

**Draft Minutes of the October 17, 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, 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 September 12, 2022, Authority Meeting, by a vote of 5-0.

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 November 10, 2022. He said RWA and SCWA are currently meeting bi-weekly to discuss start-up and implementation of the program for all SCWA customers. The next meeting was scheduled for later that week.

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 31st.

General Manager Cansler stated that the proposed water main connection route and grading design was completed by Lenard Engineering on August 31st. He said SCWA met with DPH to discuss project funding in July and again in September. DPH has indicated that 50% of the construction costs would be financed using funding from the Federal Infrastructure aid bill. The remainder of the project would be financed by a 25% grant and a 25% low interest loan through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Mr. Cansler stated that currently Lenard Engineering is working on the engineering design/specs, easement maps, and wetlands permits. This project will be presented to the Town of Montville Wetlands Commission at their November meeting. Lenard Engineering plans to complete engineering and approvals by the end of the year. 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

In April SCWA received the design, and specifications for the upgrade of the Ledyard Pump Station and the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard distribution system. This project includes installation of variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at both stations as well as elimination of the hydropneumatic pressure tanks at both stations. Elimination of the pressure tanks is a top priority of the State Department of Health (DPH). General Manager Cansler stated DPH approved this project in early July, and that he 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.

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 that after over 8 months waiting on parts SCWA finally has all the piping and valves on hand. He said the only hold-up now was getting a contractor to excavate the main.

d) 2022 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)

Based on the long-term capital financing plan approved in 2020, the 2021 BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) was rolled over into another BAN this year. This BAN will be rolled over the next two years before the BANs are rolled into a Bond which SCWA will begin to pay off. This will roughly align our payment schedule with the expiration of the 2007 Bond that SCWA is currently paying off, while enabling the Authority to do some small projects. SCWA did not add any new projects to this year's BAN, so the total issuance this year was \$285,000. General Manager Cansler stated that the bid opening for the BAN was on September 20th, and the closing was on October 13th.

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. For this reason, he and the Foreman decided a third well should be installed at Ledyard. He said the application for a new well was submitted to the Department of Public Health (DPH) on September 29th, 2022 and DPH conducted a site visit on October 13th.

4. Sanitary Surveys

Sanitary Surveys are conducted at each community public water system (PWS) by the DPH Drinking Water Section every 3 years, and at each non-community PWS every 5 years. A Sanitary Survey is an on-site inspection of the water sources, treatment, distribution system, finished water storage, pumping facilities and controls, monitoring and reporting data, system management and operation, and operator compliance with State requirements. Sanitary Surveys were conducted during the last week in May at the Montville, Seven Oaks, Chesterfield, and Hillcrest Divisions in Montville, and the Ledyard Center, and Tower/Ferry View Divisions, in Ledyard. SCWA received the results of the Sanitary Surveys on September 12th. General Manager Cansler stated there were no significant deficiencies, and all minor deficiencies have been repaired. Mr. Cansler said he submitted the required formal responses for the Sanitary Survey findings on September 26th.

5. Green Villages II (Salem)

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. This project was initially delayed because DPH rejected the Green Village II application for approval of the first two wells due to safe yield capacity, and concerns about the water quality. The developer installed a third well, which was approved in July. In late July SCWA met with the owner of Green Village to discuss the start-up and operation of the water system, and the first occupants moved in on August 1st. Mr. Cansler stated that for DPH to approve occupancy beyond 12 units requires approval of a Community Water System (CWS) by DPH. DPH is requiring two operational wells with a treatment system at Green Village II before they will approve the Village as a CWS.

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. The first thirteen homes have been sold, and several more homes are nearing completion.

7. 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. None of the samples analyzed in 2022 exceeded the MCL. In addition, Mr. Cansler said 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. Because DPH is short-staffed they asked if we would be willing to work with an EPA consultant (CADMUS) on approval of the report, which we are doing.

8. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Audit

Mr. Cansler said Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC conducted their annual audit visit of SCWA in mid-September. 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.

9. 2023 Authority Meeting Schedule

(Attachment – 2023 SCWA Meeting Schedule)

Mr. Cansler went over are the proposed Authority Board and Representative Advisory Board (RAB) meeting dates for 2023, which were attached to his report. Authority meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month, unless the Monday conflicts with a Federal or State holiday, which is the case every October. Mr. Cansler stated that the RAB schedule will remain the same; with quarterly meetings on the third Thursdays of January, April, July, and October. He added that the RAB would discuss and approve the dates of the RAB meetings at their next quarterly meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022.

Mr. Eccard made a motion to approve the Authority meeting dates as presented by the General Manager. His motion, seconded by Mr. Mullane, was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

10. 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).

11. Regional Considerations

a) Drought Update: On October 6th the State's Interagency Drought Workgroup reduced New London and Windham County to Drought Stage 2. This change brings all eight of Connecticut's counties to a Stage 2 drought level. 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): The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) last met on May 18, 2022. The Statewide WUCC last met on August 17th. 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.

Other Business – None

Report from Chairman

Chairman Monahan asked General Manager Cansler if he had heard anything about the email he sent to State Senator Osten in August regarding \$2M appropriated by the Connecticut General Assembly that was possibly intended for an upgrade of the Tower Division. Mr. Cansler said he had not. Chairman Monahan asked Mr. Cansler to reach out to Senator Osten's office regarding the appropriation.

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 November 14, 2022, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler
Secretary

ATTACHMENT



October 17, 2022

TO: Municipal Clerks of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Region

FROM: Secretary, Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2023

1. Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Meetings:

Notice is hereby given that the regularly scheduled meetings of the Authority will be held at 5:15 PM on the following dates:

January 9	July 10
February 13	August 14
March 13	September 11
April 10	October 16
May 8	November 13
June 12	December 11

Authority meetings are held at the SCWA office, which is located at 1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry Commons, Gales Ferry, CT. *(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic meetings are currently being held virtually using public meeting guidelines established by the State to limit the spread and impact of the virus. These guidelines may extend into 2023).*

2. SCWA Representative Advisory Board Meetings:

Regularly scheduled joint meetings of the SCWA Representative Advisory Board and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority will be held at 7:00 PM, at rotating locations, on the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 19	To be determined (TBD)
April 20	TBD
July 20	TBD
October 19	TBD

3. All meetings are open to the public.

Josh Cansler
Secretary