

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

Present

Authority: Vice-Chairman Harry Watson, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Barbara Lee Franciosi, Peter Balestracci, Nicholas Mullane and Claudia Koerting.

Authority Staff: General Manager Josh Cansler

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Watson 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 January 22, 2018 Special Water Authority Meeting, by a vote of 6-0.

Correspondence – None

General Manager's Report

1. Claim by Raspberry Junction Holding, LLC vs SCWA

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.

Based on a recommendation of SCWA Attorney Kepple, the Authority approved a motion at the January 22, 2018 Special Meeting 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. General Manager Cansler stated that Attorney Kepple had contacted Attorney Langhammer regarding SCWA's desire to retain his services.

2. Update on Miller's Pond

In August Mr. Rob Schacht, who represents the family that owns Miller's Pond, presented a memo which included ideas and concepts for SCWA to assist the Miller's Pond L.L.C. (MPLLC) to move forward with the excavation permitting process, and operation of Miller's Pond as a regional wholesale water supply. Mr. Eccard, Chairman of the SCWA Miller's Pond committee, presented this memo to the Authority at the August meeting. At the August meeting the Authority voted to have legal counsel review the concept memo prepared by the Schacht's, before making any decisions regarding possible future coordination with MPLLC

At the January meeting the Authority approved a motion to retain the legal services of Attorney Catherine Marrion, from the firm Waller, Smith & Palmer in New London, to review the MPLLC concept memo, and evaluate all options available to SCWA regarding this issue. Once the legal review has been completed, and potential courses of action are developed, the SCWA Miller's Pond Committee will meet with Attorney Marion to discuss the best direction going forward.

Mr. Eccard stated that he talked to Rob Schacht recently, and had informed him that SCWA hired legal counsel to conduct the legal review. Mr. Schacht mentioned that MPLLC was using Attorney Rich Cody.

3. Future DWSRF Projects

In December 2017 DPH informed SCWA that several proposed SCWA projects were eligible for funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). This program provides low-interest loans, with the potential for up to 25% subsidization, for eligible projects in the form of principal forgiveness. To continue with the process DPH required completion of their Financial Assistance Application (Part 1), which includes preliminary details of the project to include: preliminary engineering report (PER), information needed for DPH's environmental assessment, professional services documentation (engineering), financial information to qualify for a DWSRF loan and plans and specifications/ construction contract bidding documentation (for construction phase funding).

General Manager Cansler, with the assistance of Lenard Engineering, completed all of the required financial assistance packets for two projects; Replacement of Tower Division Pump Station, and Interconnection of Montville and Seven Oaks Divisions. Mr. Cansler said that he had submitted the required documents prior to the January 31st deadline.

4. DWSRF Emergency Generator Program

Through the DPH Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program, SCWA received approval for three emergency generator projects. This program provided a 45% grant for a new generator at the Tower-Ferry View pump station, and a 25% grant for replacement of the old generators at the Montville, and Chesterfield pump stations. These generator projects were awarded to two separate contractors in June 2017, following a public bidding process. All three projects were completed by early January 2018.

General Manager Cansler said that SCWA and the contractors are currently in the process of submitting all payment requests, and completing project completion forms and certification letters required by the State to close out these projects.

5. Emergency Interconnections with Ledyard/Groton Utilities

In October 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 will 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. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA is working with Groton Utilities on the design and engineering of the emergency interconnections, which is expected to be completed later this summer. Groton Utilities hopes to start installation of some of the interconnections later this year.

6. Extension of Services on Fairway Drive/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.

Last month Mr. Cansler reached out to the Ledyard Town Planner regarding the status of this project, and was informed that this project was still a go. Chairman Monahan also discussed the project status with the chairs of the Ledyard WPCA and the Planning and Zoning Commission. To their knowledge, the Aquatic Center project was still moving forward; though they were unsure of the funding status and current projected timeline.

7. Town of North Stonington - New Center for Emergency Services/Water Main Extension

The Town of North Stonington is constructing a new Center for Emergency Services, which also involved extending the North Stonington water distribution system 1500 feet. The water main extension is now complete. SCWA continues to work with the construction contractors on the new Emergency Services Center water system, as needed. Mr. Mullane said that the project was currently about three weeks behind due to the extreme cold weather early this winter.

8. Town of North Stonington School Upgrade Project

SCWA has been working with the Design/Engineer Firm, as needed, to assist with the initial engineering and design of a project to renovate existing facilities, and construct some additions, to the Town of North Stonington Elementary School and Middle/High School. General Manager Cansler asked about the recent Town referendum on the project. Mr. Mullane stated that the referendum supporting the school project had passed by a 2 to 1 margin.

9. Regional Considerations

a) State Water Plan and Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCC):

The State of Connecticut is currently in the process of approving a State Water Plan for the management of water resources within the state. In conjunction with State Water Plan, DPH has coordinated the activities of the three Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCCs). The Eastern Connecticut WUCC member meetings are held at 1 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month, at either the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) offices in Norwich, or the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) offices in Killingly. These meetings are open to the public.

b) SCWA interaction with the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG). Chairman Monahan periodically attends the regular monthly SCCOG meetings.

c) SCCOG Regional Water Committee’s Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS). SCWA staff participate on the SCCOG Regional Water Committee’s Technical Advisory Subcommittee.

d) General Manager Cansler continues to represent SCWA as a member of the Connecticut Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG), which meets monthly; and as a member of the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) Legislative Affairs Committee, which meets monthly between November and June.

10. RAB Chairman and Authority Member Recognition

(Attachment #1: Letter of Recognition for Dennison Allen)

At the January meeting, the Authority approved a motion for SCWA to recognize outgoing Authority member Michael O'Conner with a plaque for his two terms of service as an Authority member, and a Letter of Appreciation for Dennison Allen, thanking him for his service as Chairman of the Representative Advisory Board for the past 4 years.

General Manager Cansler collected signatures for the Denison Letter of Recognition, which he said would be mailed out later that day. He also presented quotes for plaques. He said a plaque with the SCWA logo and an engraved brass plate would cost about \$75. A wood plaque with the logo and words laser engraved would cost about \$65. After some discussion the Authority agreed to go with the wooden plaque with a brass plate.

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 5:35 p.m.

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

Joseph C. Cansler
Secretary