

**Draft Minutes of the March 13, 2023, Water Authority Meeting  
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority  
1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT**

*This meeting was held virtually per Public Act No. 22-3, which permanently established the requirements for virtual public meetings in Connecticut.*

**Present**

**Authority:** Chairman Edward Monahan, Vice-Chair Harry Watson, Claudia Koerting, Nick Mullane, and Alex Masse.

**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. Mullane, seconded by Mr. Watson, the Authority approved the minutes of the February 13, 2023 Authority Meeting, by a unanimous vote of all members present.

**Correspondence** – None

**General Manager's Report**

**1. Oakdale Heights Subdivision (Montville)**

Oakdale Heights is a 219-home subdivision in Montville that has been operating its own water system since the subdivision was developed in the mid-1960's. Due to the pending retirement of their certified operator, the Oakdale Heights subdivision Homeowners Association (HOA) has expressed interest in turning over full-time operation to another certified operator or utility. Their system consists of two fully operational pump houses, each with an atmospheric storage tank, and hydropneumatic pressure tank. There are 5 wells, and 2.5 miles of distribution main. At the December meeting the Authority requested the General Manager explore this opportunity further.

On December 22, 2022, General Manager Cansler and SCWA Foreman/Chief Certified Operator Brandon Belair conducted an on-site visit of the Oakdale Heights water system with Mr. Alan Macht, Chairman of the HOA water committee. After discussing the benefits and risks of taking over the Oakdale Heights water system at the January meeting, the Authority authorized the General Manager to open discussions with the Oakdale Heights HOA, and consult with our attorney regarding a legal agreement.

Mr. Cansler met with SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple in January and again in February to discuss preparation of a draft agreement with the Oakdale Heights HOA. He also reached out to the State DPH and DEEP regarding the Oakdale Heights water system. Mr. Cansler stated that he met again with Mr. Macht in mid-February and early-March. He said that although the Oakdale Heights HOA is interested in expediting the turnover of their system as soon as possible, he informed Mr. Macht that the process may take several months because a request for transfer has to be submitted, and approved, by the State. Mr. Cansler stated that they are currently working on the transfer request, which is quite lengthy.

## **2. Proposal from Regional Water Authority (RWA) to partner in Pipesafe Program**

In 2022 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 allows RWA to enroll SCWA customers in the PipeSafe program, and in exchange SCWA receives a percentage of the monthly fees charged our customers. General Manager Cansler stated that there are currently 30 SCWA customers enrolled in the Pipesafe Program.

## **3. Capital Projects Update**

### **a) Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project**

This project will complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. This past summer the owners of the property (100 Waterfall LLC) agreed to an easement for the proposed water main interconnection across their property. They plan on constructing a housing development on this property in the next few years. The proposed water main connection route and grading design was completed by Haley-Ward Engineering (formerly Lenard Engineering) in August.

General Manager Cansler stated that currently Haley-Ward Engineering is working on the engineering design/specs, easement maps, and wetlands permits. He said that in February he and Haley-Ward made a presentation to the Town of Montville Wetlands Commission, and requested a wetlands permit. Mr. Cansler stated that SCWA hopes to receive project approval from DPH in the late spring and award the project this 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. Based on long-lead times for delivery, and escalating prices for the VFDs, SCWA plans to install the pumps using in-house labor, with the assistance of a certified plumber and electrician. General Manager Cansler stated that unfortunately, because the Tower Division water main replacement project cost significantly more than estimated, SCWA will have to delay this project a few months, until more Capital Funds are available.

### **c). Proposed New Well at Ledyard Division**

At the September meeting the Authority authorized the General Manager to contract with Haley-Ward/Lenard Engineering to complete survey, engineering/design, wetlands reviews, permit applications, and field inspections for a new well at the Ledyard Division. A new well is needed because the Ledyard pump station is averaging between 30 to 40 thousand gallons/day, which is the maximum yield of the two existing wells at Ledyard Division. DPH approved the new well in November. SCWA is now working with legal counsel to obtain an easement because the State requires that SCWA control a 150-foot radius around each well.

