

MINUTES

**Joint Meeting of the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut
Water Authority and the and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Electronic Virtual Meeting held via Zoom on
April 20, 2023**

The 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 7:01 pm by Advisory Board Vice-Chairman Mike Cherry; in the absence of Chairman Barry Weiner. It was determined by SCWA General Manager and Acting RAB Secretary, Josh Cansler, that the number of members present did not constitute a quorum.

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Vice-Chair Mike Cherry, Ledyard; Martin Artale and George Scully, City of Groton; Mary Lou Smith, Town of Groton; Anthony Siragusa, Montville; Mike Macina, North Stonington; and Leslie Hotary, Salem.

SWCA Board members in attendance were: Authority Chairman Edward Monahan, Vice-Chair Harry Watson, Alexander Masse, and Nicolas Mullane.

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

Since there was not a quorum present, approval of the prior meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

SCWA Authority Chairman Monahan gave his report (Attachment 1) to the RAB. The first item on his report was "Operational Activities", which included updates on the annexation of the Oakdale Heights subdivision in Montville, the proposed project to interconnect the Montville Division and Seven Oaks Division; the project to upgrade the Spicer Hill Booster Station; and the planned installation of a new well at the SCWA Ledyard Division. Regarding the annexation of the Oakdale Heights water system, General Manager Cansler stated the two attorneys for SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Homeowners Association were working jointly on an agreement. He added that the transfer of the water system will require approval by the State Department of Health Drinking Water Section.

Under the Administrative section of his report Chairman Monahan gave an update on the partnership with the South-Central Water Authority in their PipeSafe Program, and presented information about the Lead Service Line Inventory that must be completed by all utilities nationwide by October 2024. His report mentioned that the inventory must include detailed information about every service line in the country that is serviced by a private or public utility.

SCWA RAB Joint Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

Page Two

Addressing SCWA Planning Activities, Chairman Monahan discussed recent Federal and State proposed regulations and legislation regarding contaminants related to PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl) chemicals. Ms. Hotary asked if there was any legislation regarding PFAS testing of private wells. General Manager Cansler stated that current pending regulations and legislation only applied to wells operated by utilities.

Also in his Chairman's report, Dr. Monahan noted that SCWA continues its participation with the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC), the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), the Water Planning Council (WPC), and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA).

Vice-Chairman Cherry indicated there would be no report from his station at this meeting.

General Manager Cansler stated that Jeff Callahan from Stonington was moving away and that his positions on both the RAB Nominating Committee and the Appointments Committee would need to be backfilled.

There was no report from the Appointments Committee. Mr. Cansler reminded the RAB that the Authority still had one vacancy.

Under New Business Mr. Mike Macina brought up the number of vacancies on the RAB, and there was a discussion on how best to fill the numerous vacancies. The RAB acknowledged this was a growing problem that needed to be addressed.

A motion was made by Ms. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Macina, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2023, at 7:00 pm, with location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Cansler
SCWA General Manager/RAB Acting-Secretary

Attachment 1 to Minutes of the April 20, 2023 RAB Meeting:

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Chairman's Report to the Representative Advisory Board April 20, 2023

I. Operational Activities

A. 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. Last December the Oakdale Heights Homeowners Association (HOA) expressed interest in turning over full-time operation to SCWA. Their system consists of two fully operational pump houses, five wells, and 2.5 miles of distribution main. 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.

General Manager Cansler met with SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple and representatives of the Oakdale Heights HOA several times over the past few months to resolve the proposed terms of the turnover and formalize an agreement. A formal letter of intent stating the proposed terms of an agreement was sent to the Oakdale Heights attorney on April 12, 2023. In addition, SCWA has reached out to the State DPH and DEEP regarding the Oakdale Heights water system. The agreement will have to be approved by the Authority, and submitted with a Request for Transfer Application to the State.

B. 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 starting next year. In February the SCWA General Manager and Haley-Ward Engineering (formerly Lenard Engineering) made a presentation to the Town of Montville Wetlands Commission, and requested a wetlands permit, which was approved in late March. The Pre-bid Construction Package, which includes the initial plans and specifications, was submitted to the State Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) on March 29, 2023. SCWA hopes to receive project approval from DPH in the late spring and award the project this summer.

C. 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. Unfortunately, because the recently completed 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.

D. Proposed New Well at Ledyard Division

During the drought last summer SCWA realized an additional well is needed at the Ledyard pump station because the peak summer usage was near the capacity of the existing wells. 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. The easement is taking longer than anticipated because of a recent change in ownership of the property next to the Ledyard pump station.

II. Administrative Activities

A. Partnership with Regional Water Authority (RWA) 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. There are currently 39 SCWA customers enrolled in the Pipesafe Program.

B. Lead Service Line Inventory

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper, which went into effect in 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. Although this LSL inventory is not due until October 2024 SCWA has already started work on the inventory due to the magnitude of information required to complete this requirement. The inventory must include the address of every service line, building type, date of construction, type and size of the service line material installed, information regarding interior plumbing, and dates of maintenance or repairs on each line. SCWA is still trying to determine if an outside consultant will be required to assist with completion of the inventory.

III. Planning Activities

A. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

(Attachment: DPH DWS Circular Letter 2023-12; dated March 15, 2023; EPA Draft Rule for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)).

On March 14, 2023 the EPA announced their draft regulations regarding PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances), which included draft maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for 6 different PFAS in drinking water. The release of the draft PFAS regulations initiated a 60-day review and comment period. Last June the CT DPH issued action levels for four of the PFAS that are included in the EPA draft standards. A comparison of the proposed EPA PFAS MCLs versus the CT DPH PFAS action levels are discussed in the attached DPH letter (DWS Circular Letter #2023-12), dated March 15, 2023. There are currently two bills under consideration by the Connecticut State Legislature that will provide grants to municipalities and utilities to provide potable water, assessment, and remedial action to address PFAS.

B. Regional Considerations

1) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) and the Statewide WUCC both last met on November 16, 2022.

2) SCWA Interaction with the WPC and CWWA: The General Manager is a member of the CT Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG), which meets monthly. He also represents SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) Legislative Affairs Committee.

Edward C. Monahan, Chairman
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority