

**Draft Minutes of the July 11, 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, Claudia Koerting, Alex Masse, and Nicholas 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 June 13, 2022, Authority Meeting, by a vote of 6-0.

**Correspondence** – None

**General Manager's Report**

**1. July RAB Meeting/Public Hearing**

At the June 13, 2022 meeting the Authority approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget. The Authority also approved a motion that the Authority notify the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) of its intention to increase service rates during FY 2023, and request a public hearing prior to the July RAB meeting. General Manager Cansler noted that the next RAB meeting is scheduled to be held on July 21, 2022, at 7 pm.

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

At the March meeting the Authority authorized the Chairman to sign 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 will allow RWA to enroll SCWA customers in the PipeSafe program, and in exchange SCWA will receive a percentage of the monthly fees charged our customers.

The signed agreement was forwarded to RWA on March 22, 2022, and the initial kick-off meeting occurred on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. General Manager Cansler stated that the requested information from the kick-off meeting was forwarded to RWA on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He said he has not received an update since the information was forwarded to RWA.

### **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. In April 2021 SCWA reached out to the current owners of the parcel (100 Waterfall LLC) between the end of the Montville water main extension and the existing Seven Oaks distribution system requesting consideration of an easement across their parcel. In their response, received in November, the owners stated they were willing to grant an easement for a water main that follows the street plan for their future proposed development, which is about 1900 feet longer than the SCWA proposed route.

In December 2021 General Manager Cansler sent a letter to the parcel owners, through their Attorney (Harry 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. Although SCWA has not received a response to our December letter, General Manager Cansler did talk to Attorney Heller in early May. Mr. Heller stated that his office is still waiting on the latest plans for the proposed development from his clients.

#### **b) Upgrade Ledyard Pump Station and Spicer Hill Booster Station**

In April SCWA received the design, and specifications for the upgrade of the Ledyard Pump Station and the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard distribution system. This project includes installation of variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at both stations as well as elimination of the hydropneumatics pressure tanks at both stations. Elimination of the pressure tanks is a top priority of the State Department of Health (DPH).

General Manager Cansler stated that the plans and specs were forwarded to DPH in May, along with a general project application requesting approval of this project. He said DPH sent an approval letter for this project on June 27, 2022.

#### **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 said this project has been delayed because of a long lead time for piping and valves. In March SCWA requested DWSRF funds to upgrade the Tower Division Pump Station and add a 200,000 gallon water tank (estimated cost \$1.2 million).

#### **d) Replacement of Roofs at Three Divisions in Ledyard**

At the May meeting the Authority authorized the General Manager to award three roof projects to Strong Construction LLC, at a cost of \$31,600. This contract is to replace the roofs on the Ledyard Center, Chriswood, and Barrett Division pumphouses. These three projects were included in the 2021 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) rollover. SCWA requested proposals from five roofing contractors, but only received one proposal back. This project started on June 21<sup>st</sup>, and was completed on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. Sanitary Surveys**

Sanitary Surveys are conducted at each community public water system (PWS) by the DPH Drinking Water Section every 3 years, and at each non-community PWS every 5 years. A Sanitary Survey is an on-site inspection of the water sources, treatment, distribution system, finished water storage, pumping facilities and controls, monitoring and reporting data, system management and operation, and operator compliance with State requirements. Sanitary Surveys were conducted during the last week in May at the Montville Manor, Seven Oaks, Chesterfield Divisions in Montville, and the Ledyard Center, Chriswood, and Tower/Ferry View Divisions, in Ledyard. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA has not received the results of the Sanitary Surveys as of July 11<sup>th</sup>. He added that SCWA field crews had already repaired the one significant deficiency that was identified during the sanitary survey inspections.

#### **5. Green Villages I and II (Salem and East Haddam)**

In November 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 will be a 55 and over community with 48 townhouse units, each unit with individual meters. The developer, Colchester Construction, had planned to start leasing units in early 2022, however the project has been delayed because DPH rejected the Green Village II Application for Approval of Wells 1 & 2 due to safe yield capacity and testing problems, and concerns about the water quality. General Manager Cansler stated that he had spoken with the developer the week before and was informed that a third well had been installed and that the developer was waiting on approval from DPH. The developer still hopes to start filling units in August.

#### **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 thirteen 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 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. On June 1, 2022, the DPH Drinking Water Section sent out a letter recommending and encouraging all public water systems to test for PFAS. General Manager Cansler said that although testing is not yet required SCWA should consider testing for PFAS as soon as our lab is approved to analyze samples for PFAS. He was not sure when they would be approved. Mr. Cansler added that he attended a webinar hosted by DPH to discuss PFAS on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8. Consumer Confidence Reports**

In June, SCWA distributed Consumer Confidence Reports, also referred to as "Annual Water Quality Reports", to each of our approximately 2800 customers. Because of the nature of SCWA's water service operations, sixteen separate reports were prepared and distributed. These reports were researched, written, and copied completely in-house. As in the past, processing the reports for mailing, via the U.S. Postal service, was carried out by Viability, Inc., SCWA's co-tenant at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry. These CCRs are also posted on SCWA's website.

**9. Regional Considerations**

**a) Drought Update:** On June 2, 2022 the State’s Interagency Drought Workgroup placed New London and Windham counties in Drought Stage 1- Below Normal Conditions. Stage 1 is a preliminary preparedness stage that serves to alert the parties who should be prepared to respond to potentially worsening drought conditions. Typically, this stage is activated in response to early signals of abnormally dry conditions and serves as a “heads up” for the possibility of a developing drought.

**b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) met again on May 18, 2022. During this meeting the Eastern WUCC elected officers to two-year terms. The Statewide WUCC met the following day, on May 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**c) 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).

**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. Mullane, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:35 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on August 8, 2022, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler  
Secretary