### **d). Funding for Tower Division Upgrades**

Last month, General Cansler said he learned that a bill directly impacting SCWA was proposed by Senator Osten and State Representative Kevin Ryan during the current legislative session. Bill 364, titled "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Projects of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority", would allow the state to issue bonds up to \$3 million for the upgrade of a pump station, addition of a storage tank, and the extension of an emergency interconnection in the Town of Ledyard. He said this bill is still with the Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

#### **4. Lead Service Line Inventory**

General Manager Cansler stated that the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, which went into effect in late 2021, requires all public water systems to develop a lead service line (LSL) inventory that identifies all materials used to construct or repair all service lines connected to a public water distribution system. Last fall the EPA released their guidance for developing the LSL inventory. He said this LSL inventory must be completed and submitted by October 16, 2024. The inventory must include the address of every service line, date of installation, type of material used, size of the service line, building type served by the line, information regarding interior plumbing, any information regarding maintenance of the service line, and date of maintenance or repairs on the line. A unique service line identification number must be developed for each service line. Mr. Cansler stated in early March he and SCWA staff met with Jim Ericson of Haley-Ward/Lenard Engineering to discuss possible engineering support for completion of this inventory.

#### **5. 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 said that currently there are 18 units occupied.

#### **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 fourteen homes have been sold, and several more homes are nearing completion.

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

General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA continues to monitor new guidelines and regulations pertaining to PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). He said that the EPA had been expected to make an announcement by March 3, 2023 about new rules regarding PFAS and PFAS removal, but that has not happened yet. At the State level the Legislature has proposed a bond package that includes \$2 million to provide grants to municipalities to provide potable water, assessment, and remedial action to address PFAS. Another measure before the Environment Committee, SB-100, would provide \$25 million. 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.

#### **8. Mystic Village Apartments - Dieldrin**

Mystic Village Apartments (MVA) are one of SCWA's Contract Operations, which are water systems not owned by SCWA. For these systems the owners are responsible for all maintenance, upgrade costs, and sampling fees, and SCWA is paid to serve as their certified operator. Recently the chemical Dieldrin, which was used to treat termites until the 80s, was detected in the water samples taken at MVA. The property owner of MVA hired a company to install a treatment system for Dieldrin; however the project stalled when SCWA informed them that a project application form requesting a change in the treatment must be submitted to DPH. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA submitted the required General Application form on behalf of the owners on March 1, 2023.

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

General Manager Cansler stated that in October 2022 SCWA submitted an optimal corrosion control treatment (OCCT) report to DPH for a copper exceedance that occurred in 2021 when 4 of 35 samples analyzed from the Tower-Ferry View Division exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Although none of the samples analyzed in 2022 exceeded the MCL, SCWA was required to prepare an 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 said in February DPH responded by requesting SCWA take samples at the source to better determine the level of lead in the raw water, which will affect the type of treatment. He said SCWA is in the process of collecting the source water samples for laboratory analysis, which have to be collected twice, several weeks apart.

### **10. Regional Considerations**

#### **a) FY 2024 State Legislative Cycle- Potential Bills Impacting SCWA and/or other Water Utilities:**

General Manager Cansler stated that there are several proposed bills under consideration by the State Legislature that could impact water utilities if passed. He addressed the following bills:

**HB-5163 – An Act Concerning the Adjudication of Disputes Between Municipalities and Certain Municipal Waterworks Systems.** This bill would give the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) responsibility for overseeing and adjudicating any dispute that arises between a municipality and a municipal waterworks system owned or operated by a neighboring municipality. This bill was proposed by Rep. Kathleen McCarthy (Waterford/Montville), at the request of the Schacht Family (Miller’s Pond).

**HB-6852- An Act Concerning the Affordability of Utilities** – Includes provisions requiring the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to consider discount rates for low-income customers of gas and private water companies. Status: Awaiting a public hearing before the Energy & Technology Committee.

**b) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC):** The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) and the Statewide WUCC both last met on November 16, 2022. 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** – None

**Report from Authority Members** – None

**Public Comment** – None

**Adjourn**

On motion of Mr. Mullane, seconded by Mr. Watson, the Authority voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:46 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on April 10, 2023, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler  
Secretary