

**Draft Minutes of the September 9, 2024, 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: Vice-Chair Alex Masse, Treasurer Paul Eccard, Nicholas Mullane, and Claudia Koerting.

Authority Staff: General Manager Josh Cansler

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Masse 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 August 12, 2024, Authority Meeting by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Correspondence - None

(Attachment 1: Notice to SCWA Customers in Cedar Ridge Village in North Stonington)

General Manager Cansler stated that the previous week the pressure tank at Cedar Ridge had started leaking. He said replacement of this pressure tank with variable speed drive (VFD) pumps has been on the SCWA Capital Projects list for the past few years but had not been scheduled yet due to other higher priority projects. As a result of the leak, however, the upgrade of the system became the top priority. Mr. Cansler stated that SCWA crews planned to install the VFD pumps on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Rather than shut the system completely down for the entire day to install the pumps SCWA has hired a water tanker truck which will tie into a nearby hydrant. Mr. Cansler said the water will be pumped into the system using the mobile pump trailer that SCWA built several years ago. Because the tanker truck does not have the capacity to deliver the same volume of water into the system as is used on an average day in Cedar Ridge, SCWA mailed out a notice asking all customers to minimize their water usage on Wednesday, September 11th.

General Manager's Report

1. Oakdale Heights Subdivision (Montville)

In July 2023 SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Association, which represents the 219-home Oakdale Heights subdivision in Montville, signed a formal agreement for SCWA to take over ownership and operation of the Oakdale Heights water system. This agreement was submitted along with a formal Request for Transfer of Water Lands Application to the State Department of Public Health (DPH) in August 2023.

In February 2024 DPH informed SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Association that the transfer is subject to the consent of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), and in May PURA assigned a Docket Number (24-05-10). In June SCWA received an "Order" from PURA stating a joint letter from SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Association must be filed with PURA.

SCWA prepared a joint letter with the requested information, which was signed by both parties, and electronically filed through the PURA web portal as required. In late July PURA issued a Notice of Proceeding regarding the assigned docket proceeding. In addition to designating hearing officers, the Notice of Proceeding stated that a copy of the Notice must be provided to every person served by the public water system, which was completed via mail by SCWA the last week in July.

General Manager Cansler stated that on August 10, 2024, SCWA and the Oakdale Heights Association received a letter from PURA with 62 Interrogatory questions. The letter stated that each interrogatory response had to be filed separately by August 26th. He added much of the information requested in the interrogatories was provided in the documentation already filed, while some of the rest of the requested information is probably no longer available.

Mr. Cansler stated that on August 23rd he met with SCWA Attorney Nick Kepple, the Oakdale Heights Association President, and their attorney, to discuss the interrogatories. He said all parties agreed that based on the number and complexity of the questions an extension of 30 days should be requested. Mr. Cansler said the two attorneys submitted a joint request; however, PURA only granted a two-week extension. He said he completed all the interrogatory responses requested of SCWA, sent them to Attorney Kepple for review, and filed our responses electronically, as required, prior to the deadline.

2. Capital Projects Update

a) Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project

This project will complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. After a public bid process, the Authority approved a motion to award a contract for this project to Richards Corporation, pending approval by the State DPH DWSRF. In May the Authority approved Resolution 2024-1 authorizing the grant/loan agreement with the State for up to \$1.2 million, and in August the Authority approved an amendment to the resolution authorizing an additional \$100,000 to cover the required 5% contingencies.

General Manager Cansler stated that in late July SCWA received the Authorization to Award the Construction Contract from the DPH DWSRF office, and in August SCWA awarded a contract to Richards Corporation. He said a preconstruction meeting was held at the SCWA offices on September 4, 2024. A Notice to Proceed will be sent once SCWA receives the funds from the State Treasurer's office. Mr. Cansler also mentioned an article that appeared in *The Day* newspaper about the project. He said the article included quotes from State Senators Osten and Marx, but he was never interviewed for the article.

b) Grant-in-Aid for Upgrades at the SCWA Tower Pump Station (Ledyard)

Last year the State approved a grant-in-aid for the Tower Division to upgrade the pump station, add storage tanks, and upgrade security. This grant also includes an extension of the emergency connection up Christy Hill Road. The total amount allocated is \$3 million. General Manager Cansler stated that he has attended several meetings with the State Department of Health (DPH) over the past few months to discuss the requirements, schedule, and submitted a formal Bond Fund Application package application for the grant-in-aid funding. Mr. Cansler stated that during the August meeting the Grant Office indicated that there is a good chance that SCWA would receive authorization to start engineering/design for the project this fall, possibly as early as October.

c) Upgrades at the Spicer Hill Booster Station

This project includes installation of variable frequency pumps (VFDs) at the Spicer Hill Booster Station, which is part of the Ledyard distribution system. This project also includes the elimination of the hydropneumatic pressure tanks, which is a top priority for DPH. SCWA has completed the first phase of this project, which included external electrical upgrades. The second phase of the project will be completed once the VFDs are delivered, which was expected to be the previous month.

d) 2024 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)

General Manager Cansler stated that based on the long-term capital financing plan approved in 2020, the 2023 BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) will be rolled over into another BAN this year. He said this will most likely be the last year before the BAN is rolled into a Bond which SCWA will begin to pay off. This will roughly align our payment schedule with the expiration of the 2007 Bond that SCWA is currently paying off, while enabling the Authority to do some small projects. Mr. Cansler said SCWA did not add any new projects to this year's BAN, so the total issuance in 2024 will be \$405,000. The bid opening for the BAN is scheduled for September 11, 2024, and the closing is scheduled for October 2, 2024.

3. 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. DPH finally sent the final inventory template out in August 2023. SCWA staff are currently researching and inputting data into the LSL Inventory spreadsheet.

4. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

General Manager Cansler stated that in April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for six PFAS in drinking water. The new regulations require all water systems to complete the initial monitoring requirements for each PFAS within 3 years, and when warranted, take steps to assure compliance within 5 years. SCWA is currently waiting on further guidance from DPH regarding testing schedules and specific State requirements.

In June the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) filed a joint petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Final PFAS Drinking Water Rule. The associations are concerned that the EPA did not rely on the best available science and the most recent occurrence data, and that the EPA underestimates nationwide costs and adds to affordability challenges without achieving the public health outcomes we all seek.

5. Ongoing and Proposed New Developments

a) Hillcrest (Montville): Millwood is part of the adjacent SCWA Hillcrest subdivision in Montville. Construction of this 55 and over community started in 2021 and so far, 29 homes have been constructed and sold. Forty-six individual modular homes are proposed for this development.

b) Tower Division: General Manager Cansler said that the construction of this 10-unit Mobile Home development along Kings Highway in Ledyard is underway. He said SCWA installed a service line to the development in August. Once the individual units are completed and connected, they will receive water from the SCWA Tower Division distribution system.

c) Ledyard Division: Last year a developer approached SCWA about a 25-home development at the end of Seabury Avenue in Ledyard. In July he reached out again with more plans and requested a cost estimate to tie into the SCWA system, which was provided. General Manager Cansler mentioned that the SCWA foreman has spent more than 10 hours total over two years providing cost estimates for this project. He said that he and the foreman have discussed the idea of charging developers a small fee for these estimates. Mr. Cansler said he would provide a suggested fee at the next Authority meeting.

6. Digitalization of Blueprints and Drawings Project

SCWA is currently working with Ziptility, Inc. to begin the process of digitizing our old paper blueprints, specifically the locations of water mains, service lines, valves, hydrants, etc. Digitalization of our drawings and blueprints is a project that has been on the capital projects list for years. In August Ziptility input the addresses and areas served by SCWA into their database. SCWA and Ziptility are currently evaluating how to best transfer information and data from our old blueprints into their system.

7. Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Audit

General Manager Cansler said that Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC conducted their annual audit visit of SCWA during the second week in August, which was several months earlier than last year. He said they will present their audit findings to the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) Finance Committee and the Authority prior to the October 2024 RAB meeting. He added that they will have a representative available to answer questions during the Finance Committee's presentation and to the rest of the RAB that same evening.

8. Draft 2025 Authority Meeting Schedule

(Attachment 2 – Draft 2025 SCWA Meeting Schedule)

General Manager Cansler said that attached to his report was the proposed Authority Board and Representative Advisory Board (RAB) meeting dates for the calendar year 2025. He said Authority meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month unless the Monday conflicts with a holiday. By State law, regularly scheduled public meetings may not be held on one of the official State holidays. Mr. Cansler said this would result in the October 2025 meeting being pushed back to the third week of October. He said the RAB schedule will remain the same; quarterly meetings on the third Thursdays of January, April, July, and October.

Mr. Cansler also mentioned that over the past few years several RAB members have asked why the RAB meetings are held at 7:00 pm. He added that since the SCWA office hours changed earlier this year he thought this would also be a good year to discuss the RAB meeting times as well as the Authority meeting time. Mr. Cansler stated that the SCWA Enabling Legislation (Act 381) only specifies that the RAB must meet quarterly. No specific guidelines are stated regarding the frequency or date/times for the Authority meeting.

9. Regional Considerations

a) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) and the Statewide WUCC both last met in November 2022.

b) 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.

c) 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 October and June.

Other Business – None

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 5:42 p.m. It was noted that the next Authority meeting is scheduled to occur on October 21, 2024, at 5:15 pm.

Josh Cansler
Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



Notice to SCWA Customers in Cedar Ridge Village in North Stonington

The Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) will be upgrading the water distribution system at the pump station serving the customers in Cedar Ridge on **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**. The purpose of this upgrade is to replace the aging pressure tank at the pump station with variable speed drives (VFDs), which will pump the treated water into the distribution system.

During the transition from the pressure tank to the VFDs SCWA will be supplying water from a tanker truck into the distribution system. Because the tanker truck will not have the capacity to deliver the same volume of water into the system as is used on an average day in Cedar Ridge, **SCWA is asking all customers to minimize their water usage on Wednesday, September 11th**. This will ensure a steady flow of water is available to all customers throughout the day. Although the use of a water tanker will add to the expense of the system upgrades the only other alternative was to shut the system down for 8-10 hours. Water quality throughout the transition will not be affected. SCWA appreciates your support, and your efforts to conserve water during this transition.

If there are any changes to the plan to upgrade the system on Wednesday, September 11th they will be communicated through our Code Red emergency notification system. If you have not signed up to receive notifications through Code Red, and you would like to do so, you may sign-up on the SCWA website at: www.waterauthority.org.

Thank you.

Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority – 9/6/24

ATTACHMENT 2

October 17, 2024

TO: Municipal Clerks of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Region

FROM: Secretary, Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2025

1. Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Meetings:

Notice is hereby given that the regularly scheduled meetings of the Authority will be held at 5:15 PM on the following dates:

January 13	July 14
February 10	August 11
March 10	September 8
April 14	October 20
May 12	November 10
June 9	December 8

2. SCWA Representative Advisory Board (RAB) Meetings:

Regularly scheduled joint meetings of the SCWA Representative Advisory Board and the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority will be held at 7:00 PM on the following dates:

January 16	July 17
April 17	October 16

3. Location of Meetings: Authority meetings and Representative Advisory Board meetings are currently being held virtually per Public Act No. 22-3, which permanently established the requirements for virtual public meetings in Connecticut. The agenda for all meetings is posted at the SCWA office which is located at 1649 Route 12, Gales Ferry Commons, Gales Ferry, CT, and on the SCWA website [Home | scwa \(waterauthority.org\)](https://www.scwa.org)

4. All meetings are open to the public.

Josh Cansler
SCWA Secretary