

**Draft Minutes of the May 9, 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, 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. Eccard, seconded by Mr. Watson, the Authority approved the minutes of the April 11, 2022, Authority Meeting, by a vote of 4-0, with one abstention (Mr. Masse).

Mr. Eccard made a motion to add an item to the agenda for the purpose of discussing of proposals for the replacement of three pumphouse roofs in Ledyard. His motion, seconded by Mr. Masse, was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Correspondence**

Mr. Cansler referenced a letter from the Ledyard Lions Club asking if SCWA was interested in posting an advertisement in the Ledyard Memorial Day Parade booklet. Purpose of the proceeds from booklet is to support this patriotic annual event. SCWA has supported this request in the past. On motion of Mr. Eccard, seconded by Ms. Koerting, the Authority approved, by a unanimous vote of all members present, to place a half-page ad in the Ledyard Lions Club booklet, at a cost of \$60.

**General Manager's Report**

General Manager Cansler noted that he had removed the usual status update regarding the COVID-19 virus because there has only been one documented case amongst the staff in two years, and SCWA operations have not been affected by the pandemic. He stated that the Authority continues to meet virtually until further notice.

**1. Appointment/Re-appointment of New Authority Member**

General Manager Cansler stated that at their April 2022 meeting, the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) appointed Mr. Alex Masse to the Authority. He said Mr. Masse will fulfill Peter Balestracci's 5-year term, which ends December 31, 2025. Mr. Balestracci passed away in January. Mr. Cansler added that the RAB Chairman is still seeking candidates to backfill the Authority vacancy created when Ms. Franciosi passed away in April.

## **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<sup>nd</sup>, and the initial kick-off meeting occurred on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. General Manager Cansler stated that the kick-off meeting went very well, and that based on the timeline presented by RWA, the Pipesafe program should be available for SCWA customers no later than August of this year.

## **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. Last April 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 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. SCWA has not received a response to our December letter. General Manager Cansler stated that he talked to Attorney Heller the week before, and was informed that his office is still waiting on the latest plans for the proposed development from his clients. Mr. Cansler added that he had submitted a Project Rollover Application in early April requesting that this project stay on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) list of projects for FY 2023.

### **b) Spicer Hill Booster Station**

In February SCWA received the initial design, and specifications for replacement of the hydropneumatic tank at the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard Division. This project includes replacement of the existing pressure tank with a small booster pump package, installation of new piping to reroute distribution through the new pumps, and the elimination of the pressure tank from the system.

After review of the engineering analysis SCWA realized that the only way to effectively eliminate the hydropneumatic pressure tank at Spicer Hill would be to install variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at the main pump station in Ledyard as well. Installation of VFDs at Ledyard will allow SCWA to also eliminate the pressure tank there as well, which is a top priority of the State Department of Public Health (DPH). General Manager Cansler stated that he had received the design for both the main Ledyard pump station and supporting Spicer Hill booster station on April 11<sup>th</sup>. He said in early May he submitted project applications to DPH requesting approval for these two projects. Mr. Cansler said that once DPH approves these projects SCWA can request bids.

#### **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 stated after several delays resulting from supply chain issues they had all materials in, and they were trying to schedule a time to complete this project. He added that in anticipation of possible grants resulting from last year's federal infrastructure bill, he submitted a Project Eligibility Application to the State in March requesting DWSRF funds to upgrade the Tower Division Pump Station and add a 200,000 gallon water tank. The estimated cost of this project, including engineering is \$1.2 million.

#### **4. Auditor**

At the April Meeting the Authority voted to recommend Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC, of Groton, to the SCWA Representative Advisory Board (RAB) for approval to serve as the annual auditor for the next three years. At their quarterly meeting in April the RAB approved Hoyt Filippetti, and Malaghan, LLC as the Auditor responsible for conducting Annual Audit's of the Authority, for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, and 2024. General Manager Cansler stated that he had notified Hoyt, Filippetti and Malaghan of their appointment as SCWA Auditor the next day, and he had also informed the other firm of this decision.

#### **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. General Manager Cansler stated 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. He said the developer intends to install a third well several hundred yards away.

