

**Minutes of the November 5, 2018 Water Authority Meeting
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT**

Present

Authority: Chairman Edward Monahan, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Barbara Lee Franciosi, Peter Balestracci, Nicholas Mullane and Claudia Koerting.

Authority Staff: General Manager Josh Cansler

Call to Order

Chairman Monahan called the meeting to order at 5:16 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 15, 2018 Water Authority Meeting, by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Correspondence – None

General Manager's Report

1. Tower Division - Well #3

SCWA continues to work with the State Department of Public Health for approval of a well to replace Well #3 at the Tower Division. In May it was discovered that the screen in the well had failed, and was full of sediment. LaFramboise Drilling and Welling and Lenard Engineering both agreed that because of the position of the well inside the pumphouse it would be very expensive to replace the well at its current location. They recommended replacing the well a few feet away, outside the pumphouse.

SCWA submitted an application to DPH for a replacement well a few feet from Well #3. In July DPH visited the Tower Division site and informed us that they could not support the proposed location near the old well, because of wetlands constraints. SCWA immediately submitted an application for an alternate well site, about 100 feet from the pumphouse. The alternate site meets the current wetlands requirements.

In August, Lori Mathieu, Chief of the DPH Drinking Water Section, visited the Tower Division site. She approved the proposed alternate well location 100 feet from the pumphouse, however, at the request of SCWA she stated she would reconsider approval of the original requested location, just outside the pumphouse. In late October, DPH informed SCWA that they could not support the location next to the pumphouse.

On October 25, 2018 SCWA met with Lenard Engineering to consider the following three options for replacing the capacity lost as a result of the loss of Well #3:

Option 1- Use the approved alternate location for a new well (Well #4), approximately 100 feet from the pumphouse.

Option 2- Replace Well #3 at its current location (currently inside the pumphouse).

Option 3-. Use the interconnection with Ledyard WPCA, and purchase wholesale water from Groton Utilities.

General Manager Cansler stated that after running a cost and feasibility analysis on all three options, SCWA determined that Option 1, using the alternate location, was the best course of action at this time, primarily based on cost. Option 2 would require replacing the pumphouse, which would cost roughly \$200,000 to \$300,000, including equipment and piping. Option 3 would not only require a new booster station to get the water to the top of the hill (roughly \$150,000 to \$200,000), but would also entail Groton Utilities selling water at a wholesale rate of less than \$1.30 per 1000 gallons.

Mr. Cansler said that SCWA has scheduled LaFramboise to drill a test well at the alternate location in mid-November. In the meantime, in conjunction with SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple, Mr. Cansler is continuing to work on easements required from the Town of Ledyard, and Avalonia Land Conservancy, for the approved alternate well site. The State requires a 200 foot buffer zone around all wells over a certain capacity. Mr. Cansler and Attorney Kepple met with Avalonia Conservancy in August.

2. Emergency Interconnections with Ledyard/Groton Utilities

In 2017 SCWA signed an agreement with Groton Utilities and Ledyard to install emergency water main interconnections between all five SCWA Ledyard divisions, and the Ledyard WPCA system. These projects are to be fully funded by Groton Utilities in conjunction with a \$15 million DPH DWSRF (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) funding package they received to assist with financing the upgrade of the Groton Water Purification Plant.

SCWA received a copy of the plans from Groton Utilities in July 2018, and met with DPH and Groton Utilities in August to discuss the review comments and construction schedule. Groton Utilities began construction the first week in October. They plan to complete the interconnections at Tower, Barrett, Ledyard, and Chriswood Divisions this year. They plan to complete the long interconnection between Ledyard and Gray Farms Division next spring. Mr. Cansler stated that Tower/Ferry View Division interconnection was completed in October, and that Groton Utilities was now working on the Barrett Division interconnection. He said that SCWA staff have been monitoring the interconnection construction on a daily basis.

3. Thames Aquatic Center –Ledyard

SCWA continues to work with the Town of Ledyard regarding support of the proposed Thames Aquatic Center project, as well as the proposed extension of Fairway Drive in Ledyard; both of which are in the SCWA Exclusive Service Area. Although SCWA proposed alternatives to provide water from our Ledyard Center system, DPH granted approval of a well for the Aquatic Center, with the stipulation that they connect to the water main on Fairway Drive extension once it is installed, and that the Aquatic Center use SCWA for all required testing and monitoring of the well. Sitework and excavation began earlier in summer, and in August the well was drilled.

On October 25, 2018 SCWA was copied on a letter from DPH to the Aquatic Center developers. The letter stated that DPH would not approve the well because it had insufficient supply to meet system demands. In their letter DPH recommended that the Aquatic Center connect to SCWA. General Manager Cansler stated that the developers for the Aquatic Center responded to DPH on October 29th stating that they are working with their well drilling company on possible solutions to their low yield issue. The developers also stated that they did not intend to connect to SCWA because we do not have any mains nearby. SCWA's nearest main is approximately 400 feet away, straight line distance.

DPH responded again on November 1st that, in their opinion, resolving the low yield issue would be difficult, and that reiterated their recommendation for the Aquatic Center to connect to the SCWA Ledyard system. The Aquatic Center developers responded that they intended to pursue the well.

Mr. Cansler stated that DPH had called him regarding the issue. Mr. Cansler told DPH that SCWA was ready to support the Aquatic Center, but that SCWA did not intend to interfere with the discussion between the Aquatic Center and DPH. Chairman Monahan stated that was probably the best policy for now.

