

MINUTES

Representative Advisory Board of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Groton Public Library January 16, 2020

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 7:01 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 Jim Bonanno, **Bozrah**; Carol Russell, **East Lyme**; Mary Lou Smith, **Groton Town**; James Harris, **Ledyard**; Anthony Siragusa, **Montville**; Barry Weiner, **New London**, Robert Boissevain, **North Stonington**; George Jackson and James Fogerty, **Salem**; Jack Malone and Dennison Allen, **Sprague**; Jeffrey Callahan, **Stonington Borough**. Members of the SCWA present were Chairman Edward Monahan, Paul Eccard, Nicholas Mullane, Harry Watson, Barbara Franciosi, Claudia Koerting.

Mr. Chairman Jackson announced the opportunity for public comment before the RAB. There was no Public Comment offered.

There was no further public comment.

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

Ms. Smith made a motion to accept the audited financial report for 2019. It was seconded by Mr. Siragusa. The motion carried unanimously.

Report from the SCWA Chairman

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Chairman Dr. Edward C. Monahan delivered his quarterly report to the Advisory Board. A copy of his report is attached.

His report addressed the following Operational Activity topics:

A. 1. Vandalism and Break in at Tower Large Pumphouse.

Chairman Monahan provided an update on the activities surrounding the September 23, 2019 vandalism at the Tower Division Pumphouse in Gales Ferry. Dr. Monahan reiterated that this activity did not impact the treatment system or the water supply. He did note that SCWA did follow the directive of the CT Department of Public Health that a "Do Not Drink Water" advisory be posted until water supplies could be tested. He said approximately 800 household were without water until the results of the test were verified by DPH. He noted the SCWA was issued an Administrative Order by DPH to carry out repairs to the property and anything damaged. The SWCA successfully appealed that Administrative Order issuance and was granted a stay on the matter, several of the items required by the Order had already been accomplished. A video surveillance system has been installed as have trail cameras. The door to the pumphouse has been repaired and a contractor will be hired to do upgrades to the door, the fencing and build a new storage shed.

A. 2. Tower Division Well #3

Chairman Monahan said the SCWA is moving forward with plans to replace Tower Division #3 well which failed in 2019. He noted that estimates received for installation of a permanent well were higher than anticipated and there will be additional requests for quotes on the project.

B. 1. Code Red Alert System established

Code Red, an alert system that will establish, maintain and operate an emergency notification network for all SCWA Divisions has been chosen by SCWA. The matter was approved at the last Authority meeting. The system can alert customers in a variety of ways about the water system. The Code Red design allows for territorial notification by voice or text or to the entire system of customers regarding any disruption to service including regularly scheduled maintenance. Dr. Chairman Monahan reported that the alert system was up and operation.

C. Thames Aquatic Club in Ledyard

Dr. Monahan reported there has been no further dialogue between SCWA and the TAC despite their location in the SCWAQ Exclusive Service Area and conditions set by DPH for their approved operation and the directive that SCWA be TAC's certified operator. DPH has not responded to certain written requests made by SCWA.

D. Emergency Interconnections with Ledyard and Groton Utilities

Interconnections originating and installed by Groton Utilities have been completed. All five SCWA Ledyard Divisions are connected the Ledyard WPCA system and will only be used in a water emergency.

II. Chairman Dr. Monahan reported on the following Administrative Activity topics.

A. Refinancing of the 2007 Bond

Chairman Dr. Monahan reported the SCWA is pursuing the refinancing of its 2007 Bond authorization in order to secure funding for the completion of such projects as the Tower Division upgrade and well, the interconnection of Seven Oaks and Montville Manor and the replacement of some hydropneumatics tanks.

B. Lab Costs for testing/analysis

Existing testing laboratory is increasing its rate and that causes the SCWA to seek an alternative testing company.

C. Raspberry Junction Holding, LLC V. SCWA

Dr. Monahan reported there have been offers turned down and a potential April 2020 trial date set. Following the judge's granting of a summary judgement in August the plaintiff has appealed that decision.

III. Chairman Dr. Monahan reported on the following Planning Activity topics.

- A. Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**
- B. Replacing Montville Manor Distribution System**
- C. Updated Asset Management Plan**
- D. Certain Applications pending**
- E. Ongoing regional and state considerations and commitments**

Ms. Russell asked about further and continuing guidance on the emerging issue of PFAS mitigation.

Mr. Cansler noted the Federal government had not yet set a number for acceptable/unacceptable levels if the substance was identified in or near water supplies.

Report of Mr. Chairman Jackson.

Mr. Chairman Jackson requested Mr. Cansler to report from his position on the RAB Legislative Committee on any proposed bills that would interest SCWA. Mr. Cansler reported he was watching for a proposal relating to water distribution security.

Mr. Chairman Jackson said he was going to contact chief elected officials from the sending towns to encourage them to fill any and all vacancies on the RAB. Chairman Jackson said he will draft a letter to chief elected officers of the sending towns. Mr. Callahan and Mr. Weiner strongly suggested the correspondence be send Certified Mail.

Appointment Committee

Mr. Callahan made a motion to reappoint Dr. Monahan to another term 5-year term on the 7-member Authority. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Mr. Callahan pointed out that according to the RAB By-laws (Article V) there is supposed to be an RAB Nominating Committee, separate from the Appointments Committee. Upon the request of Chairman Jackson the following RAB members were assigned to the Nominating Committee: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Fogerty, and Mr. Malone. The Chairman of the Appointments Committee will be determined by the three members and approved at the April meeting.

Member Reports

There were no member reports.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the RAB.

A motion was made by Mr. Weiner and seconded by Mr. Callahan to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2020 at Waterford Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Malone
Secretary