



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

**WPCA Meeting Via ZOOM  
February 22, 2024 7:00 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Corrine Ketchum, Russell Fink  
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Gisele Trivino  
Veolia: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, David Connors  
Horton Electric: Lee Wheeler, Warren Horton

**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 p.m.**

**1) New Business**

**a) Approval of Minutes**

i) Motion to approve January 25, 2024 minutes by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0, Mr. Fink abstained.

**b) Public Comment**

i) Ms. Kozlark made a motion to move the Public Comments to the beginning of the agenda, Mr. Zawacki seconded, passed 5-0.

**2) Old Business**

**a) Purchase of New Vector Truck**

i) The WPCA discussed the purchase of the Vector Truck in detail.

ii) Mr. Zawacki stated the agreement that was made in 1998 with the last vector truck purchase was the WPCA agreed to pay half of the truck purchase cost and no maintenance costs. However, the WPCA has been paying for half of the maintenance costs. With the typical WPCA usage of the vector truck for planned sewer cleaning of approximately 2 weeks per year, and another 4 to 5 days for emergency call outs, it was discussed the requested WPCA contribution for the purchase of the truck was not justified.

- iii) Ms. Siebert stated that an agreement to pay 15% of the truck purchase would be fair and no maintenance.
- iv) Ms. Kozlark stated that she would discuss the purchase of the truck at the next BOS Budget Meeting on February 26th.

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

- i) Nothing to report.

**c) Public Comment**

- i) Mr. Warren Horton and Mr. Lee Wheeler were present for Public Comment.
- ii) Mr. Horton stated that the January 25, 2024 meeting minutes under 3, b), vi), Spectraserv stated the Horton Electric engaged in a work slowdown and has started to remove its tools and equipment from the jobsite.
- iii) Mr. Horton, the owner of Horton Electric, disputed that statement. Horton Electric is doing everything they can to finish the project for the Town. He stated that Horton Electric has been in business since 1997 and their reputation means everything to them and they wanted to address the comments in the minutes.
- iv) Ms. Siebert thanked them for their comments.

**3) AECOM**

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

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that the monthly construction progress meeting was held today with Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Kozlark, and Mr. Pennell attending. This month, M&O Construction has completed the pump station bypass pumping system installation, took the existing Route 7 pump station out of service, and the demolition of the old pump station is underway. M&O also completed the leak testing of the last portion of the force main on Route 7 so all of the force main with the exception of the small portion at the Pump Station has successfully been tested.
- ii) Mr. Pearson discussed that M&O has not yet submitted a summary schedule this month. He noted that M&O's January schedule shows completion of the force main installation and testing in late January, the startup of the new pump station in mid May, and final project completion in late July 2024. AECOM continues to be concerned with the slow progress of M&O's work and their limited office and field resources being applied to the project.
- iii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that several months ago M&O Construction had submitted a request for a time extension with some supporting information, requesting that the current contract final completion date of August 11, 2023 be revised to June 11, 2024 in light of the delays experienced in obtaining the pump station components. AECOM had reviewed the information submitted and provided a response requesting additional supporting information to justify the requested time extension. Mr.

Pearson noted that a final letter with the requested additional information to support the requested time extension has not yet been received.

- iv) Mr. Pearson noted that Progress Payment No. 24 for the Route 7 project for January was submitted in the amount of \$62,344.91 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. Pearson 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. Mr. Pearson summarized that through the end of December, 67% of the construction cost has been expended, and 128% of the contract time has passed.
- v) AECOM noted that they are continuing to work with Kevin Redmond and Lee Rogers to advance the first Route 7 CWF Payment Reimbursement. AECOM continues to provide Lee with support information that he has requested so that he may advance a first draft.
- vi) Mr. Pearson noted that in early January, the DEEP released the draft Clean Water Fund (CWF) priority List for FY 24 and 25. The Route 7 project is listed as fundable with the amount of \$10 million in accordance with the Amendment to the CWF agreement between the Town and the DEEP that was signed last September. AECOM drafted a letter supporting the inclusion of the Route 7 project on the fundable list, and it was submitted prior to the public hearing on the draft priority list held by DEEP on February 7, 2024.

#### **b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction**

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that the monthly construction progress meeting was held today with Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Kozlark, and Mr. Pennell attending. Mr. Pearson reviewed the major activities completed since the last WPCA meeting which included:
  - (a) The completion of the remaining work in the filter room in the Operations Building had advanced far enough that NEXOM (the filter manufacturer) returned to the site and the sand sieving began on 2/14/24. Sand sieving was completed on 2/20/24 for the filters that had sand previously installed. This was completed 3 days ahead of the completion date for this task in the latest schedule. For the two filters that had not had sand previously installed, sand has been installed in the filters and will be washed in preparation for the upcoming startup.
  - (b) The installation of the exterior fiber cement board façade at the Operations Building was started on 2/09/24.
  - (c) The sludge thickening centrifuge was performance testing was completed on 1/25/24, the centrifuge is now being used by Veolia, and we are awaiting the performance test results.

- ii) Mr. Pearson presented Change Order No. 17 for \$10,063.28 and reviewed each item:
  - (1) Fiber Cement Material and Corner Detail Revision (\$9,148.84)
  - (2) Thickening Room Door Replacement \$9,312.71
  - (3) Odor Control System No. 1 Concrete Pad and Bollards \$9,919.10
  - (4) Southeast Gate Addition \$9,793.26
  - (5) Operations Building Lab Cabinets Finish \$8,101.80
  - (6) Operations Building Truck Loading Room Paint Revisions \$7,584.23
  - (7) Additional Water Usage Contractor Reimbursement (\$25,508.98)
    - (a) Following questions and discussions on several items, **Motion to accept Change Order No. 17 for 7 Items for \$10,063.28 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.**
  
- iii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that the work on Aeration Tank No. 2 is substantially completed and the certificate with the attached valued punch list signed by Spectraserv and AECOM was submitted to the WPCA for execution setting a September 29, 2023 substantial completion date. As noted before the significance of this document is that it starts the one-year warranty on this item, the operation and maintenance of this of this item becomes the responsibility of the WPCA and the contract retainage on this item is reduced to the punch list value. However, in this case the Punch List value is greater than the 5% retainage that was being held on the work on Aeration Tank No. 2.
  
- iv) Mr. Pearson noted that Progress Payment No. 53 for Spectraserv that covers the month of January in the amount of \$335,398.81 has been submitted and AECOM recommends it be approved. The progress payment form includes the caveat that since the contract substantial completion (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. Mr. Pearson reviewed that through the end of January Spectraserv has expended 95% of the project cost, while 141% of the contract time has passed.

Mr. Pearson noted that Spectraserv payment this month is less than the \$376,726 shown their cash flow projection provided on 12/21/23 and AECOM continues to be concerned about their ability to achieve the schedule. In order to meet the projected 5/2/24 final completion date shown in their latest schedule, going forward Spectraserv would need to expend \$532,000 per month (not including retainage) which they have not achieved in the last six-monthly pay estimates. AECOM noted that their projected completion date based on the Spectraserv's historical 6 month expenditure rate is now mid July 2024.

- v) Mr. Pearson discussed to increase the focus on Spectraserv meeting their schedule, virtual meetings/calls have been held with Spectraserv, their attorney, and their bonding company Liberty Mutual, along with Ms. Siebert, Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Muller, Attorney Frank, Mr. Formica, Ms. Trivino, and himself attending on 2/1/224 and 2/15/22. The incomplete items that were indicated to be completed from Spectraserv's 12/20/23 and 1/31/24 schedules respectively, their work force, and the project expenditure rate. The next meeting is scheduled for 2/29/24.with the same

individuals to review Spectraserv's progress against their last projected schedule which indicates substantial completion and final completion dates of 4/5/24 and 5/2/24 respectively.

- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed that Spectraserv did not meet their recent cash flow projection for January and their average monthly expenditure rate for the last 6 months is \$329,000, slightly less than this month's expenditure of \$335,398.81. In order to meet the 5/2/24 final completion date shown in their latest schedule, going forward Spectraserv would need to expend \$601,000 per month (not including retainage) which he noted they have not achieved in the last six-monthly pay estimates. As a result, AECOM's projected completion date based on the historical expenditure rate is mid July.
- vii) Mr. Pearson noted that there were two letters that AECOM had drafted this month on behalf of the WPCA to address some construction related concerns. The first letter, initially submitted in December, was a letter jointly signed by the WPCA and the First Selectperson to the DEEP to proactively advise the DEEP that Town was not confident in Spectraserv's ability to meeting the twice postponed Administrative Order Date of 4/1/24 for compliance with the new total phosphorus effluent limits. DEEP recently suggested a follow up letter be provided indicated that the WPCA did not believe that Spectraserv would meet Administrative Order date and request a time extension. AECOM drafted a follow-up letter on behalf of the WPCA that has been circulated for review and is under review by the WPCA's counsel.

Mr. Pearson reviewed that the second letter was from the WPCA to the DEEP to provide a summary of how the plant's effluent flow meter was malfunctioning in July 2023 and has caused the WWTF to exceed the 180 day, 90% plant design flow. The letter also requested confirmation that no further action is required by the Town. With the high wet weather induced flows in December and January another letter covering these months was drafted on the WPCA's behalf. This letter has been reviewed and issued to the DEEP today.

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

- i) Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM has re-started work the design of the pump station and have reached out to Jake Muller and others for information needed to coordinate the pump station design with the planned Police/Fire facility as well as details on the potential rail trail extension along the sewer easement proposed between Prospect Street and Old Quarry Road. AECOM's survey subcontractor LRC has been out to the pump station site in support of the Planning and Zoning required A-2 survey of the new pump station area to define planned setbacks of the new station.

#### 4) **Veolia**

- i) Mr. Pennell discussed the increased flows to the South Street facility the last three months and that the town will have to write another letter to CT DEEP because we were over the 90 percent of design flow for the third month in a row. He noted that a big part of that is because of the effluent flow meter failure back in July 2023. AECOM drafted

another letter to the DEEP to explain how the 90 percent exceedance was tied to the meter issue in July. The letter was sent to the DEEP on February 22, 2024.

- ii) Mr. Pennell also discussed that the South St WWTF exceeded the daily maximum and monthly maximum zinc loading for the month of January, also likely due to the high flows increasing the effluent loading.
- iii) Mr. Pennell also indicated that due to the high flows observed in January that Veolia is looking into the collection system I&I again and that the Smart Covers are instrumental in this effort.
- iv) Manhole inspections behind Marshall's and Home Goods were filled with paper products and not enough flow in laterals. Mr. Pennell will investigate with owners. Ms. Siebert suggested that the Building Dept. may have some insight into changes to the building sewers made when the stores changed.
- v) Ms. Kozlark spoke with Westchester regarding sump pumps. They have their basements inspected for the presence of a sump pump connected to the sewer at the time of a property sale. Mr. Pearson confirmed that some other communities have adopted this approach as a means to control I/I, as well as requiring inspection, and if needed repair, of the sewer lateral at the time of property sale. Ms. Siebert noted that Greenwich requires this.
- vi) Ms. Ketchum stated that when you sell your house your septic must be inspected, a sewer line can be considered similarly.

## **5) Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, motion passed 5-0.**

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**