda** – None

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

On a motion of Mr. Watson, seconded by Ms. Koerting, the Authority approved the minutes of the January 9, 2023 Authority Meeting, by a unanimous vote of all members present.

**Correspondence** – None

**General Manager's Report**

**1. Oakdale Heights Subdivision (Montville)**

General Manager Cansler stated that Oakdale Heights is a 219-home subdivision in Montville that has been operating its own water system since the subdivision was developed in the mid-1960's. Due to the pending retirement of their certified operator, the Oakdale Heights subdivision Homeowners Association (HOA) has expressed interest in either selling or turning over full-time operation to another certified operator or utility. Their system consists of two fully operational pump houses, each with an atmospheric storage tank, and hydropneumatic pressure tank. There are 5 wells, and 2.5 miles of distribution main. At the December 2022 meeting the Authority requested the General Manager explore this opportunity further.

On December 22, 2022, General Manager Cansler and SCWA Foreman/Chief Certified Operator Brandon Belair conducted an on-site visit of the Oakdale Heights water system with Mr. Alan Macht, who has been involved with the water system since 1979, primarily serving on the HOA water committee. At this meeting Mr. Cansler said that SCWA probably does not have any interest in purchasing the system but might be interested in taking over and running the system, as SCWA has done at other subdivisions over the years. After discussing the benefits and risks of taking over the Oakdale Heights water system at the January meeting, the Authority authorized the General Manager to open discussions with the Oakdale Heights HOA, and to reach out to legal counsel for assistance and guidance.

Mr. Cansler said he met with SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple in January to discuss preparation of a draft agreement with the Oakdale Heights HOA, and also reached out to the State DPH regarding the Oakdale Heights water system. He said a Lands Transfer Permit application would have to be requested from DPH, and a Diversion Permit transfer request filed with DEEP for the wells.

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

In March 2022 the Authority signed an agreement with the South-Central Regional Water Authority (RWA) to enter into a partnership in their service line protection program, which is called PipeSafe. This partnership allows RWA to enroll SCWA customers in the PipeSafe program, and in exchange SCWA receives a percentage of the monthly fees charged our customers. General Manager Cansler stated that implementation was delayed several times due to delays with input of the SCWA customer names/addresses into the RWA system, and changes to the rate schedule and PipeSafe. He said distribution of the PipeSafe brochures to all SCWA customers was completed in late-January and that SCWA and RWA continue to meet regularly to discuss implementation of the program. The last meeting was held on February 7<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 22 SCWA customers enrolled in the Pipesafe Program.

## **3. Capital Projects Update**

### **a) Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project**

This project will complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. This past July the owners of the property (100 Waterfall LLC) agreed to an easement for the proposed water main interconnection across their property. They plan on constructing a housing development on this property in the next few years. The proposed water main connection route and grading design was completed by Lenard Engineering in August. General Manager Cansler stated that currently Lenard Engineering is working on the engineering design/specs, easement maps, and wetlands permits. SCWA hopes to receive project approval by late spring and award the project in the summer. He said the presentation to the Town of Montville Wetlands Commission requesting a permit to construct through the wetlands area was scheduled for the evening of February 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **b) Upgrades at the Ledyard Pump Station and Spicer Hill Booster Station**

This project includes installation of variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at the Ledyard Pump Station and the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard distribution system. This project also includes the elimination of the hydropneumatic pressure tanks at both stations, which is a top priority for DPH. SCWA intended to request bids last fall, but unfortunately the pump manufacturer stated there is now a 6-month lead time for delivery of the VFD packages. Based on long-lead times for delivery, and escalating prices for the VFDs, SCWA plans to install the pumps using in-house labor in the spring, with the assistance of a certified plumber and electrician.

General Manager Cansler stated that the Tower Project completed in December had used more of the funding through the 2022 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN), and that SCWA may have to delay this project a few months until more funding is available.

### **c). Proposed New Well at Ledyard Division**

At the September meeting the Authority authorized the General Manager to contract with Lenard Engineering to complete survey, engineering/design, wetlands reviews, permit applications, and field inspections for a new well at the Ledyard Division. A new well is needed because the Ledyard pump station is averaging between 30 to 40 thousand gallons/day, which is the maximum yield of the two existing wells at Ledyard Division. DPH approved the new well in November. SCWA is now working with our attorney to obtain an easement because the State requires that SCWA control a 150-foot radius around each well. General Manager Cansler stated this project may be delayed for funding reasons as well, though they intend to continue with obtaining the easement.

