

**Draft Minutes of the May 8, 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, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Claudia Koerting, Nick Mullane, and Alex Masse.

**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. Mullane, seconded by Mr. Masse, the Authority approved the minutes of the April 10, 2023, Authority Meeting, by a unanimous vote of all members present.

**Correspondence**

*(Attachment: Letter from the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) dated May 1, 2023, Subject: Administrative Order DWS 19-07-063 Closure)*

General Manager Cansler stated that earlier in the day both he and Chairman Monahan received a letter, via email, regarding the Administrative Order issued to SCWA after the pump station was vandalized in September 2019. The letter, dated May 1, 2023, and signed by the Deputy Commissioner of DPH (Lisa Michelle Morrissey) stated that Administrative Order DWS 19-072-063 was now closed. SCWA requested a hearing on the Administrative Order in October 2019, which DPH agreed to conduct, but a hearing was never called. Mr. Cansler stated that in the interim most of the items required in the Administrative Order were accomplished anyway.

**General Manager's Report**

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

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. Last December the Oakdale Heights Homeowners Association (HOA) expressed interest in turning over full-time operation to SCWA. Their system consists of two fully operational pump houses, five wells, and 2.5 miles of distribution main. At the January meeting, the Authority authorized the General Manager to open discussions with the Oakdale Heights HOA, and consult with our attorney regarding a legal agreement.

General Manager Cansler stated that he met with SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple and representatives of the Oakdale Heights HOA several times over the past few months to resolve the proposed terms of the turnover and formalize an agreement. A formal letter of intent stating the proposed terms of an agreement was sent to the Oakdale Heights attorney on April 12, 2023. In addition, Mr. Cansler stated SCWA has reached out to the State DPH and DEEP regarding the Oakdale Heights water system.

After several discussions regarding the terms of the letter/agreement, the Oakdale Heights HOA stated that they agreed with the terms in principle on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Cansler said that the agreement will have to be approved by the Authority, and submitted with a Request for Transfer Application to the State. He added he had hoped to have the final agreement prior to this meeting for review and possibly approval, however the final version is still undergoing a final legal review by Attorney Kepple and the attorney for the Oakdale Heights HOA. Mr. Cansler said that the Authority had three options regarding the agreement: 1) Wait and approve the agreement at the next scheduled Authority meeting in June; 2) Hold a Special Authority meeting later in May; or 3) At this meeting authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement once it is finalized.

After some discussion Mr. Eccard made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement with the stipulation that the General Manager send the final version of the agreement to all the Authority members and allow the members a few days to comment and/or call a Special Meeting to discuss. His motion, seconded by Mr. Watson, was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

## **2. Capital Projects Update**

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

This project will complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. This past summer 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 starting next year.

The formal Wetlands Permit was approved by the Town of Montville Wetlands Commission in March, and the Pre-bid Construction Package, which includes the initial plans and specifications, was submitted to the State Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) on March 29, 2023. General Manager Cansler said that everything is still on track for this project, and that SCWA hopes to receive project approval from DPH in the late spring and award the project this summer.

### **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. General Manager Cansler stated that unfortunately, because the recently completed Tower Division water main replacement project cost significantly more than estimated, SCWA will have to delay this project a few months, until more Capital Funds are available.

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

During the drought last summer SCWA realized an additional well is needed at the Ledyard pump station because the peak summer usage was near the capacity of the existing wells. DPH approved the new well in November. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA is now working with legal counsel to obtain an easement because the State requires that SCWA control a 150-foot radius around each well. He said the easement is taking longer than anticipated because of a recent change in ownership of the property next to the Ledyard pump station.

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

In January State Senator Kathy Osten and State Representative Kevin Ryan submitted Bill 364, which is titled "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Projects of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority". This bill 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. This bill is still with the Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. Mr. Cansler stated that since the bill has not moved forward in several months, he anticipates the bill will die in committee, as did a similar bill last year.

#### **3. Lead Service Line Inventory**

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper, which went into effect in 2021, requires all public water systems to develop a lead service line (LSL) inventory that identifies all materials used to construct or repair all service lines connected to a public water distribution system. Last fall the EPA released their guidance for developing the LSL inventory. This LSL inventory must be completed and submitted by October 16, 2024. General Manager Cansler stated that the SCWA staff are currently researching and inputting data in the spreadsheet.

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

General Manager Cansler reminded the Authority that the EPA announced their draft regulations regarding PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in March, and that the 60-day review and comment period for these draft PFAS regulations ends May 30, 2023. The draft regulations includes proposed maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for 6 different PFAS in drinking water. General Manager Cansler also said that the April 9<sup>th</sup> edition of The Connecticut Mirror included an excellent article about PFAS and the impacts of proposed regulation in Connecticut. He also stated that there are currently two bills under consideration by the Connecticut State Legislature that will provide grants to municipalities and utilities to provide potable water, assessment, and remedial action to address PFAS.

#### **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. General Manager Cansler said that currently there are 33 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 fifteen homes have been sold, and several more homes are nearing completion.

#### **7. 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 MVA that a project application form requesting a change in the treatment must be submitted to DPH. General Manager Cansler stated that he submitted the required General Application form on behalf of the owners on March 1, 2023. DPH requested more information and a design for the treatment system on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cansler requested the design and specs for the proposed treatment system from MVA the same day but has not received anything yet.

**8. 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. In February DPH responded by requesting SCWA take additional samples at the sources to better determine the level of lead in the raw water, which could affect the type of treatment required. Mr. Cansler said they are working with our consultant (Cadmus) to resubmit the OCCT.

**9. Regional Considerations**

**a) FY 2024 State Legislative Cycle- Potential Bills Impacting SCWA and/or other Water Utilities:**

General Manager Cansler stated that both bills included in last month's report "HB-5163 – An Act Concerning the Adjudication of Disputes Between Municipalities and Certain Municipal Waterworks Systems." and "HB-6852- An Act Concerning the Affordability of Utilities", died in committee.

**b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) and the Statewide WUCC both last met on November 16, 2022.

**c) 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.

**d) 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. Eccard, seconded by Mr. Watson, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m. It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on June 12, 2023, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler  
Secretary

# **ATTACHMENT**

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD  
Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

May 1, 2023

Dr. Edward Monahan, Chairman  
Southeastern CT Water Authority  
1649 Route 12  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335-0415

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM: SCWA Tower/Ferry View Division  
CLASSIFICATION TYPE: Community  
PWSID: CT0720041

SUBJECT: **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DWS 19-072-063 CLOSURE**

Dear Dr. Monahan:

Administrative Order DWS 19-072-063 for SCWA Tower/Ferry View Division is now closed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Alison Wilcox at [alison.wilcox@ct.gov](mailto:alison.wilcox@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Michelle Morrissey".

Lisa Michelle Morrissey  
Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Health  
State of Connecticut

cc: Mr. Stephen Mansfield, Director of Health, Ledge Light Health District  
Ms. Lori Mathieu, DPH Public Health Branch Chief



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359  
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1  
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308, MS#12DWS  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater](http://www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater)

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