

**Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority
Chairman's Report to the Representative Advisory Board**

January 19, 2023

I. Operational Activities

A. Seven Oaks/Montville Interconnection Project

This project will complete the interconnection between Seven Oaks and Montville divisions. This past July 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 in the next few years. The proposed water main connection route and grading design was completed by Lenard Engineering in August, and they are currently working on the engineering design/specs, easement maps, and wetlands permits. Seventy-five percent of the construction costs will be funded from the Federal Infrastructure Aid Bill, and the State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). SCWA hopes to receive project approval by next spring and award the project next summer.

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. SCWA intended to request bids in August, but unfortunately, the pump manufacturer stated there is now a 6-month lead time for delivery of the VFD packages. Based on long-lead times for delivery, and escalating prices for the VFDs, SCWA plans to install the pumps using in-house labor in the spring, with the assistance of a certified plumber and electrician.

C. New Well at Ledyard Division

During the drought last summer SCWA realized an additional well is necessary at the Ledyard pump station because the summer usage was averaging between 30 to 40 thousand gallons/day. 40,000 gallons/day is the maximum allowable yield of the two existing wells at Ledyard Division. The application for a new well was submitted to the Department of Public Health (DPH) in September and SCWA received approval in November. SCWA is now working with the Town of Ledyard to obtain an easement because the State requires that SCWA control a 150 foot radius around each well.

D. Tower Division Upgrades

The project to replace the original water main leading from the Tower Division pump stations to the main distribution located on East Drive was completed in December 2022. Throughout the two-week project water was provided through the backup water main, completed in 2021, using the trailer-mounted mobile pump station constructed several years ago.

II. Administrative Activities

A. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Audit

Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC conducted their initial audit visit of SCWA in mid-September, and their final visit on November 1st. They will present their audit findings to the Representative Advisory Board (RAB) Finance Committee and the Authority prior to the January 2023 RAB meeting. They will have a representative available to answer questions during the Finance Committee's presentation.

B. Partnership with Regional Water Authority (RWA) in Pipesafe Program

In March 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. Although the original implementation was scheduled for mid-November, RWA did not begin mailing PipeSafe brochures to our customers until late December due to a delay rolling-out of new rates, and problems inputting the SCWA customer base into the PipeSafe potential customer base. Distribution of the PipeSafe brochures should be completed by the middle of January.

III. Planning 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. Due to the pending retirement of their certified operator, and several active HOA board members, the Oakdale Heights subdivision Homeowners Association (HOA) has expressed interest in either selling or turning over full-time operation to another certified operator or utility. At the December meeting the Authority authorized the General Manager to explore this opportunity further.

In late December the General Manager and SCWA Foreman/Chief Certified Operator conducted an on-site visit of the Oakdale Heights water system with the chair of their HOA water committee. Their system consists of two fully operational pump houses, with a total of 5 wells, and 2.5 miles of distribution main. There is one emergency generator that can run both pump stations if needed. During the on-site visit the General Manager informed the HOA Water Committee Chair that the Authority probably does not have any interest in purchasing the system, but might be interested in taking over and running the system, as SCWA has done at other subdivisions over the years.

After a lengthy discussion of the risks and benefits of taking over the Oakdale Heights water system at their January meeting, the Authority voted to open discussions and work towards an agreement to take over the water system. The Authority agreed that the first step should be for the General Manager to reach out to SCWA legal counsel for assistance and guidance, which he has done.

B. Green Village – Salem

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 in November 2022. Final approval was contingent on installation of a treatment system, which has been completed. Currently there are 14 units occupied.

C. 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 Millwood development will have 46 modular homes for people aged 55 and over, and will tie into the existing Hillcrest water distribution system. The first fourteen homes have been sold, and several more homes are nearing completion.

D. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

SCWA continues to monitor new guidelines and regulations pertaining to PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). The State DPH has still not established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water, but they are encouraging all public water systems to test for PFAS. In August the EPA officially designated two PFAS substances, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), as hazardous substances under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). In December the General Manager attended a virtual meeting hosted by the Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force.

E. Regional Considerations

1) Drought Update: In November the State's Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW) reduced all eight Connecticut counties to Drought Stage 1 (Below Normal Conditions). This month the IDW removed all counties out of any Drought Stages.

2) Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC): The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) and the Statewide WUCC both last met on November 16, 2022. Currently the Statewide WUCC is trying to address several topics involving interconnections/regionalization, non-community water systems design requirements, conservation/drought, and the process requiring non-community systems to connect to existing community water systems.

3) SCWA Interaction with Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG): SCWA and the SCCOG continue to interact cooperatively. The General Manager participates on the SCCOG Regional Water Committee's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS).

4) 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