

MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Electronic Virtual Meeting held via Zoom on April 17, 2025

The April 17, 2025, joint meeting of the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority, and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Advisory Board Chairman Barry Weiner. It was determined by SCWA General Manager and RAB Secretary, Josh Cansler, that the requisite number of members present constituted a quorum. Chairman Barry Weiner concurred.

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Chairman Barry Weiner, New London; Carol Russell, East Lyme; Thomas Seidel, Franklin; Martin Artale, Groton City; Mary Lou Smith, Groton Town; Chuck Longton, Montville; Mike Macina and Robert Boissevain, North Stonington; Leslie Hotary, Salem; Jonathan Klein, Stonington; Kathryn Nason Burchenal and Kevin Bowdler, Stonington Borough.

SWCA Board members in attendance were: Authority Chairman Harry Watson, Alex Masse, Paul Eccard, and Nicholas Mullane.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Artale, and seconded by Mr. Macina, to accept the minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

SCWA Authority Chairman Watson gave his report (Attachment 1) to the RAB, which included updates under "Operational Activities" on the acquisition of the Oakdale Heights subdivision in Montville, the project to interconnect the Montville Division and Seven Oaks Division, the Grant-in-Aid for upgrades to the Tower Pump Station, and the upgrades at the Spicer Hill Booster Station.

In the "Administrative" section of his Chairman's Report, Mr. Watson discussed the Lead Service Line Inventory. Under SCWA "Planning Activities", Chairman Watson discussed proposed changes to the SCWA Exclusive Service Areas (ESA) in the Town of Ledyard, ongoing and proposed developments in SCWA service areas, a possible grant to replace the service lines in Montville Division, and the new National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl).

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Mr. Weiner stated that he did not have anything to report as Chairman of the Representative Advisory Board.

Mr. Macina, on behalf of the RAB Appointments Committee, nominated Mr. Jonathan Klein of the Town of Stonington to fill one of the two vacancies on the SCWA Board of Authority members. Mr. Macina's motion, seconded by Mary Lou Smith, carried unanimously. Mr. Klein's five-year term on the Authority will expire on December 31, 2029.

There were no reports from other Representative Advisory Board members.

A motion was made by Ms. Russell, and seconded by Ms. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Cansler
SCWA General Manager/RAB Secretary

Attachment 1 to Minutes of the April 17, 2025 RAB Meeting:

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

April 17, 2025

I. Operational Activities

A. Oakdale Heights Subdivision (Montville)

In July 2023 SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Association, which represents the 219-home Oakdale Heights subdivision in Montville, signed a formal agreement for SCWA to take over ownership and operation of the Oakdale Heights water system. This agreement was submitted along with a formal Request for Transfer of Water Lands Application to the State Department of Public Health (DPH) in August 2023. In February 2024 SCWA was informed that the transfer is subject to the consent of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), and a Docket Number (24-05-10) was assigned in May 2024. Over the next eight months SCWA responded to several information requests from PURA.

On February 10, 2025, a public hearing was held at the PURA offices in New Britain. SCWA was represented by General Manager Cansler and SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple. The three-hour hearing concluded with requests for additional information and a statement from the Hearing Officers that an additional hearing might be necessary prior to a draft decision being issued. SCWA submitted the requested information 3 days later and has not heard anything from PURA since.

B. Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project (Montville)

This project will complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. Last year SCWA awarded a contract to Richards Corporation after a public bidding process, and construction began in December 2024. Construction of the new water main connecting the two systems was completed in February, and the foundation and floor slab for the new booster station was completed in early March. The project was temporarily halted for 4-5 weeks due to weather but restarted again on April 14th. The scheduled completion date is August 14, 2025; however, the contractor feels confident they will finish early.

C. Grant-in-Aid for Upgrades at the Tower Pump Station (Ledyard)

In 2023 the State approved a \$3 million grant-in-aid for the Tower Division to upgrade the pump station, add storage tanks, and upgrade security. This grant also includes an extension of the emergency connection up Christy Hill Road. The General Manager has attended several meetings with the State Department of Public Health (DPH) over the past year to discuss the requirements, schedule, and contract. In February 2025 the final grant contract was approved and signed by the State. At our April meeting the Authority voted on a motion to authorize Haley-Ward Engineering to complete the design/engineering for the project, for a total of \$252,000.

D. Upgrades at the Spicer Hill Booster Station

This project includes installation of variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard distribution system. This project also includes the elimination of the hydropneumatic pressure tanks, which is a top priority for DPH. SCWA completed the first phase of this project, which included external electrical upgrades last year, but halted the project temporarily due to equipment delivery delays and weather issues. SCWA crews finally restarted the project in early April.