4. Four-log Applications

General Manager Cansler stated that over the past few years several SCWA wells have tested positive for E-Coli during routine sampling. Although these samples are taken from the raw water before it is treated, EPA and DPH require repeat sampling with 24 hours, and a boil water public notification, unless the water utility has demonstrated what is known as 4-log (99.99%) treatment of potential contamination for each groundwater system.

Mr. Cansler said that to obtain a 4-log certification the utility must apply for a permit from DPH for each system. The 4-log application, which must be completed by a certified engineer, requires specific calculations demonstrating treatment technology that reliably achieves a 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation, or removal of bacteria. Once the 4-log permit has been received SCWA will not have to conduct a public notification for positive e-coli results for samples taken before treatment.

Only the divisions which use chlorine treatment are eligible for 4-log approval. Currently 11 of our 14 systems use chlorine treatment. Presently the North Stonington system does not use chlorine treatment, but based on the fact that e-coli has been discovered in the North Stonington wells in the past, SCWA would like to start chlorine treatment at that system as well.

SCWA requested a quote from Lenard Engineering to prepare all the calculations and documentation required for 4-log permits for all 12 eligible divisions. Lenard Engineering provided an estimate stating they could calculate all the 4-log removal requirements, and fill out the EPA and DPH documentation and applications, for \$600 per division, for a total of \$7,200. Mr. Cansler also mentioned that the 4-log certification would also reduce the number of samples required, thereby reducing sampling and testing costs.

Mr. Eccard made a motion for the Authority to authorize the General Manager to expend no more than \$10,000 to have Lenard Engineering perform all required calculations and documentation necessary to achieve 4-log certification on all SCWA systems that qualify. His motion, seconded by Mr. Mullane, was approved by a vote of 6-0. Mr. Cansler said that they would move forward immediately, starting with preparing for chlorine treatment of the North Stonington system.

5. Town of North Stonington School Upgrade Project

SCWA has been working with the engineers and contractors, as needed, on the project to renovate existing facilities, and construct some additions, to the Town of North Stonington Elementary School and Middle/High School. Over the past several months SCWA staff have been working closely with the construction contractor during the installation of the new water distribution system and fire suppression systems for the new additions to the schools. Mr. Cansler stated that the new mains at the school project have now been tested and are operational.

6. 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. They hired Attorney Stephanie Berry, of the law firm of Tang & Maravelis, in New London, to handle the case. Although Gladfelter, working with SCWA, has proposed settlements on two occasions, Raspberry Junction has not agreed to either proposal.

In January the Authority approved a motion to hire Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, a specialist in appellate law, to provide legal representation for SCWA, and assist Attorney Berry with preparation of the case vs Raspberry Junction. Mr. Cansler stated that the case is now scheduled to be heard in the State Supreme Court on November 13, 2018.

7. Future DWSRF Projects

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program provides low-interest loans, with the potential for up to 25% subsidization, for eligible projects in the form of principal forgiveness. SCWA had several projects that were eligible. In January General Manager Cansler submitted Part 1 of the required Financial Assistance Application for an Interconnection of Montville and Seven Oaks Divisions, and in June SCWA formally requested the project be included on FY19 DWSRF funding list. General Manager Cansler said that he was holding off on moving forward with this project until after they determined the costs involved with replacing Tower Division Well #3.

8. Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Audit

Sandra Welwood conducted her on-site audit visit on August 7, 2018. She had hoped to have the draft audit completed in time to present her Audit Review at this RAB meeting, however she did not receive information she needs from the State in time to complete audit. She will present the draft audit to the RAB Finance committee in December or January, prior to presentation at the January RAB.

9. Regional Considerations

a) State Water Plan: On June 14, 2018, Governor Malloy signed an executive order directing the state's Water Planning Council (WPC) to immediately implement the State Water Plan that was submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly in January 2018. The plan, which was ordered by the General Assembly through Public Act 14-163, was developed by the WPC to balance the needs of public water supply, economic development, recreation, and ecological health. The proposed State Water Plan still has to be approved by the State Legislature in 2019. It passed through this year's legislature cycle without being voted on.

b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The next meeting of the Eastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) will be on November 14, 2018 at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) office. This meeting is open to the public.

c) **SCWA Interaction with SCCOG:** SCWA and the SCCOG continue to interact cooperatively. To this end, Chairman Monahan often attends the regular monthly SCCOG meetings, and frequently the SCCOG Regional Water Committee meetings as well. The General Manager participates on the SCCOG Regional Water Committee's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS).

d) **SCWA Interaction with AWWA and CWWA:** The General Manager represents SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG), which meets monthly. Mr. Cansler is currently Chair of the WPCAG Nominating Committee, which prepares the annual membership slate for appointment/reappointment of members to the WPCAG.

Mr. Cansler is also a member of the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) Legislative Affairs Committee, which meets monthly between November and June.

10. Meetings

General Manager Cansler reviewed recent meetings he has attended since the last Authority meeting. He highlighted the Sanitary Survey inspection of the North Stonington System that was conducted by DPH on October 18, 2018.

Other Business – None

Report from Chairman - None

Report from Authority Members - None

Public Comment – None

Adjourn

On motion of Mr. Eccard, seconded by Ms. Franciosi, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:49 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on December 10, 2018, 5:15 pm at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler
Secretary

