

**Draft Minutes of the September 12, 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, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Alex Masse, Nicholas Mullane, and Claudia Koerting.

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. Masse, the Authority approved the minutes of the August 8, 2022, Authority Meeting, by a vote of 4-0, with one abstention (Mr. Mullane).

Correspondence – None

General Manager's Report

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

In March 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 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 initial kick-off meeting was held on May 3rd. General Manager Cansler stated that RWA and SCWA are currently meeting bi-weekly to discuss start-up and implementation of the program for all SCWA customers. Mr. Cansler also said that RWA is in the process of restructuring their rates so that their rate structure is the same across all of their partnership agreements. He added this will probably delay implementation of the Pipesafe program for SCWA customers.

2. 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.

On July 21st SCWA finally met with John D'Amato of 100 Waterfall LLC and their attorney, Harry Heller. During the meeting Mr. D'Amato agreed to a route that was only 600 feet longer vs 1900 feet. The proposed water main connection route and grading design was completed by Lenard Engineering on August 31st. General Manager Cansler stated that he met with DPH to discuss project funding in July and again on September 7th. In the latest meeting DPH indicated that about 75% of the construction costs would be a grant, and 25% would be a low interest loan. Mr. Cansler said the next step is the Wetlands Permit application, which is being prepared by Lenard Engineering.

b) Upgrades at the 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 hydropneumatic pressure tanks at both stations. Elimination of the pressure tanks is a top priority of the State Department of Health (DPH). The plans and specs were forwarded to DPH in May, along with a general project application requesting approval of this project. DPH sent an approval letter for this project in early July. General Manager Cansler stated that he intended to request bids in August, but unfortunately, the pump manufacturer informed SCWA there is now a 6-month lead time for delivery of the variable speed pumps. Based on weather considerations, and the long delivery time for the pumps, this will force this project to be delayed until spring 2023.

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. SCWA is still waiting on delivery of one valve.

d) 2022 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)

Based on the long-term capital financing plan approved in 2020, the 2021 BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) will be rolled over into another BAN this year, and most likely at least two more years before the BANs are rolled into a Bond SCWA will begin to pay off. This will roughly align our payment schedule with the expiration of the 2007 Bond that SCWA is currently paying off, while enabling the Authority to do some small projects. SCWA does not intend to add any new projects to this year's BAN, so the total issuance this year will be approximately \$285,000. The bid opening for the BAN is scheduled for September 20th, and the closing is scheduled for October 13th.

3. Proposed New Well at Ledyard Division

General Manager Cansler stated that since Gray Farm Division was consolidated under the Ledyard Division two years ago the Ledyard pump station is averaging between 30 to 40 thousand gallons/day, with peaks of around 50K/day, which is the maximum yield of the two wells at Ledyard Division. For this reason, he and the Foreman would like to install an additional well at Ledyard. Mr. Cansler said that he had requested a proposal from Lenard Engineering for the engineering of the proposed new well. Their proposal, which includes surveying of potential well sites, wetlands review, permit requests, DPH and DEEP applications, and field inspections was for \$5500. After some discussion, Mr. Eccard made a motion to accept the proposal, and authorize the General Manager to contract with Lenard Engineering, for up to \$5500, to complete survey, engineering/design, wetlands reviews, permit applications, and field inspections. His motion, seconded by Mr. Mullane, was approved unanimously by all members present.

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, and Hillcrest Divisions in Montville, and the Ledyard Center, and Tower/Ferry View Divisions, in Ledyard. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA had just received the results of the Sanitary Surveys that day, and that there were no significant deficiencies.

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 is a 55 and over community with 48 townhouse units, each unit with individual meters. This project was delayed because DPH rejected the Green Village II application for approval of the first two wells due to safe yield capacity, and concerns about the water quality. The developer installed a third well, which was approved in July. In late July the General Manager and Foreman met with Bob Gagnon, the owner of Colchester Construction to discuss the start-up and operation of the water system. Mr. Gagnon has approval from the Health Department to occupy the first 12 units. The first occupants moved in on August 1st. General Manager Cansler stated that for DPH to approve occupancy beyond 12 units would require approval of a Community Water System (CWS) by DPH, and that they require two operational wells for a CWS. Mr. Cansler said this will require installation, by the developer, of a treatment system, or a new well that produced water that would not need treatment.

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. General Manager Cansler stated that 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. Although the State DPH has still not established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water, they did send out a letter recommending and encouraging all public water systems to test for PFAS in June. SCWA intends to start testing for PFAS this fall.

In August the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator officially designated two PFAS substances, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), as hazardous substances under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This will enable the EPA to place contaminated sites on the National Priority List (NPL), and also enable the EPA to pursue remediation and funding for associated expenses by identifying potentially responsible parties (PRPs) and holding them financially liable for remedial activities.

8. Regional Considerations

a) Drought Update: In August the Governor declared a Stage 3 alert for New London and Windham Counties. Even after the heavy rains the past two weeks this remains in effect. A Stage 2 notice remains in effect for the remainder of the state. The U.S. Drought monitor now has all of New London County, southern Rhode Island, and parts of eastern Massachusetts in drought intensity level D3 (Extreme Drought). This is the second highest drought level. The State is requesting residents and business to voluntarily conserve water.

In late July SCWA issued a notice requesting all customers to voluntarily reduce outdoor water usage to include lawn irrigation, planting of new vegetation, washing of sidewalks/driveways, and topping-off of pools. Currently the wells serving all SCWA divisions are able to keep up with the water demands, however if drought conditions continue, or worsen, the wells may not be able to meet future usage demands.

b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) last met on May 18, 2022. The Statewide WUCC last met on August 17th. 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, 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. Mullane, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:41 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on October 17, 2022, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler
Secretary