

**Draft Minutes of the July 10, 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, Treasurer Paul Eccard, 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. Eccard, seconded by Mr. Mullane, the Authority approved the minutes of the June 12, 2023, Authority Meeting, by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Correspondence - None

General Manager's Report

1. July RAB Meeting/Public Hearing

At the June 12, 2023 meeting the Authority approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget. The Authority also approved a motion that the Authority notify the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) of its intention to increase water usage rates during FY 2024, and request a public hearing prior to the July RAB meeting. General Manager Cansler noted that the next RAB meeting is scheduled to be held on July 20, 2023, at 7 pm.

2. 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.

After multiple meetings between SCWA, SCWA legal counsel, and the Oakdale Heights HOA and their attorney, an agreement was finalized in May 2023. At the June meeting the Authority authorized the Chairman to sign the agreement, which he did on July 5th. General Manager Cansler stated that once the agreement is signed by the Oakdale Heights HOA he will submit it with a Request for Transfer Application to the State. Mr. Cansler said he has already reached out to the State DPH and DEEP regarding SCWA takeover of the Oakdale Heights water system, and he does not anticipate any issues.

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 starting next year.

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) in March 2023. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA still hopes to receive project approval from DPH in the late spring and award the project this summer, but if the approval process takes much longer than the project may be pushed back into early next year.

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. General Manager Cansler stated that 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.

c). 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. General Manager Cansler stated that SCWA is still working with legal counsel to obtain an easement because the State requires that SCWA control a 150-foot radius around each well. He said the easement is taking longer than anticipated because of a recent change in ownership of the property next to the Ledyard pump station.

4. 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. This LSL inventory must be completed and submitted by October 16, 2024. General Manager Cansler stated that the SCWA staff are currently researching and inputting data in the spreadsheet. He added that DPH had promised the final template in May, but that it has not been released yet.

5. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

(Attachment: DPH DWS Circular Letter 2023-23; dated June 28, 2023; Updated drinking water information regarding 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 review and comment period for these draft PFAS regulations ended May 30, 2023. In June DPH sent out a letter (attached) establishing action levels for additional PFAS substances.

During the 2023 Connecticut Legislative Session the House and the Senate passed a bill that will establish an account in the general fund to provide grants to municipalities to test for and remediate PFAS contamination on town-owned properties, and to assist residential homeowners impacted by such contamination.

General Manager Cansler said that on June 14, 2023 he attended an all-day seminar hosted by the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) to discuss “Challenges facing Water Utilities in CT”. The bulk of the discussion was centered around PFAS testing, treatment, and costs.

6. 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. Currently there are 36 units occupied.

7. 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 fifteen homes have been sold, and several more homes are nearing completion.

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.

General Manager Cansler stated that to help expedite the project he submitted a General Application to DPH requesting a change in the treatment process on behalf of the owners on March 1, 2023. After DPH requested more information and a design for the treatment system the original contractor quit the project, so the MVA owners hired another contractor. Mr. Cansler said he resubmitted the General Application form to DPH on May 12, 2023, and after responding to several questions and requests for information from DPH over the past two months, he had received a message today stating that DPH intended to reject the treatment project application because the system was unproven for treatment of dieldrin specifically.

Mr. Cansler stated that he was concerned the owners were going to get frustrated and decide not to move forward with installing a treatment system for the dieldrin. He said that since dieldrin is considered an emerging contaminate, without approved MCLs (maximum contaminate levels), he wasn’t sure how the State DPH would react. He added that since we were only the certified operators, and the owners would be responsible for any potential penalties and/or fines.

9. Consumer Confidence Reports

In June, SCWA distributed Consumer Confidence Reports, also referred to as “Annual Water Quality Reports”, to each of our approximately 2800 customers. Because of the nature of SCWA’s water service operations, sixteen separate reports were prepared and distributed. These reports were researched, written, and copied completely in-house. As in the past, processing the reports for mailing, via the U.S. Postal service, was carried out by Viability, Inc., SCWA’s co-tenant at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry. These CCRs are also posted on SCWA’s website.

10. Regional Considerations

a) Drought Update: As of July 1, Southeastern Connecticut is listed on the U.S. Drought Monitor, and by the State’s Interagency Drought Workgroup, as “Abnormally Dry”, which is the lowest drought level.

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. The next meeting of the Eastern WUCC is scheduled for July 19, 2023, at the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SCCOG) office in Norwich.

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

General Manager Cansler stated that Paul Sipuleski, one of SCWA’s four certified operators, had requested to retire in late July. Mr. Cansler said that after some discussion with the Foreman they planned to experiment with only a three-person field crew for several months. If the workload was too much, they would go back to a four-person field crew. He said that it was very unlikely SCWA would be able to hire an experienced and/or licensed operator, so if they decide to go back to a four-person crew SCWA would probably have to hire a laborer and train them to be an operator. An unlicensed operator can take the certification exams after one year of experience in a water utility.

Report from Chairman – None

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 5:33 p.m. It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on August 14, 2023, at 5:15 pm, either virtually, or at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Josh Cansler
Secretary

ATTACHMENT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

EHDW Circular Letter #2023-23

To: All Public Water Systems, Chief Elected Officials, and Certified Operators

From: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief *Lori J. Mathieu*

Date: June 28, 2023

Subject: Updated drinking water information regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

On May 31, 2023, the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) issued drinking water Action Levels for six Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS):

CASRN Number	Analyte	CT Drinking Water Action Level (nanograms per liter, ng/l)
375-73-5	Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	760
375-22-4	Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	1,800
307-24-4	Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	240
13252-13-6	hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HPFO DA; GenX)	19
756426-58-1	6:2 chloropolyfluoroether sulfonic acid (6:2 Cl-PFESA, 9Cl-PF3ONS*, F-53B major)	2
763051-92-9	8:2 chloropolyfluoroether sulfonic acid (8:2 Cl-PFESA, 11Cl-PF3OUdS**, F-53B minor)	5

*EPA Methods 533 & 537.1 use 9Cl-PF3ONS (9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid) for this PFAS.

**EPA Methods 533 & 537.1 use 11Cl-PF3OUdS (11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid) for this PFAS.

These Action Levels are based on a review of the current and rapidly evolving science. They are driven by the most sensitive, human-relevant effects observed in laboratory animals and technical feasibility. DPH's Action Levels are also within the range and same magnitude as other federal and state agencies with enforceable standards (MCLs) and guidelines.



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These six PFAS were evaluated in response to a request from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

DPH is renewing the recommendation to all community and non-transient non-community public water systems to test the water delivered to their customers for PFAS. DPH requests that Public Water Systems' contract laboratories report results for each of the analytes using the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal with the analyte codes found in the following table:

Analyte	Acronym	Reporting Code
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid	PFBS	2801
Perfluorobutanoic acid	PFBA	2819
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	2809
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HPFO DA; GenX	2816
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid	9Cl-PF3ONS; 6:2 Cl-PFESA; F-53B major	2814
11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	11Cl-PF3OUdS; 8:2 Cl-PFESA; F-53B minor	2813

Detectable results should also be reported directly via email to DPH.EmergingContaminants@ct.gov or via telephone call to 860-509-7356. DPH expects Public Water Systems with detectable levels of PFAS in the water distributed to their customers to take steps to assess the level, scope, and localized source of contamination, inform their customers, and take steps to limit exposure. DPH is available to provide guidance to Public Water Systems that find PFAS in their drinking water supplies.

This effort to issue new PFAS drinking water Action Levels aligns with the recommendation in the CT Interagency PFAS Task Force [PFAS Action Plan](#) that DPH will continue to monitor new research and modify PFAS health-based guidelines as warranted.

You can find out more about PFAS and Connecticut's Action Levels for six individual PFAS on the [DPH website](#). If you have any questions regarding this Circular Letter, please contact Pat Bisacky at 860-509-7356 or email the Emerging Contaminants Unit at DPH.EmergingContaminants@ct.gov.

C: Lisa Morrissey, MPH, Deputy Commissioner
Local Directors of Health
Executive Directors of the Councils of Governments
Jane Downing, USEPA Region 1
Margaret Harvey, Ryan Tetreault, DPH
Graham Stevens, Raymond Frigon, Meghan Lally, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
John W. Betkoski, III, CTDEEP Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Chairman Water Planning Council