

MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Electronic Virtual Meeting held via Zoom on January 16, 2025

The January 16, 2025, joint meeting of the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority, and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Advisory Board Chairman Barry Weiner. It was determined by SCWA General Manager and RAB Secretary, 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, New London; Carol Russell, East Lyme; Thomas Seidel, Franklin; Martin Artale, Groton City; Mike Cherry, Ledyard; Chuck Longton, Montville; Mike Macina and Robert Boissevain, North Stonington; Leslie Hotary, Salem; Kathryn Nason Burchenal and Kevin Bowdler, Stonington Borough.

SWCA Board members in attendance were: Authority Chairman Harry Watson, Paul Eccard, Claudia Koerting, and Nicholas Mullane.

Chairman Barry Weiner offered a period for public comment. Mr. Jonathan Klein of Stonington introduced himself and indicated that he might be interested in joining the SCWA Representative Advisory Board or Authority Board. General Manager Cansler suggested that if Mr. Klein could call him the next day, Mr. Cansler would provide more information about both SCWA Boards.

A motion was made by Mr. Macina, and seconded by Ms. Russell, to accept the minutes from the October 17, 2024, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

SCWA Authority Chairman Watson gave his report (Attachment 1) to the RAB, which included updates under "Operational Activities" on the acquisition of the Oakdale Heights subdivision in Montville, the project to interconnect the Montville Division and Seven Oaks Division, and the Grant-in-Aid for Upgrades to the Tower Pump Station.

In the "Administrative" section of his Chairman's Report, Mr. Watson discussed the Lead Service Line Inventory. Under SCWA "Planning Activities", Chairman Watson discussed the new National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl), proposed new developments within SCWA boundaries, and regional considerations affecting SCWA.

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Mr. Weiner stated that he did not have anything to report as Chairman of the Representative Advisory Board.

Mr. Macina, on behalf of the RAB Nominating Committee, announced the committee's proposed slate of officers for the 2025 Representative Advisory Board were Mr. Weiner as Chairman, and Mr. Cherry as Vice-Chair. He stated that SCWA General Manager Josh Cansler would continue as the RAB Secretary. Mr. Weiner asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Since there were none, Mr. Macina made a motion to appoint Mr. Weiner as Chairman, Mr. Cherry as Vice-Chair, and Mr. Cansler as Secretary for calendar year 2025. His motion, seconded by Mr. Longton, carried unanimously.

There were no reports from other Representative Advisory Board members.

Under New Business, Mr. Mullane requested a call for abstentions be included in addition to calls for yea and nay when an action item is voted on during the RAB meetings. Chairman Weiner agreed to include a call for abstentions during all future votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Macina, and seconded by Mr. Longton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Cansler
SCWA General Manager/RAB Secretary

Attachment 1 to Minutes of the January 16, 2025 RAB Meeting:

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Chairman's Report to the Representative Advisory Board

January 16, 2025

I. Operational Activities

A. Oakdale Heights Subdivision (Montville)

In July 2023 SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Association, which represents the 219-home Oakdale Heights subdivision in Montville, signed a formal agreement for SCWA to take over ownership and operation of the Oakdale Heights water system. This agreement was submitted along with a formal Request for Transfer of Water Lands Application to the State Department of Public Health (DPH) in August 2023.

In February 2024 DPH informed SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Association that the transfer is subject to the consent of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), and in May PURA assigned a Docket Number (24-05-10). Over the next few months PURA has requested information from both parties, all of which has been submitted to PURA through their electronic filing portal. This included 62 interrogatory questions, 18 of which were directed at SCWA specifically. Both parties filed their responses in September 2024.

In December PURA issued a new set of interrogatory questions based primarily on responses from the original 62 interrogatories issued by PURA. SCWA responded to our interrogatory questions in late December, however the Oakdale Heights Association, through their attorney, sent a letter to PURA stating they did not have the staff to respond to additional interrogatories, and that no additional information would be provided. PURA has not responded to their letter, or the SCWA interrogatory responses.

B. Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project (Montville)

This project will complete the interconnection between the Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. Last summer SCWA awarded a contract to Richards Corporation after a public bidding process, but due to delays with issuance of the federal grant funds this project was put on hold temporarily. Based on guidance that SCWA would receive the funds by the end of the year, a Notice to Proceed was issued to Richards Corporation in late November. A preconstruction meeting was held in early December, and the contractor began installing the water main extension the same week.