#### **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 twelve homes have been sold, and several more homes are nearing completion.

#### **7. Ash Drive Condos, Gales Ferry**

General Manager Cansler stated that in March SCWA received an email from the Ash Water Company, LLC, about possibly taking over a water system they own that serves 36 condominiums on Ash Drive in Gales Ferry, CT. Mr. Cansler said he and the Foreman visited the condos and pumphouse on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The pumphouse appeared to be in good condition, but the distribution system did not. In addition, because of the way the service lines run through the condo buildings it would not be feasible to add individual meters. For this reason Mr. Cansler said he informed Ash Water that SCWA was not interested, specifically because of the distribution system, and inability to add individual meters. Ash Water responded by saying it would be possible to put one meter at the pumphouse and charge the Homeowners Association one bill for usage fees. General Manager Cansler stated SCWA would consider that option, and requested usage data to calculate potential costs vs revenue.

## **8. 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. General Manager Cansler said that he was surprised that there had not been more legislation regarding PFAS during the recent State legislative cycle.

## **9. Truck Purchase**

The SCWA Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Capital Program included the acquisition of a new service pickup truck. In January General Manager requested quotes for a basic white 3/4-ton truck from the dealers listed on the Connecticut State Contract for the Sale of Light Trucks. Unfortunately, the response SCWA received back from these dealers was that none of the manufacturers for Ford, GMC, or Dodge trucks were taking orders because of supply shortages, specifically computer chips. The dealers indicated that they would not be able to order trucks before April/May of this year. General Manager Cansler said that in April he reached out again and was told that manufacturers are still not taking orders for contract sales. In addition, none of the dealers had any white heavy-duty trucks in their inventory.

## **10. Regional Considerations**

### **a) FY 2023 State Legislative Cycle- Potential Bills Impacting SCWA and other Water Utilities:**

**SB-155 – An Act Authorizing Bonds of The State to The Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority to Upgrade a Pump Station, including by Adding a Storage Tank, and Extension an Emergency Connection Line into The Town of Ledyard.** This bill died in the Finance Committee.

#### **HB-5203 - An Act Concerning Utility Company Cost-Sharing Mechanisms**

One section of this bill would prohibit a public service company from recovering, through rates, any cost associated with membership, dues or contributions to a business or industry trade association, for example AWWA or CWWA. This bill was amended and approved by the Energy Committee, awaiting action by the House.

#### **HB-5269 - An Act Concerning Remote Meetings Under the Freedom of Information Act**

Would authorize municipal boards and commissions and other public agencies to hold remote or hybrid remote/in-person meetings beyond April 30, 2022. This bill was signed by the Governor.

**HB-5404 - An Act Concerning A Sales And Use Taxes Exemption For Water Companies.** This bill exempts goods and services purchased by water companies from the sales tax. It is awaiting action by the House.

**b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) will meet again on May 18, 2022, and the Statewide WUCC will meet again 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.

**Added Agenda Item: Replacement of Roofs at Three Divisions in Ledyard**

General Manager Cansler stated that in March he reached out to five roofing contractors to replace the roofs on three pumphouses (Ledyard Center, Chriswood, Barrett Divisions). These three projects were included in the 2021 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) rollover. Mr. Cansler stated that three contractors either did not respond or had no interest, one contractor provided proposals for each pumphouse roof, and the remaining contractor expressed interest, but failed to provide a bid and has since indicated he is too busy.

Mr. Cansler stated the one contractor that submitted proposals is Strong Roofing LLC, the same contractor that replaced the roofs at Chesterfield and Birchwood last year. He said Strong Roofing is prepared to start work next week, if approved. The total of their three bids is \$31,600. Mr. Eccard made a motion to authorize the General Manager to award the three roof projects to Strong Construction LLC, at a cost of \$31,600. His motion, seconded by Ms. Koerting, was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

**Other Business** - None

**Report from Chairman** - None

**Report from Authority Members** - None

**Public Comment** – None

**Adjourn**

On motion of Mr. Eccard, seconded by Mr. Masse, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:48 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on June 13, 2022, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler  
Secretary