

MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Electronic Virtual Meeting April 15, 2021

The joint meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Advisory Board Vice-Chairman Jack Malone, in the absence of Chairman Barry Weiner. It was determined by SCWA General Manager Josh Cansler that the requisite number of members present constituted a quorum. Vice-Chairman Malone concurred.

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Vice-Chairman Jack Malone, **Sprague**; Secretary Hugh McKenney, **Salem**; Jim Bonanno, **Bozrah**; Carol Russell, **East Lyme**; Mary Lou Smith, **Groton**; Mike Cherry, **Ledyard**; Anthony Siragusa, **Montville**; Robert Boissevain and Michael Macina, **North Stonington**; Jeffrey Callahan, **Stonington Borough**

SWCA Board members in attendance were: Authority Chairman Edward Monahan; Vice Chairman Harry Watson, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Barbara Franciosi, Peter Balestracci, and Claudia Koerting.

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

Vice-Chairman Malone noted the benefits, challenges and rules for operating a meeting electronically and thanked members for their participation.

A motion was made by Mr. McKenney, and seconded by Ms. Smith, to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

SCWA Authority Chairman Monahan gave his report (attachment 1) to the RAB, and noted the continuing and safe operations of the Authority during the current health crisis. He gave an update on the plans for the replacement of the Tower Division main; the roof replacement projects at Chesterfield and Birchwood Divisions; the project to upgrade the Montville Division and interconnect to Seven Oaks Division; and the Robin Division Treatment Study.

Mr. Cherry asked about the status of the second phase of the Tower main replacement. Mr. Cansler answered that this phase has been rescheduled multiple times due to weather and material shortages. A question was also asked about whether the Montville tank upgrade was on schedule. Mr. Cansler responded that a contractor was scheduled to clean-out and repair the tank starting May 18, 2021.

SCWA RAB Joint Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2021

Page Two

Under the Administrative section of his report Chairman Monahan noted the continuing legal matter between Raspberry Junction Holding, LLC and SCWA.

Addressing SCWA Planning Activities, Chairman Monahan provided an update on the construction of the Green Village II housing complex in Salem; construction of the Millwood Subdivision in Montville; and an update on PFAS related legislation that could potentially affect SCWA, once implemented.

Mr. Cherry asked if there would be excess capacity for expansion at the new Green Village development in Salem. Mr. Cansler stated that he wasn't sure; he was still waiting on engineering plans for the development. Mr. Cherry also asked about PFAS testing in the future. Mr. Cansler replied that the guidelines and allowable levels had not been established yet. He said that the State Budget for FY 2022 and 2023 allocated funding for the State Interagency PFAS Task Force to establish testing procedures and minimum allowable limits. He added that the EPA was also working on PFAS regulations.

In his Chairman's report, Dr. Monahan also noted that SCWA continues its participation with the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC), the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), the Water Planning Council (WPC), and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA).

Ms. Russell asked about the status of the WUCC Interconnections/Regionalization workgroup which General Manager Cansler is participating in. Mr. Cansler said that the workgroup had not met since February, but that there was another meeting scheduled for May. Ms. Russell also asked about the State Water Planning Council. Mr. Cansler described the purpose and organization of the Water Planning Council, and stated that all meetings are open to the public.

Vice-Chairman Malone indicated there would be no report from his station at this meeting.

Vice-Chairman Malone stated that the next item on the agenda was a discussion of RAB Committee assignments. He asked Mr. Cansler to read the current vacancies. These vacancies were filled by volunteers from the RAB (attachment 2).

There were no other member reports. There was also no New Business.

A motion was made by Ms. Smith, and seconded by Mr. McKenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Cansler
SCWA General Manager

Attachment 1 to Minutes of the April 15, 2021 RAB Meeting:

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Chairman's Report to the Representative Advisory Board

April 15, 2021

I. Operational Activities

A. SCWA Operations during the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic

SCWA staff are continuing to work a full schedule with social-distancing measures and sanitation procedures in place. As of today, none of the staff at SCWA have been infected by the virus. Because of safety concerns, and the Governor's ban on in-person public meetings, the scheduled Authority and RAB meetings are being conducted virtually until further notice. In addition, DPH is still conducting bi-weekly webinar meetings via computer, which the General Manager has been attending.

B. Tower Division – Main Replacement

In October 2020 the Authority was issued a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for \$175,000. The purpose of this BAN is to complete several capital projects. The first project utilizing these funds is the replacement of the water main leading from the Tower Division pumphouses to the main distribution located on East Drive in Gales Ferry. Over the past few years there have been several breaks in this water main, each resulting in system wide outages. SCWA crews completed the first phase of this project in December 2020, which included installation of new valves in the existing water main leading from the Tower Division pumphouses to the main distribution. The second phase of this project, installation of a new water main from the two Tower Division pumphouses to East Drive, will be completed in late April/early May of this year.

C. Replacement of Pumphouse Roofs at Chesterfield and Birchwood Divisions

This second project using funds from the 2020 Bond Anticipation Note was replacement of the pumphouse roofs at the Chesterfield and Birchwood Stations in Montville. The estimate for these two projects was \$28,000. The Authority initially accepted a bid from Nutmeg Building and Remodeling LLC, of Ledyard for \$18,062 to replace the both roofs. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, Nutmeg LLC was not able to commit to any dates in the near future to replace the two roofs, so the General Manager reached out to Strong Roofing LLC in Norwich for an estimate. Their estimate was for \$16,300. Since their estimate was for less than the amount approved by the Authority, and they were able to start work immediately, the General Manager gave them the go ahead to proceed on March 19th. They completed both projects a week later. Their work, and site clean-up, were excellent, and they ended up using higher quality materials than proposed by Nutmeg.

D. Montville Division Tank and 7 Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project

In October 2020 the General Manager sent a Preliminary Engineering Report to DPH requesting approval of a project through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to complete the interconnection between 7 Oaks and Montville divisions. The first phase of the interconnection was completed in 2007. Completion of this interconnection will greatly relieve pressure on the Montville system, and make it much easier to work on the tanks in the Montville system, which are in need of minor repairs. If approved for DWSRF funding this interconnection project will be eligible for a 50% subsidy with a 50% loan. The estimated cost for the Seven Oaks to Montville Manor Interconnection project is \$435,000. DPH finally approved the Preliminary Engineering Report in March 2021.

At the March meeting the Authority authorized the General Manager to contract with Lenard Engineering to do the design and engineering for this interconnection project, at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. Lenard Engineering designed the first phase of the interconnection project in 2007, and they developed the original concept drawings for the second phase in 2016. The engineering costs will be funded as part of the 2020 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN). Because DPH took so long to approve the Preliminary Engineering Report, thereby delaying the potential completion of this project until next year, SCWA has decided to move forward with repairs to the 40,000 gallon concrete raw water tank at Montville, which is in need of more immediate repairs. In March SCWA crews began re-routing some of the Montville well and tank lines so that the tank could be bypassed temporarily. SCWA plans to repair the tank in April.

E. Robin Division Water

Recently SCWA has received an increasing number of calls regarding discoloration, and occasional sediment, in the water from residents of the SCWA Robin Division in Montville. The discoloration is very similar to that found in the nearby Chesterfield Division water in 2015. After cleaning the Chesterfield tanks, and flushing several times, SCWA ultimately hired Lenard Engineering to conduct a manganese treatment study and design a chemical feed system to add phosphate to the Chesterfield system. The phosphate treatment, which began in 2016, sequesters the manganese in the water. In March 2021, General Manager Cansler reached out to Lenard Engineering to complete a similar study and chemical treatment design at Robin Division. Lenard Engineering submitted a proposal for the requested study and design, not to exceed \$4000, in March 2021. General Manager Cansler recommended approval of this proposal to the Authority at their April meeting.

II. Administrative Activities

A. Claim by Raspberry Junction Holding, LLC vs SCWA

In 2016, Raspberry Junction LLC, owners of the Bellissimo Grande Hotel in North Stonington, filed a legal claim against SCWA for losses incurred during the water outage that resulted from the rupture of a pressure tank in 2015. This claim was forwarded to our insurance company at the time, Gladfelter Insurance. After a series of hearings at the lower courts, the case was forwarded to the Connecticut Supreme Court, which issued a ruling in 2019 sending the case back to the trial court for consideration of the summary judgment argument. At a Pre-argument Conference in February 2020 the judge proposed a settlement range that was much higher than our insurance company was willing to accept. A pre-trial oral argument was held before the Connecticut Trial Court on January 15, 2021. SCWA was informed by the attorney for Gladfelter Insurance that the argument went well, and that a decision should be rendered by mid-summer.

III. Planning Activities

A. Green Village II – Salem

In November the Authority authorized the General Manager to sign the New Water System Agreement between SCWA and Green Village II, on behalf of SCWA. Green Village II is a 48 unit, 55+ Community complex being constructed in Salem. The complex will have townhouses with individual garages per unit. Each unit will have individual meters. Once completed SCWA will take over as the owner/operator of the Green Village pumphouse and water distribution system. The developer started site clearing and development of the infrastructure last fall, and plans to complete the complex by fall 2021.

B. Construction of Millwood Subdivision (part of Hillcrest Division) in Montville

Sun Communities, Inc. has finally started construction of the proposed development (called Millwood) 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 age 55+, and will tie into the existing Hillcrest water distribution system. The first homes are expected to be sold this year. SCWA staff have been working with Millwood contractors installing the water distribution lines and meter pits for each unit.

C. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

To address concerns regarding PFAS, the Governor's proposed budget includes \$408,000 in FY 2022 and \$420,000 in FY 2023 to support the Department of Public Health (DPH) in implementing certain recommendations of the Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force, to include hiring a Toxicologist, a Laboratory Consultant, a Chemist and an Environmental Analyst. The budget also works toward permitting more Connecticut laboratories to do PFAS testing, supports testing of public water systems, and includes a PFAS education program.

The proposed budget also includes \$100,000 for laboratory testing supplies, \$600,000 from the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund for additional laboratory equipment, and \$1.15 million Grants-in-Aid to municipalities for the purpose of providing potable water and for assessment and remedial action to address pollution from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl containing substances. The legislature is also considering a bill that would prohibit the sale of consumer packaging that contains PFAS and authorize DEEP to "periodically revise and publish a list of packaging chemicals of high concern".

D. Regional Considerations

- 1) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) last met in May 2020. A Statewide WUCC meeting was held in February 2021. This meeting included breakout sessions for workgroups to address: Interconnections/Regionalization; Non-Community Water Systems Design Requirements; Updating Process requiring Non-Community Systems to Connect to an Existing Community Water Systems, and Conservation/Drought. General Manager Cansler volunteered to serve on the Interconnections/Regionalization Workgroup.
- 2) SCWA Interaction with Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG):** SCWA and the SCCOG continue to interact cooperatively. To this end, Chairman Monahan frequently attends the SCCOG Regional Water Committee meetings. The General Manager participates on the SCCOG Regional Water Committee's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS).
- 3) SCWA Interaction with the WPC and CWWA:** The General Manager is co-chair of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG), and represents SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) Legislative Affairs Committee.

Edward C. Monahan, Chairman
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

Attachment 2 to Minutes of the April 15, 2021 RAB Meeting:

REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY BOARD TO
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT WATER AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 415
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS:

Chairman: Barry Weiner, New London
Vice-Chair: Jack Malone; Sprague
Secretary: Hugh McKenny, Salem

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: TBD
Members: Jack Malone, Sprague
Jim Fogarty, Salem
Jeff Callahan, Stonington Borough

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman: TBD
Members: Rodney Bowie, Norwich
Mary Lou Smith, Groton
Thomas Seidel, Franklin
Mike Cherry, Ledyard
Hugh McKenney, Salem

AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jeffrey Callahan, Stonington Borough
Members: Dennison Allen, Sprague
Michael Macina, North Stonington
Mike Cherry, Ledyard
Vacant

CUSTOMER APPEALS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mary Lou Smith, Groton
Members: Anthony Siragusa, Montville
Vacant
Vacant

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Members: Barry Weiner, New London
Jack Malone, Sprague
Carol Russell, East Lyme