C. Grant-in-Aid for Upgrades at the Tower Pump Station (Ledyard)

In late 2023 the State approved a grant-in-aid for the Tower Division to upgrade the pump station, add storage tanks, and upgrade security. This grant also includes an extension of the emergency connection up Christy Hill Road. The total amount allocated is \$3 million. The General Manager has attended several meetings with the State Department of Health (DPH) over the past year to discuss the requirements and schedule, and submitted a formal Bond Fund Application package for the grant-in-aid funding. In December SCWA was informed that the Grant Contract was under review by the DPH Legal Office before being forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General to execute the contract.

II. Administrative Activities

Lead Service Line Inventory

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper, which went into effect in 2021, required all public water systems to develop a lead service line (LSL) inventory identifying all materials used to construct or repair all service lines connected to a public water distribution system. SCWA met the October 16, 2024, deadline for submission of the lead service line inventory, and had received acknowledgement of our submission by CT DPH a week later.

In late November SCWA received notice from DPH that SCWA was also responsible for submission of lead service line inventories for the public system at the Lincoln Park Elderly Housing in Preston. Although SCWA does not own this system we have an agreement to operate this system for a fee. SCWA staff are currently gathering information regarding this system so that we can complete the inventory.

III. Planning Activities

A. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for six PFAS in drinking water. The new regulations require all water systems to complete the initial monitoring requirements for each PFAS within 3 years, and when warranted; take steps to ensure compliance within 5 years. SCWA plans to sample twice in 2025, in accordance with the new regulations.

B. Ongoing and Proposed New Developments

1) Millwood (Montville): Millwood is part of the adjacent SCWA Hillcrest subdivision in Montville. Construction of this 55 and over community started in 2021 and so far, 32 homes have been constructed and sold. Forty-six individual modular homes are proposed for this development.

2) King's Highway Mobile Home Park (Ledyard): The construction of this 10-unit Mobile Home development along Kings Highway in Ledyard is almost complete. SCWA installed the service line to the development in August, and the water main was turned on in December. This project was temporarily delayed this past fall after the Town of Ledyard claimed the construction site was in their Exclusive Service Area (ESA), and informed the developer they had to connect to the Groton Utilities systems. Using existing maps, available to all via the State WUCC website, SCWA was able to show that the Mobile Home Park is well within our ESA.

3) Possible other Exclusive Service Area (ESA) issues in Ledyard: After the ESA issue arose at the King's Highway Mobile Home Park, SCWA reviewed two other proposed developments in Ledyard where developers have reached out to SCWA for connection to our nearby water mains. In both cases the actual properties proposed for development are in the Ledyard ESA. One is a proposed development of 20-25 houses that would connect to our water main along Hyde Park Drive in the Tower Division. The nearest Ledyard WPCA/Groton Utilities water main to this development is almost half a mile away, along Route 12. The other is a 22-house development at the end of Seabury Avenue in the Ledyard Division. SCWA is not sure where the nearest Ledyard WPCA/Groton Utilities water main is located, however, there are not any other developments nearby, so it is unlikely there are other water mains within a feasible distance. In both cases the developers were informed they would have to work with the Town of Ledyard to request a change to the current ESA boundaries.

C. Regional Considerations

1) Drought Update: In November 2024, Governor Lamont declared a Stage 2 drought advisory for all eight counties in Connecticut due to below normal precipitation levels and ongoing fire danger levels statewide. Stage 2 is the second of five stages of drought defined in the Connecticut Drought Response and Preparedness Plan. Residents are encouraged to voluntarily conserve water. The State Interagency Drought Workgroup met again in December and decided to remain at Stage 2. The Group is scheduled to meet again in early January 2025.

2) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) and the Statewide WUCC both last met in November 2022.

3) Water Planning Council Advisory Group: The General Manager represents SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG), which meets monthly.

4) SCWA Interaction with the AWWA and CWWA: SCWA is a member of both the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA). The General Manager represents SCWA as a member of the CWWA Legislative Affairs Committee, which meets regularly while the Connecticut Legislature is in session.

Harry Watson, Chairman
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority