



**Approved
Town of Ridgefield
Water Pollution Control Authority**

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM
April 18, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki, Corinne Ketchum, Maureen Kozlark
AECOM: Jon Pearson
Veolia: Ryan Richmond, Jeff Pennell

**These are not verbatim minutes of the proceedings, but identification of
general items and specific actions undertaken.**

WPCA Regular Meeting was called to order by Ms. Siebert at 7:00 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

i) Motion to approve March 23, 2023 minutes by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0, Ms. Kozlark abstained as she was not at the March 23rd meeting.

b) Financing of the Plant Debt

i) Discussed meeting on March 22nd with representatives of the WPCA, Town, AECOM, DEEP, and the Treasury Dept. regarding financing debt, obtaining the Route 7 grant/loan funds, and the \$1.3 million budget increase.

ii) Motion to approve converting a portion of interim debt to permanent debt in May 2023 as recommended by Mr. Redmond by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 5-0.

2) Old Business

a) Charter Revision Review

i) Discussed WPCA letter sent to Charter Revision Commission regarding alternates, and Mr. Zawacki questioned if the concern over a conflict of interest to have one person serving on two boards was being evaluated by the Charter Revision Committee. Ms. Siebert noted that it was a good point but the WPCA did not ask that question in its letter to the Committee. Ms. Kozlark noted the Committee was looking at such matters overall. The Commission is still taking input and the WPCA may still will follow up with this question.

b) Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property.

- i) Discussed the money from the sale of the Route 7 property being returned to the WPCA. Mr. Zawacki stated that the Route 7 wastewater facility was paid for by the Route 7 property owners and the sale proceeds should revert back to the WPCA's upgrade project budget, which is financing the decommissioning of the facility. Ms. Kozlark noted the WPCA should plan to attend a Selectman's meeting to both provide a project update, and address the sale of the Route 7 Property. She noted that the Selectman have scheduled a public hearing on the sale of the property for Wednesday April 26th. Following discussion, it was a consensus that the WPCA should inform the Selectman that the WPCA's opinion is the proceeds from the property sale should be returned to the WPCA budget to offset some of the Route 7 project costs and help manage rate increases for the sewer district.
- ii) **Motion to request that the proceeds from the sale of the Route 7 property be applied to the cost of the Route 7 project by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 5-0.**

3) AECOM

a) Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning Construction

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that with the re-opening of the pavement plants, M&O Construction remobilized their field crew starting Monday 3/27. They completed the installation of manholes associated with air release valves at the force main high point, and blowoff drains at the force main low points and well as the fiber optic cable utility boxes on Limekiln, Lee and Farmingville Roads. They then relocated to the Ridgefield Brook Culvert crossing under Farmingville Road where the force main installation ended in December and removed the large concrete block that was encountered when work ceased for the winter. Going forward, Mr. Pearson discussed that M&O Construction plans to install the force main and fiber optic conduits under the brook culvert, and then continue the installation east along Farmingville Road to connect to the piping already installed at the corner of Ligi's Way. That work will proceed into May.
- ii) Mr. Pearson discussed that M&O Construction's latest schedule shows that the pump station schedule is still being affected by delays in obtaining key components and that work onsite is scheduled to begin in late May and continue through November. However, the generator delivery may be delayed longer than that date, and M&O is considering using a temporary generator to allow startup of the pump station in November with the permanent generator coming in December. As noted last month, Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM has requested that M&O Construction support the extended schedule with documentation of the delays in obtaining key pump station equipment, and we believe that this will necessitate a time extension.

- iii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that there have continued to be resident complaints about the condition of the temporary trench pavement on Farmingville Road. Further discussions with Dave Buccitti, Highway Supt led to the pavement repairs that were completed yesterday that involved milling the trench pavement and placing a new pavement course to eliminate the high and low points. Mr. Buccitti did request and agree to use about \$31,000 of the final paving funds to address this request.
- iv) Mr. Pearson discussed that with the early meeting this month, AECOM does not yet have the monthly progress payment for M&O Construction but will forward it to Ms. Van Ness and Ms. Siebert for execution once it is submitted and agreed to. He noted that since the contractual date for substantial completion has passed, the progress payment form includes the caveat that since the contract substantial completion date has passed that the WPCA reserves the right to assess liquidated damages if a time extension is not justified and executed in a change order.
- v) Mr. Pearson reviewed that with the restart of work, AECOM prepared a Construction Update for distribution and posting on the WPCA and Town website, and going forward, the update frequency will return to weekly.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Pearson reviewed the major activities completed since the March WPCA meeting that include:
 - (a) Influent Building - The temporary bypass pumping and screening system that allows the Influent Building to be bypassed was placed into operation at the end of March. This has allowed demolition of the screening and grit removal equipment in the building, as well as demolition of the Influent Box outside the building that normally receives all influent flow, and reconstruction of the box is underway. Electrical, HVAC and plumbing demolition and new installation work is also underway.
 - (b) Operations Building. - While compliance with the April 1, 2023 date in the DEEP Administrative Order to meet the new phosphorus limits was not achieved, Spectraserv did get some of the new effluent Nexom sand filter cells in operation as follows:
 - (i) 3 cells were brought online on March 30th
 - (ii) 1 additional cell brought online on April 4th
 - (iii) 2 additional cells brought online on April 10th

The filters are being operated by Spectraserv with assistance from Nexom and they are still in the initial startup phase, identifying minor issues and correcting them. Veolia has received some initial data that showed effluent total phosphorus of 0.18 mg/l several days after the filters were put into operation. This compares to the new phosphorus limits of a monthly average of 0.16 mg/l, a daily maximum of 0.31 mg/l both of which are higher than the allowed average mass per day limit over the phosphorus season. Installation of

the CMU walls for the Filter Room began on April 12th. Work on the Operations Building façade installation continues and installation of new windows also commenced.

- (c) **Aeration Tank No. 2.** -Work is nearing completion with the Mixed Liquor Recycle pumps and mixers checked out by the manufacturer's representative, the new fine bubble air piping and diffusers have been installed and tested, and the instrumentation has been installed and startup is nearing completion.

- ii) Mr. Pearson noted that after last month's meeting the letter notifying DEEP that Spectraserv would not achieve the 4-1-23 deadline to meet the new effluent phosphorus limits under the Administrative Order was submitted. DEEP has reviewed the situation, and based on verbal feedback from the DEEP, it is anticipated that they will modify the Administrative Order to defer the compliance date for the new limits until after either the end of the 2023 phosphorus season or construction is completed, whichever comes first. The order modification letter is in the signature queue at DEEP and should be received shortly. There has been no indication that the DEEP will take any punitive action against the Town for the delay in meeting the permit limits.

- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed that Spectraserv's latest schedule shows significant slippage with the final completion date now at December 10, 2023, a slippage of 87 days from the prior date of September 14, 2023. This slippage is further supported by the low expenditure rate for this month, even though AECOM does not yet have the final version of the progress payment estimate for March, the draft copy had a total value of approx. \$537,000 compared to Spectraserv's November 2022 cash flow projection for March of \$909,464, or only about 60 percent of what was projected. Similar to the Route 7 project, once the monthly progress payment is finalized, AECOM will forward it to Ms. Van Ness and Ms. Siebert for processing. In response to a question, Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM still believes it will be January 2024 before final completion is achieved.

- iv) Mr. Pearson noted that at last month's WPCA meeting AECOM had submitted a draft Amendment No. 2 for additional engineering services due to the extended construction schedules on both projects, that the WPCA approved the draft amendment subject to DEEP review and approval. Following the meeting AECOM had submitted the draft amendment and supporting documentation to the DEEP, and the WPCA received DEEP's approval letter this afternoon. AECOM will forward signed copy of Amendment No. 2 for execution to MS. Van Ness, and she will coordinate getting them signed. Mr. Pearson again expressed appreciation for the WPCA's support on this request.

- v) Mr. Pearson reviewed that the DEEP has just issued a Call for Projects for the FY24-25 Clean Water Fund priority list, and submittals are due back to DEEP by May 19th. As we have done in the past, we will prepare responses to this request, and suggest that the Quail Ridge PS Relocation project and the Ramapoo Road PS upgrade that are contained in the recent Rate Model update be considered for funding assistance, as well as any other projects that the WPCA may wish to submit on. Ms Siebert noted that there is still issues with Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) as well as sump pumps in the

system, but agreed these two projects should be submitted as recommended. She noted that the WPCA and Town may want to consider implementing changes to requirements when a property is sold, or major modifications to a property are made, similar to what has been implemented in Greenwich. If a project requiring a building permit or property sale is submitted, the property owner is then required to TV inspect their lateral connection, and to repair (or replace) the lateral pipe if defects are found during the TV inspection prior to obtaining approval. This process has significantly reduced I/I in the Greenwich system.

4) Veolia

- a) Mr. Pennell presented the March 2023 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of March 2023. Alum feed at the Route 7 WWTF was initiated, and ferric chloride feed at the South Street WWTF was initiated with the beginning of the phosphorus removal season.

- b) Mr. Pennell stated that he is waiting for a report regarding the Ford F250 truck that was taken to Brookfield for repairs. The verbal estimate for repairs is on the order of \$8,000, and since the truck is a 2005 model, it may not be something the WPCA wants to repair. Ms. Kozlark suggested contacting the Highway and Parks and Recreation Departments to see if they have used vehicles that could be acquired.

5) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by a **Motion made by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum, motion passed 5-0.**

Submitted by Diana Van Ness