

MINUTES
Quarterly Meeting
Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Electronic Virtual Meeting
October 15, 2020

The quarterly meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Advisory Board Chairman Barry Weiner. It was determined by Mr. Cansler that the requisite number of members present constituted a quorum. Chairman Weiner concurred.

Those Advisory Board members in attendance were: Carol Russell, East Lyme; Thomas Seidel, Franklin; Mary Lou Smith, Groton; Mike Cherry and James Harris, Ledyard; Anthony Siragusa, Montville; Chairman Barry Weiner, New London; Robert Boissevain, North Stonington; James Fogerty and Hugh McKenney, Salem, Jack Malone, Sprague and Jeffrey Callahan, Stonington Borough.

Those SWCA Board members in attendance were:

Dr. Chairman Edward C. Monahan; Vice-Chairman Harry Watson, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Barbara Lee Franciosi, Peter Balestracci and Nick Mullane.

Mr. Chairman Weiner offered a period for public comment. There were no customers or citizens in the meeting wishing to speak.

Mr. Chairman Weiner noted the benefits, challenges and rules for operating a meeting electronically.

A motion was made by Mr. Callahan and seconded by Mr. Cherry to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting. Mr. Fogerty noted a technical change necessary for the record and the minutes were approved with a vote of 11 members favorable and one abstention on the vote.

SWCA Chairman Dr. Edward Monahan gave his regular report to the Representative Advisory Board. He provided updates on SWCA business that included the operational activities that continued during the current public health situation. He said the SCWA staff are all working full-time and employing proper social distancing measures and sanitation procedures. He said there were no staff infected by the COVID-19 virus. He noted that Board meetings and RAB meetings had both shifted to an electronic meeting procedure.

Chairman Monahan reported on the September installation of a pressure reducing valve between the Ledyard Division and the Gray Farms Division. The valve will allow the Gray Farms system to be isolated so that certain upgrades could be accomplished. Turning on the interconnection awaits approval from the CT Department of Public Health.

He reported on the intent to replace Well #3 and the and an important main at the Tower Division. The project will be completed upon the approval of funds made available through a Bond Anticipation Note which could be authorized before the end of this month.

Under the topic of Administrative Activities, Chairman Monahan gave an explanation of the Bond Anticipation Note, and if made available, the benefits to certain upgrade projects in the SCWA system that would be accomplished.

Chairman Monahan updated the RAB on the Raspberry Junction legal matter against the SCWA.

He also presented a schedule for RAB meetings in 2021 and said those date would be subject to a vote for approval by the RAB.

Under the Planning Activities topic he noted the continued successful use of the alerting system CODERED and how it was used to make a request for Montville Manor customers to voluntarily reduce outdoor water use because of the concern of drought conditions. He did note the system had provided adequately right through the driest part of the Summer.

He reported that Green Village II, a 48-Unit Senior Housing Complex in Salem would be serviced by the SCWA system once construction is completed.

Further he announced that activity pertaining to PFAS (Per- and Polyflouroalkyl Substances) remained an issue that the SCWA was attentive to but the current public health situation has slowed activity emanating from the Administration and the CT Department of Public Health.

Chairman Monahan concluded his report with news of the State Water Plan Implementation work group put in place by the Water Planning Council. He also noted the shortened Legislative Session caused all water related bills were held for further deliberation in 2021. He also mentions the SCWA's participation with regional entities such as the Water Utility Coordinating Committee, The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, the CT Water Planning Council Advisory Group and the Connecticut Water Works Association Legislative Affairs Committee. He said he and General Manager Cansler each participate in those groups and monitor their actions.

In other RAB business, Ms. Russell asked about the activity of the Water Utilities Coordinating Committee and Mr. Cansler reported their activity had slowed and no action had occurred through this point in the year.

Mr. Cherry questioned how a figure of \$175,000 had been assigned to the Tower Division upgrade. Mr. Cansler reported that was the bonding capacity available this year. Mr. Cherry also offered that the work on the project could be a hassle for the customers. Mr. Cansler said they would be notified when work would progress. He said that could be the second week of November.

Chairman Weiner used his reporting opportunity to thank all the members for their continued participation. He expressed his personal wishes they stay safe and healthy. He expressed the concern that the drought not impact the Authority too greatly as the year progressed.

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Under the business of the Nomination Committee Mr. Callahan made a motion for the approval of the reappointment of Mr. Harry Watson to the SCWA and noted that appointment had the endorsement of the SCCOG. Mr. Fogarty seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Cherry and seconded by Mr. McKenny to approved the RAB quarterly meeting schedule for 2021. (January 21, 2021; April 15, 2021; July 15, 2021 & October 21, 2021) The motion carried unanimously.

There was no other business to come before the Representative Advisory Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Fogarty and seconded by Ms. Russell to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Representative Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021 and will be conducted electronically.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Malone
Secretary