



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM  
September 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Ron Hill, Corinne Ketchum  
WPCA Absent: Amy Siebert  
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica  
Veolia: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Jason O'Brien

**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. Kozlark at 6:01 p.m.**

**1) New Business**

**a) Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve August 24, 2023 minutes as amended to reflect Charter Revision Review to be voted on in a referendum in November by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.**

**b) New Outside Seating Regulations**

i) Ms. Van Ness stated she attended a meeting with Planning and Zoning, Building, and Health Department personnel on September 27, 2023 to discuss TerraSole restaurant regarding a tent that was converted into a permanent structure and other outside seating issues. TerraSole management and architect will generate permits to submit to Town agencies to correct the violations.

**2) Old Business**

**a) Charter Revision Review**

i) Ms. Kozlark stated that the Charter Revision Commission request for alternate members for the WPCA will be voted on in a referendum in November.

**b) Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property.**

i) The Inland Wetlands Board has denied the application for Dr. Richard Lipton's project on the site of the Route 7 WWTF.

### 3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Formica noted that the monthly construction progress meeting was held earlier today. This month, M&O Construction continued the open cut installation of the force main along the shoulder of Route 7 from the Haviland Road intersection northwards towards the trenchless installation location for crossing the Norwalk River. M&O also continued leak testing efforts on the installed force main from the Lee Road/Farmingville Road intersection to Ligi's Way, and they have been working to locate a leak in the pipe. Several additional gate valves were installed along Farmingville to allow isolation and testing of portions of that section of force main to locate and repair the leak and that that work is ongoing. Mr. Pearson noted in response to a question that it is not unusual for there to be leaks to be corrected in a 3 mile force main, and that is part of the reason pressure testing of the installed pipeline is required. He noted that this was a similar situation on the Middle School Force Main project about 20 years ago.
- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O Construction's trenchless subcontractor Directional Technologies mobilized to the Route 7 location and directional drilling for the river crossing began on Sept. 14th with a pilot hole. On Sept 22nd, the 14 inch diameter casing pipe for the force main and fiber optic conduits were installed and on Tuesday of this week, the force main pipe was installed. Directional Technologies has relocated to Ligi's Way this week to begin work on the trenchless crossing of the Ridgefield Brook culvert. Entrance and exit pits for the directional drilling of the crossing have been excavated, and fusing of the HPDE pipe for the crossing is underway.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O Construction also continued site work at the pump station site this month. The telephone/data service for 871 Ethan Allen Highway that was found to be on the pump station site was relocated by Comcast. M&O has installed the temporary sound barrier at the pump station. M&O expects to begin the installation of the temporary bypass pumping system shortly.
- iv) Mr. Formica reviewed that AECOM received a September schedule update from M&O Construction yesterday, which shows the pump station schedule still being affected by delays in obtaining key components, but with no change in dates from last month's update. The current schedule shows startup of the new pump station in the last days of December, and final project completion in April. As we noted last month, the delivery date for the generator has slipped from mid-December to the third week of January 2024. M&O has received a commitment from their generator supplier that a temporary generator can be provided to avoid delaying startup of the pump station.
- v) Mr. Formica discussed that progress payment estimate no.19 for the Route 7 project for August was submitted in the amount of \$185,824.22 for M&O Construction.

AECOM has reviewed it and recommends that it be approved for payment. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. Mr. Formica discussed that since both the contractual date for substantial completion (1-11-23) of the force main and pump station, and for final project completion (8-11-23) have now passed, the progress payment form includes the caveat that since the contract completion dates have passed that the WPCA reserves the right to assess liquidated damages if a time extension is not justified and executed in a change order. M&O would not sign this progress payment estimate with this caveat included, so AECOM added the caveat when AECOM signed it. Ms. Kozlark questioned why M&O would not sign the form with the liquidated damages caveat. Mr. Formica noted the M&O is not in agreement that liquidated damages should be applied and felt signing the form with the caveat implied they accept it. Mr. Formica reviewed that through August, 103% of the contract time has passed, and 48% of the budget has been expended. AS noted in the past, M&O has been notifying AECOM of the delays in the pump station components, but has not submitted a time extension request with the supporting justification. With the passing of the contract final completion date, Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM is preparing a letter to M&O regarding schedule concerns and will be copying their bonding company on the letter.

**b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction**

- i) Mr. Formica reviewed the major activities completed since the August WPCA meeting that include:
  - (a) Operations Building -The second new return activated sludge (RAS) pump was installed, piped, and checked out by the manufacturer. The new scum pump, centrifuge feed pump, and thickened sludge pumps were installed and wiring of these pumps is ongoing.
  - (b) Odor Control– The new odor control adsorber and fan for the Influent Building was installed and piping and wiring of this equipment is ongoing.
  - (c) Sludge Thickening Centrifuge– The centrifuge has been installed, and the manufacturer’s representative has started to process of checking out the installation
- ii) Mr. Formica reviewed that Progress Payment No. 48 for Spectraserv that covers the month of August in the amount of \$437,353.42 has been submitted and AECOM recommends it be approved. The progress payment form includes the caveat that since the contract substantial (5-23-22) and final completion (8-21-22) dates have passed that the WPCA reserves the right to assess liquidated damages if a time extension is not justified and executed in a change order. Through August, Spectraserv has expended 91% of the project cost, while 131% of the contract time has passed.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv’s schedule update this month shows no change from last month and that the project will be complete by April 17, 2024. This month’s payment of \$437,353.42 which is an increase from last month’s expenditure. Spectraserv indicated that they are working on another cash flow projection going forward as they acknowledged today that there was an error in the one provided at the end of August. As discussed at last month’s WPCA meeting, it was agreed to meet with Spectraserv and their bonding company to discuss what efforts both entities will

take to accelerate completion of this project. Once Ms. Siebert returns from vacation next week, Mr. Formica noted that AECOM will work with her to obtain potential meeting dates that work for her and others who will be attending this meeting to propose meeting dates to Spectraserv to schedule this meeting.

- iv) Mr. Formica noted that AECOM has prepared a draft response to Spectraserv's 7-10-23 letter that responded to our 6-29-23 denial of their 4-4-22 claim for a time extension and additional costs. As requested by the WPCA, we have forwarded the draft letter to the WPCA's attorney for review.
- v) Mr. Formica reviewed that a virtual meeting was held with Ms. Siebert, Ms. Kozlark, Dave Fox from Raftelis Financial Consultants, Mr. Redmond, First Selectmen Marconi, and the WPCA's attorney to review the financial status, schedule, and issues for the South Street project on September 14, 2023.

#### **c) Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation**

- i) Mr. Pearson discussed that as noted last month, AECOM is working on developing the level of effort and cost to complete the design and permitting of the project based on feedback received from Planning and Zoning on the P&Z and architectural advisory committee reviews that will be needed. Mr. Pearson was away on vacation in September which slowed this effort up and AECOM will have this proposal to complete the Pump Station design and permitting submitted for next month's meeting.

#### **4) Veolia**

- a) Mr. Pennell presented the August 2023 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of August 2023.
- b) Mr. O'Brien stated that the new CMMS program, Short for computerized maintenance management system, is software that helps manage assets, schedule maintenance and track work orders. This tool will help ensure that the preventative maintenance on the WPCA's treatment facility and pump station equipment is scheduled and completed to keep everything running smoothly, efficiently, and help reduce corrective maintenance costs. Because the upgrade finish date keeps sliding out so will the completion date of the software. Veolia's team of programmers have continually been adding to the program as new equipment is installed, tested, put in service and Operation and Maintenance Manuals are handed over to us. Mr. O'Brien is writing an amendment to Veolia's contract with the WPCA to adjust the CMMS completion and implementation date and will send it to Ms. Van Ness for distribution. Ms. Kozlark questioned whether the delay in completing the project impacts the Contractors warranty, and Mr. Formica noted that it would not, as the 1-year warranty does not start until the facility or a portion of it reaches substantial completion and is accepted by the WPCA.

- c) Mr. Hill inquired if Veolia would conduct tours of the South Street facility for high school science students, Mr. Pennell responded that they would, but not until after the upgrade construction is completed. Mr. O'Brien noted that Veolia could arrange for tours of other facilities that they operate such as Danbury, and suggested Mr. Hill contact him to arrange a tour if desired.

**5) Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47p.m. by Mr. Zawacki seconded by Ms. Ketchum, motion passed 4-0.**

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**