

**Draft Minutes of the November 14, 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-Chair Harry Watson, 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. Mullane, the Authority approved the minutes of the October 17, 2022, Authority Meeting, by a vote of 6-0.

**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. General Manager Cansler stated that the planned implementation date for RWA accepting SCWA customers into the program is now November 14, 2022. He said RWA and SCWA are currently meeting bi-weekly to discuss start-up and implementation of the program for all 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 July of this year SCWA met with 100 Waterfall LLC, the current owners of the parcel between the end of the Montville distribution system and the Seven Oaks distribution system, to discuss an easement for the proposed route for the interconnection. 100 Waterfall LLC plans on constructing a housing development on this property in the next few years. At the July meeting SCWA and 100 Waterfall LLC agreed to a proposed route for the easement. The proposed water main connection route and grading design was completed by Lenard Engineering on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

General Manager Cansler stated that Lenard Engineering is currently working on the engineering design/specs, easement maps, and wetlands permits. They had hoped to present this project to the Town of Montville Wetlands Commission at their November meeting, however the land around the wetlands has to be cleared before the wetlands mapping can be completed due to very dense vegetation. He said SCWA hopes to receive project approval by next spring and award the project next summer.

**b) Upgrades at the Ledyard Pump Station and Spicer Hill Booster Station**

This project includes installation of variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at the Ledyard Pump Station and the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard distribution system. This project also includes the elimination of the hydropneumatic pressure tanks at both stations, which is a top priority for DPH. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA intended to request bids in August, but unfortunately, the pump manufacturer stated 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 project will have to be delayed until spring 2023. Mr. Cansler said they are still waiting on an updated estimate for the pump skid packages as well as a more definitive delivery schedule.

**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. General Manager Cansler stated that the second phase of this project will be replacement of the original water mains, which is scheduled for early December.

**3. Proposed New Well at Ledyard Division**

At the September meeting the Authority authorized the General Manager to contract with Lenard Engineering, for up to \$5,500, to complete survey, engineering/design, wetlands reviews, permit applications, and field inspections for a new well at the Ledyard Division. General Manager Cansler said 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. He said that the application for a new well was submitted to the Department of Public Health (DPH) in September, and SCWA received conditional approval on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Final approval is contingent on completion of an easement from the Town of Ledyard due to the requirement that SCWA control a 150-foot radius around each well.

**4. Green Village**

In 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. After multiple delays involving water quality and quantity in the wells, DPH finally granted approval of the system on November 1, 2022. Final approval was contingent on installation of a treatment system, which has been completed. Mr. Cansler stated that currently there are 14 units occupied. The developer expects to have all 48 units occupied by the end of the year.

**5. 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.

## **6. Tower-Ferry View Division OCCT (Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment) Report**

General Manager Cansler stated that in 2021 SCWA had four copper samples, out of 35 samples analyzed from the Tower-Ferry View Division, which exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL). As a result, SCWA was required to take more samples in 2022. He said none of the samples analyzed in 2022 exceeded the MCL. In addition, SCWA is required to prepare an optimal corrosion control treatment (OCCT) report. The primary purpose of this report is to address changes that can be made to the treatment process to preclude further copper MCL exceedances. Mr. Cansler added that at DPH's recommendation SCWA worked with an EPA consultant (CADMUS) to complete the OCCT; which was submitted to DPH on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Audit**

Mr. Cansler said Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC conducted their initial audit visit of SCWA in mid-September, and their final visit on November 1<sup>st</sup>. They will present their audit findings to the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) Finance Committee and the Authority prior to the January 2023 RAB meeting. They will have a representative available to answer questions during the Finance Committee's presentation and to the rest of the RAB that same evening.

## **8. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)**

SCWA continues to monitor new guidelines and regulations pertaining to PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). The State DPH has still not established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water, but they are encouraging all public water systems to test for PFAS. In August the EPA officially designated two PFAS substances, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), as hazardous substances under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **9. Regional Considerations**

**a) Drought Update:** Mr. Cansler stated that on November 7<sup>th</sup> the State's Interagency Drought Workgroup reduced all eight Connecticut counties to Drought Stage 1 (Below Normal Conditions). Earlier this summer New London County was in a Drought State 3. 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.

**b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** Mr. Cansler said that the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) last met on May 18, 2022. He said the Statewide WUCC last met on August 17<sup>th</sup>, and is scheduled to meet again on November 16<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, 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.

**10. Meetings**

General Manager Cansler stated that in late October he attended a virtual meeting with DPH, DEEP, and the owners of Mystic Village Apartments regarding the presence of the chemical dieldrin at Mystic Village Apartments. These apartments, previously called Colonial Efficiency Apartments, are one of SCWA’s Contract Operations. These are water systems, not owned by SCWA, where the owners have contracted with SCWA to serve as their certified operator. The owners are responsible for all maintenance, upgrade costs, and sampling fees. Mr. Cansler said in this case the owners of the apartments are responsible for installing a treatment system for Dieldrin, a chemical used to treat termites up until the 1980s. SCWA is working with DPH and the owners on this project.

**New Business - Truck Purchase**

General Manager stated that the SCWA Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Capital Program included the acquisition of a new service pickup truck. He originally requested quotes for a basic 3/4-ton truck from the dealers listed on the Connecticut State Contract for the Sale of Light Trucks back in January, but was told that none of the major American manufacturers were taking orders because of supply shortages. Mr. Cansler said he tried again several times throughout the year to order the truck, and finally the window to order new Ford trucks opened in late November. He received two bids, but was told to order as soon as possible or the window may close again. For this reason, General Manager Cansler requested discussion of the purchase of the new truck be placed under new business for this meeting, rather than wait until the December meeting. Below is a summary of the two quotes SCWA received.

<u>Dealer</u>	<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Tasca Ford Berlin, CT	2023 Ford F-250 <u>Regular</u> Cab 4x4	\$44,259
Gengras Ford Plainville, CT	2023 Ford F-250 <u>Regular</u> Cab 4x4	\$44,509

Mr. Cansler stated that both prices are roughly 40% more than we paid for our last truck in 2020. Since both trucks are identical, he recommended purchasing the truck from Tasca Ford, which is a few hundred dollars less. Based on the General Manager’s recommendation, Mr. Watson made a motion that the Authority approve the purchase of the 2023 Ford F250 4x4 pickup from Tasca Ford for \$44,259. This motion, seconded by Mr. Eccard, was unanimously approved by a vote of all members present.

**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 5:40 p.m.

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

Josh Cansler  
Secretary