

April 19, 2018 Meeting

Representative Advisory Board of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

Montville Public Safety Building

The quarterly meeting of the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jackson. It was established there was a quorum of RAB members. Those members present were: Steven Coit and Jim Bonanno, **Bozrah**; Carol Russell, **East Lyme**; Thomas **Siedel**, Franklin; Martin Artale, Jr. Groton (City); Mary Lou Smith, Groton (Town); Anthony Siragusa, **Montville**, Barry Weiner, **New London**, Michael Macina, **North Stonington**; George Jackson, **Salem**; Jack Malone, **Sprague**, and **Michael Adair**, Stonington Borough.

SCWA members present were Chairman Edward Monohan, Paul Eccard, Peter Balestacci, Barbara Lee Franciosi, Nicholas Mullane and Claudia Koerting.

Chairman Jackson announced the opportunity for public comment before the RAB and there were none offered.

A motion was made by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Siragusa to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2018 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Report from the SWCA Chairman

Chairman Edward Monohan delivered the report from the SWCA. His entire report is printed at the back of the RAB minutes for review.

Chairman Monohan's report did generate some dialogue and questions and it centered on Miller's Pond (Sec III.A). Mr. Weiner asked if the authority had expended any money on the Miller's Pond issue to date. Mr. Eccard stated that the only funds expended were on the attorney to review the concept memo. Mr. Weiner recommended not spending any more money on this issue. There was some discussion regarding the dredging of the pond for gravel. Mr. Mullane stated he did not think there was a real market for the gravel at this time. Mr. Eccard said he was not in favor of spending money on the issue either, but he noted the SWCA's responsibility to conduct a thorough legal review of the MPLLLC's proposal.

Report from the Chairman

In his report to the group, Mr. Chairman Jackson took the opportunity to introduce himself to the group and to indicate his support for the continued professional execution of the RAB's responsibility to the SWCA.

Reports from the Committees

Mr. Macina, acting on behalf of Appointments Committee Chairman Callahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Smith, to elect Mr. Malone Secretary of the RAB. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports from RAB members

Ms. Russell informed the RAB that a federal lawsuit, initiated by various groups opposed to water fluoridation against the US Environmental Protection Agency, is now pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California at San Francisco. The plaintiffs are appealing the EPA denial of their petition, filed under Section 21 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), in which they sought to have the EPA ban the deliberate addition of fluoridation chemicals into drinking water, citing health concerns with an emphasis on potential neurotoxicity. If the plaintiff's federal appeal is successful, EPA could be ordered to grant the original petition and institute the ban. Ms. Russell provided a one-page timeline highlighting key dates and actions relevant to the pending case.

Ms. Russell then updated the RAB on new NIH supported research which may become relevant to the pending case. One recent (September 2017) study, funded by the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), raises concerns that prenatal fluoride exposures at relatively low levels may impact neurodevelopment. In a related, but separate research effort, the NIH National Toxicology Program (NTP) is conducting a comprehensive review of the available scientific literature regarding fluoride exposure in early life on brain and/or behavioral development. The NIH is also funding a study out of York University in Canada specific to assessing how/if low levels of fluoride exposure in early life may impact brain development. Both the NTP study and the York study are expected to be completed in 2018. Ms. Russell provided copies of two online news releases - one from NIEHS and one from York University - with more detailed information on the referenced studies.

Ms. Keorting ask the group which communities us fluoride. Ms. Franciosi indicated the SCWA does not use fluoride. Ms. Russell stated communities with over 20,000 water customers are required to add fluoride to drinking water.

Chairman Jackson encouraged Ms. Russell to take a legislative approach to her issue and he strongly suggested that is where the matter needs to be addressed.

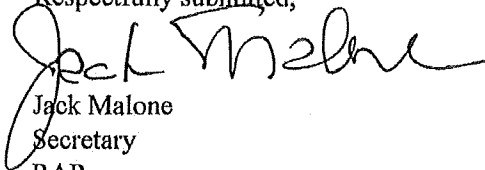
Mr. Weiner noted that this topic had been discussed many times at the RAB and it has been determined the RAB cannot take action on the issue so therefore the group was encouraged to move on.

A motion was made by Ms. Russell and seconded by Mr. Weiner to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. at the Waterford Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,


Jack Malone
Secretary
RAP