**d). Funding for Tower Division Upgrades**

General Manager Cansler stated that over the past few months the Authority has sought to gain more information regarding an article that appeared in *The Day* newspaper, and subsequent comments made by State Senator Cathy Osten, about a possible \$2M appropriation by the Connecticut General Assembly that may have included funding for upgrades at the SCWA Tower Division. Despite reaching out to the Mayor of Ledyard, Senator Osten’s office, and State Senator Heather Sommers, SCWA has not been able to find previous legislation appropriating funds to SCWA for upgrades at Tower.

Mr. Cansler said that in late January he was informed by CWWA that a bill was proposed by Senator Osten and State Representative Kevin Ryan during the current legislative session. This bill (364), titled *An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Projects of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority*, would allow the state to issue bonds up to \$3 million for the upgrade of a pump station, addition of a storage tank, and the extension of an emergency interconnection in the Town of Ledyard.

**4. Lead Service Line Inventory**

General Manager Cansler stated that the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, which went into effect in 2021, requires all public water systems to develop a lead service line (LSL) inventory to identify all materials used to construct or repair all service lines connected to a public water distribution system. He said that last fall the EPA released their guidance for developing the LSL inventory. This LSL inventory must be completed and submitted by October 16, 2024.

Mr. Cansler stated that the inventory must include the address of every service line, date of installation, type of material used, size of the service line, building type served by the line, information regarding interior plumbing, any information regarding maintenance of the service line, and date of maintenance or repairs on the line. A unique service line identification number must be developed for each service line. He said SCWA had already held meetings internally to discuss how to best complete this inventory. Based on the magnitude of the inventory he plans to reach out to Haley Ward Engineering to discuss possible assistance.

**5. Green Village**

In 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 is a 55 and over community with 48 townhouse units, each unit with individual meters. After multiple delays involving water quality and quantity in the wells, DPH finally granted approval of the system on November 1, 2022. Final approval was contingent on installation of a treatment system, which has been completed. Mr. Cansler said that currently there are 16 units occupied.

**6. 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 fourteen homes have been sold, and several more homes are nearing completion.

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

SCWA continues to monitor new guidelines and regulations pertaining to PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). The State DPH has still not established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water, but they are encouraging all public water systems to test for PFAS. In August the EPA officially designated two PFAS substances, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), as hazardous substances under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **8. Mystic Village Apartments - Dieldrin**

Mystic Village Apartments (MVA) are one of SCWA's Contract Operations, which are water systems not owned by SCWA. For these systems the owners are responsible for all maintenance, upgrade costs, and sampling fees, and SCWA is paid to serve as their certified operator. Recently the chemical Dieldrin, which was used to treat termites until the 80s, was detected in the water samples taken at MVA. The property owner of MVA hired a company to install a treatment system for Dieldrin; however, the project stalled when SCWA informed them that a project application form requesting a change in the treatment must be submitted to DPH. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA is still working with the owners to complete the required General Application form.

## **9. Tower-Ferry View Division OCCT (Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment) Report**

In October 2022 SCWA submitted an optimal corrosion control treatment (OCCT) report to DPH for a copper exceedance that occurred in 2021 when 4 of 35 samples analyzed from the Tower-Ferry View Division exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Although none of the samples analyzed in 2022 exceeded the MCL, SCWA was required to prepare an OCCT report. The primary purpose of this report is to address changes that can be made to the treatment process to preclude further copper MCL exceedances. At DPH's recommendation SCWA worked with an EPA consultant (CADMUS) to complete the OCCT. In January DPH responded to the OCCT with a list of questions and recommendations. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA responded to their questions on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **10. Regional Considerations**

**a) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** Mr. Cansler stated that the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Statewide WUCC met immediately after; both meetings were held virtually. He said 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, SCWA attends the monthly SCCOG meetings if there are items relating to water on the agenda, and the SCCOG Regional Water Committee, which meets only as needed.

**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 November and June.

**Other Business** - None

**Report from Chairman** – None

**Report from Authority Members** – None

**Public Comment** – None

**Adjourn**

On motion of Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Mullane, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:39 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on March 13, 2023, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler  
Secretary