

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

Present

Authority: Chairman Edward Monahan, 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

Chairman Monahan called the meeting to order at 5:16 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 February 12, 2018 Water Authority Meeting, by a vote of 6-0, with one abstention (Chairman Monahan).

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.

In January the Authority approved a motion 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 said that Attorney Langhammer is currently working with Attorney Berry on the case. Mr. Cansler said that Attorney Berry's office had requested Dr. Monahan sign an affidavit regarding information to supplement their brief. Chairman Monahan signed the affidavit on March 12, 2018, in the presence of a Notary, Ms. Franciosi.

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.

General Manager Cansler stated that he had met with Attorney Marrion the previous week, and that she had provided a very detailed list of issues that should be addressed regarding the concept memo and the joint venture proposal. He said the SCWA Miller's Pond Committee intended to meet with Attorney Marrion the following week to discuss her list of issues. Mr. Cansler highlighted some of the potential issues with the rest of the Authority. Chairman Monahan mentioned that regulations have become stricter regarding reservoirs and quarry operations the past few years. Mr. Eccard mentioned the Town of Waterford shares many of the same concerns regarding potential development of Miller's Pond.

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. General Manager Cansler stated that he had submitted Part 1 of the required Financial Assistance Application for two projects; Replacement of Tower Division Pump Station, and Interconnection of Montville and Seven Oaks Divisions.

This submittal included preliminary details of the project to include: preliminary engineering report, information needed for DPH's environmental assessment, professional services documentation (engineering), and financial information to qualify for a DWSRF loan and plans and specifications/ construction contract bidding documentation (for construction phase funding). Mr. Cansler stated that he has not heard back from the State regarding his Part 1 submittal.

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 three generator projects were completed in early January, and as of February, all required certifications, documentation, and contractor pay requests to close out these projects had been submitted to the State. General Manager Cansler mentioned that the new generator at Chesterfield had failed during the recent power outages in Montville during the March 7th nor'easter. He said the contractor had coordinated for the technical support from the generator manufacturer, which had occurred the same day.

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.

In January both Chairman Monahan and General Manager Cansler reached out to various staff at the Town of Ledyard. To their knowledge, the Aquatic Center project was still moving forward; though they were unsure of the funding status and current projected timeline. Mr. Cansler stated that he had received a copy of the reissued approval for the well from DPH. The reissued approval is valid until September 2, 2018.

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.

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 said that one of the sub-contractors had contacted SCWA regarding hook-up of new water lines at the school to our system. Mr. Mullane said that he would contact someone at the Town Hall regarding their plans for a possible system shutdown of the water system for this project.

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

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. At the January meeting the Authority agreed to purchase a 7" x 9" wooden plaque with the SCWA logo and a brass plate. Mr. Cansler showed the Authority a paper mock-up of the plaque. He also stated that the signed Letter of Appreciation was mailed to Mr. Allen on February 13, 2018.

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 5:36 p.m.

It was noted the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on April 9, 2018, 5:15 p.m. at 1649 Rt. 12, Gales Ferry, CT.

Joseph C. Cansler
Secretary