



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

**WPCA Zoom Meeting
May 28, 2026 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Gary Zawacki, Corinne Ketchum, Amy Siebert
Absent: Russell Fink, Maureen Kozlark
AECOM: Matt Formica
Veolia: Ryan Richmond, Roger Bates
Guest: Roger Kavanaugh, Nancy F

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

WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting was called to order by Ms. Siebert at 7:00 p.m.

- 1) Approved April 23, 2026 minutes by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 3-0**

- 2) New Business.** Discussed a request from residents for consideration of a sewer extension to Soundview Road. Specifically, information on the process to request a sewer extension, level of resident support required, and whether there are any petitions, meetings, or formal requests that should be submitted to begin the conversation again.

Mr. Formica noted that in the Phase 1 Facilities Plan Report the Marcardon/Soundview area in Sewer District 1 was identified as an area of sewer extension needs due to a history of failing septic systems in the area. As a result, a recommendation was made to consider extending sewers in this area in the future to address potential public health and pollution issues from the failing septic systems. However, based on comments from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and at the direction from DEEP, an addendum was developed for the facilities plan that formally removed the Marcardon/Soundview area as an area of sewer needs. This was to specifically address concerns/comments from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health related to the proximity of the water

drinking supply watershed and the identified sewer needs area in the Marcardon/Soundview area.

Mr. Zawacki had noted that several years before there was discussion with the WPCA about extending the sewers in this area but ultimately the residents in the area voted it down.

3) Old Business. Quail Ridge Pump Staton

Planning and Zoning

Mr. Formica reported that the project's Special Permit Application with the Planning and Zoning Commission was approved at their 4-28-26 meeting. The Adopted Resolution of Approval was provided today and subsequently needs to be filed with the Town Clerk which Diana has volunteered to do on Monday.

Mr. Formica advised that one of the Prospect Wood residents (Shane Herlet Unit 66) has hired their own attorney (Dwight Merirman) and engineer (Steve Trinkaus) to review the project and its potential impact on his unit. Mr. Formica had a call with them in advance of the 4-28-26 P&Z meeting to discuss their client's concerns and their proposed means to address. Most of these items had already been addressed and communicated to the Prospect Woods Home Owners Association (HOA) and Mr. Herlet. In addition, the attorney provided a letter to Planning and Zoning to identify some of these items.

Items requested in the letter that have already been addressed/indicated in the contract/easement include:

- Pre and post construction surveys.
- Vibration and settlement monitoring.
- Restoration expectations.
- Construction sequencing plans and methodologies (trench box, gravel fill, etc).
- Damage responsibilities.
- Insurance requirement and indemnification (to be address via the easement).

Some items that were new that they asked to be addressed included:

- Definition of the locations and types of fencing/barriers that they would like to have provided to minimize traffic (foot or other) into the HOA property. We have requested clarification regarding what they would like several times without a response to date.
- Revision to the sewer elevation in the area adjacent to the existing units to reduce its depth. It was noted that this could be addressed but would require an inside drop in one of the manholes. We have provided the attorney with a marked-up drawing showing the potential revisions for their review and they have agreed to the revisions.

- They had also listed concerns with long-term sewer corridor maintenance obligation and potential reimbursement of legal and engineering costs but it is not clear what action they expect to be taken and from who, as their letter was addressed to Planning and Zoning.

Roger Kavanaugh of Prospect Woods kindly requested that any correspondence with Mr. Herlet's attorney copy Nancy Tine and the Prospect Woods Board. Mr. Formica noted that he would forward the recent correspondence about the sewer elevation modification adjacent to the residential units.

As the potential fence/barrier location appears to be the last significant concern related to the easement, it was suggested that a call be set up between the Prospect Woods Board of Director and the WPCA/AECOM.

Mr. Kavanaugh also inquired about the impact of the project on the rates and the need for a public vote. Ms. Seibert noted that the cost of the project will be borne by the sewer rate payers but since the Town will be providing bonding of the project, that the WPCA understands, that a public vote is needed. This had been confirmed by Town Hall. It was noted that the WPCA has a rate model that has been and is used to plan for future expenditures which has included a planned annual rate increase of 2% that has not change. This project has been included in that model for several years without the need to require a significant rate increase.

Other Easement Items

Mr. Formica reported that AECOM and the WPCA have been pursuing the other two project easements we have reached out the Charter Group Partners who put us in touch with the condo association president for 77 Sunset Lane to discuss the easement associated with their property. They have sent the drawing and legal description to their attorney for review and comment if needed. We have reached out to them several times to assess the status but have not received feedback.

We also submitted the easement application documents required by the State of Connecticut for the easement in their property on May 6, 2025. We have followed up with them, and they have indicated that they are busy and suggested on 5/20/26 that we follow up with them again in 2 weeks.

Project Schedule

As previously noted, there was the unresolved question of when the project is approved by P&Z and the easements have been obtained of when to bring the project forward for a public vote. We are noting this as a placeholder to allow the WPCA to consider when you would like to start this effort.

J Wilson FOIA Request

John Wilson's May 6, 2025 FOIA request on the capital and operation and maintenance cost of the two alternatives proposed for the Qual Ridge Pump Station back in 2016 was discussed. The WPCA indicated that they are pulling this information together and that they will respond.

3) AECOM Report

1. Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main and WWTF Decommissioning

It was noted that a legal update can be provided in executive session.

1. South Street WWTF Upgrade

a. Construction Close Out.

Mr. Formica reported as an update to the outstanding Spectraserv warranty item, Influent Pump Station No. 2 hatch door replacement, the hatch doors were delivered to the site this month but were found to be damaged and not accepted. Nystrom has indicated that they plan to deliver new doors shortly.

Mr. Formica reported that in an effort to resolve the project there is a planned mediation session with Spectraserv on June 11. More detail can be provided in executive session.

b. Fiscal Sustainability Plan. Mr. Formica noted that AECOM submitted the draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan for the project to the state on 5/4/26. The State has confirmed receipt but has indicated that they will not review it. They did, however, provide a certificate to be signed by the WPCA indicating they the document has been reviewed, is accurate and has been approved and where a hard copy of the plan is stored. We will fill out the form and pass along to the WPCA for signature and provide hard copies of the plan if you wish. The WPCA requested two hard copies, one to be kept at the WCPA office and one at the WWTF.

c. Record Drawings. Mr. Formica noted that AECOM is in the process of completing the project record drawing and will submit them to the WPCA, Veolia and the DEEP for the record shortly and asked that all consider how many copies and of what size (full or half size) are desired.

d. South Street WWTF NPDES Permit Renewal and AECOM MSA. Mr. Formica indicated that the NPDES permit renewal application for South Street WWTF is due the first week of July. AECOM at the WPCA's request, has provided a draft Master Service Agreement or MSA for the WPCA's review. The Town's attorney and AECOM's attorney are in agreement with the last version will allow for final Town review and execution. AECOM kindly requested that any final reviews of the MSA be provided and it be executed.

In the meantime, AECOM provided the WPCA with a draft scope and fee in early May for development of the NPDES permit renewal application for review and comment and for subsequent inclusion into a task order under the MSA. The total cost for this Task Order was estimated \$22,400. AECOM has been working without a contract on the application to advance it given the application due date. If there are any questions on the scope and fee we would be happy to address, but would kindly request any comments, edits or agreement shortly, so that the Task Order can be developed and executed.

Motion to approve the Scope and fee for inclusion into a Task Order for \$22,400.00 by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 3-0.

- e. **Aeration Tank No. 2 Concrete Repair.** Mr. Formica noted that CH Nickerson has been in contact with Veolia and is planning to begin work next Wednesday.
- f. **Wetlands Enhancement.** Mr. Formica indicated that New England Landscape and Management, Inc. has indicated that they are not able to return to the site to start their work until June 18th. AECOM will coordinate with them on their work dates to minimize impacts on CN Nickerson's work.
- g. **PFAS General Permit.** Mr. Formica noted that at the last meeting that he was going to discuss the CT DEEP proposed general permit at this meeting but indicated he was not prepared to do so tonight.
- h. Roger Kavanagh left the meeting at 7:34 p.m., Ms. Annie F left the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

4) Veolia Report

- a) Veolia reviewed their monthly report with the WPCA highlight the following:
 - i) Fox Hill purchased a new pump for their pump station.
 - ii) The South Street WWTF met all of its permit requirements for April.
 - iii) Addresses a high level alarm callout Fox Hill on 4/24, which was found to be caused by grease on the float.
 - iv) The South Street WWTF Odor Control No. 1 fan bearing was fixed in house with a part source directed from the bearing manufacturer versus the equipment vendor which saved WPCA \$5,354 dollars.
- b) Veolia reported an EColi permit exceedance on 5/21/2 of 488 colonies/100ml versus their permit limit of 410 permit limit. Veolia subsequently made corrective actions, increasing the UV dose and running a second channel resulting the following sample containing 31.8 colonies/100 ml.

5) Motion to go into Executive Session and invite Mr. Formica and Ms. Van Ness at 8:02 by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Ketchum.

- a) **The WPCA returned to public at 8:18 p.m with no votes take.**

6) Adjournment

- a) Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 3-0.**

Submitted by Diana Van Ness