II. Administrative Activities

Lead Service Line Inventory

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper, which went into effect in 2021, required all public water systems to develop a lead service line (LSL) inventory identifying all materials used to construct or repair all service lines connected to a public water distribution system. SCWA met the October 2024 deadline for submission of the lead service line inventories and received acknowledgement of our submissions from CT DPH a week later. Over the past few weeks SCWA has received responses regarding DPH review of our inventory submissions for 9 of our 15 SCWA divisions. DPH requested more information for 6 of the inventories and approved 3 inventory submittals without any questions. SCWA provided the requested information on April 8, 2025.

III. Planning Activities

A. Exclusive Service Areas (ESA)- Town of Ledyard:

Over the past few months SCWA has participated in meetings at the Ledyard Town Hall to discuss possible modifications to the Exclusive Service Area (ESA) boundaries in Ledyard. Other attendees included the Mayor of Ledyard, Ledyard Town Planner, Ledyard WPCA, and Ledyard Zoning and Planning. Modifications to the current ESA boundaries will enable several proposed development projects in Ledyard to receive water from the closest available public water systems.

The proposed modifications to the ESA boundaries would transfer two large parcels in Gales Ferry and Ledyard Center to SCWA. Both parcels have planned 20-25 new housing developments, and both parcels are within 200-300 feet of SCWA water mains. The closest Ledyard WPCA water mains to each parcel are over 1200 feet away. In exchange SCWA would hand over several parcels in the Ledyard Center area that would be served by Ledyard WPCA water mains along Colonel Ledyard Highway. This includes a proposed apartment complex and several small commercial properties in Ledyard Center. Modifications to the Exclusive Service Area boundaries will need to be approved by the Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC).

B. Ongoing and Proposed New Developments

1) Millwood Development (Montville): Millwood is a 55 and over community which is part of the SCWA Hillcrest water system in Montville. To date 32 of the proposed 46 homes have been completed.

2) King's Highway Mobile Home Development (Ledyard): Currently five of the proposed ten mobile homes along King's Highway in Ledyard are on-site, and three are already occupied.

3) North Stonington: The same developer who built the mobile home park on King's Highway in Ledyard is planning a similar 15-unit mobile home park in North Stonington. The proposed site is approximately 600 feet north of the Bellissimo Hotel on the Norwich-Westerly Highway (Route 2). The developer plans to extend the SCWA water main which currently ends at the Bellissimo Hotel.

Another developer in North Stonington is planning to construct a 10-house subdivision, approximately another 1100 feet north along Route 2 from the proposed 15-unit mobile home park. That developer is only willing to extend the main if other property owners, the Town, or SCWA help financially. SCWA estimates a rough cost of \$120-150k to extend the line an additional 1100 feet beyond the proposed mobile home development.

C. Possible Grant for Montville Division

In January 2025, the SCWA General Manager attended a virtual meeting with State Senator Cathy Osten and Town of Montville Mayor Leonard Bunnell. The subject of the meeting was the number of service line leaks/repairs in the Montville Division. Mayor Bunnell's concern was that many of these service line repairs require digging up portions of the road, which the Town would like to pave soon. Senator Osten stated that she was interested in requesting a State Grant to replace all the service lines in this area.

At Senator Osten's request SCWA provided three estimates to her in February. The three estimates included costs for: (1) replacing just the 430 water service lines in Montville Manor, (2) replacing all 430 water service lines as well as all 26,000 feet of water mains within Montville Manor, (3) replacing all 430 water service lines and the water main along Connecticut Boulevard only, which is the main thoroughfare in Montville Manor, as well as the main artery for the water distribution system.

D. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for six PFAS in drinking water. The new regulations require all water systems to complete the initial monitoring requirements for each PFAS within 3 years, and when warranted, take steps to ensure compliance within 5 years. Currently there are several bills pending in the current Connecticut Legislative session that could affect PFAS allowable levels and sampling requirements. SCWA still plans to sample twice in 2025, in accordance with the new regulations.

E. Regional Considerations

1) Drought Update: In November 2024, Governor Lamont declared a Stage 2 drought advisory for all eight counties in Connecticut due to below normal precipitation levels and ongoing fire danger levels statewide. Last month the Drought Advisory was reduced to Stage 1.

2) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) and the Statewide WUCC both last met in November 2022.

3) Water Planning Council Advisory Group: The General Manager represents SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG), which meets monthly.

4) SCWA Interaction with the AWWA and CWWA: SCWA is a member of both the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA). The General Manager represents SCWA as a member of the CWWA Legislative Affairs Committee, which meets regularly while the Connecticut Legislature is in session.

Harry Watson, Chairman
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority