



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

**WPCA Zoom Meeting
August 27, 2026 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Gary Zawacki, Corinne Ketchum, Amy Siebert, Maureen Kozlark
Absent: Russell Fink
AECOM: Matt Formica
Veolia: Ryan Richmond, Roger Bates, Ed Steeprock
Guest: Lexi Forrest, Fox Hill
Ken Olsen, 77 Sunset Lane

**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 July 30, 2026 and August 13, 2026 minutes by Ms. Ketchum, seconded
by Ms. Kozlark, passing 4-0**

2) New Business

a) Fox Hill Force Main Failure

- i)** Discussed the force main failure which occurred in an air release manhole. Neither the WPCA or Fox Hill was aware of this manhole which was located off the Fox Hill property and had been paved over sometime in the past. While it was understood that Fox Hill owns the pump station and the WPCA maintains the pump station, it was unclear who was responsible for the main force. Both parties indicated that they would look through their files for a record of this manhole, which was believed to have been installed at the time of the force main construction. Lexi Forrest expressed her concern about who is responsible for the force main maintenance and referenced the 8/14/26 Fox Hill letter sent to the WPCA for details on their position. Ms. Siebert stated the WPCA will further investigate the Fox Hill pump station operation and maintenance agreement as it relates to the force main. Ms. Forrest left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

3) Old Business.

a) Centrifuge Repair

- i) Mr. Richmond stated the centrifuge experienced vibrations due to a bearing issue on the unit's feed side. As approved at the 8/13/26 meeting, Veolia is pursuing a repair with the centrifuge manufacturer. They are in the process of trying to schedule the repair. Until that time, the WWTF is using the old belt thickener for sludge processing. It is keeping up with WWTFs production needs but is not producing as thick of a product as compared to the centrifuge.

4) AECOM Report

a. Quail Ridge Pump Station

77 Sunset Lane Easement.

Mr. Formica reported that Pullman and Comley had submitted the draft easement for 77 Sunset Lane (Charter Group). Mr. Formica noted that Ken Oslen the 77 Sunset Lane Homeowner's Association President was as an attendee and understand he was hoping to speak on behalf of the Charter Group. Mr. Olsen was unable to get his microphone to work. Mr. Formica indicated that per any email received from Mr. Olsen and a brief recent discussion, that on behalf of the 77 Sunset Lane Homeowners Association (HOA), Mr. Olson had requested the WPCA provide the HOA \$20,000 for the HOA's granting of the easement. They indicated that they intend to use the funding to remove several dead trees in the conservation area adjacent to the large retaining wall on their property. It was clarified that these trees were not in the area of the proposed sewer work. The WPCA indicated that they would review the request, however noted that as a public entity, it may be difficult to justify how a single property owner should receive public funding to address an issue on their property that is not adjacent to the WPCA's proposed work.

Prospect Woods

Mr. Formica indicated Pullman and Comley have submitted the draft easements to Prospect Woods. No response has been provided to date.

He also indicated that he and Diana had received an email last month from Shane Herlet's Attorney indicating their desire for a fence adjacent to Mr. Herlet's property and that it must be established by their HOA. They noted that should their HOA fail to act to locate the fence as they have requested, they will take any action necessary to prevent the execution of the easement. Mr. Formica indicated that he advised them that AECOM and the WPCA have been requested to direct Mr. Herlet's concerns, requests, and questions to the Prospect Woods HOA and their attorney for resolution.

CT DEEP

Mr. Formica noted that the 3rd easement application with the State was submitted to the DEEP's Land Acquisitions and Management Group in early May. As noted last

month they have subsequently submitted the application to the DEEP State Dams Section and coordinate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to obtain their feedback. There is no further update.

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

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

c. South Street WWTF Upgrade

Pump Station No. 2 Hatch Door Replacement. Mr. Formica indicated the replacement hatch doors were delivered to the WWTF and they were in acceptable condition.

Clean Water Fund Loan Closure Update

Mr. Formica reported that per a discussion with Lee Rogers from CT DEEP it should be noted that the project's Grant Loan Agreement is due to expire at the end of October. It was noted that DEEP has yet to approve the South Street WWTF Upgrade Change Order No. 25 which deleted \$1,146,203.80 from Spectraserv contract per the WPCA and Spectraserv's settlement agreement. As such the Town cannot submit the final payment application for grant loan reimbursement which would include the \$600K in payment to Spectraserv due to potential ineligibility concerns as well as AECOM's final invoices. It was noted that the WPCA/Town will need to make a decision on how to proceed. Some options include

- Extending the agreement end date out into the future.
- The Town could opt to do another permanent loan obligation (PLO) for the funds expended since the last PLO. The current interest on the cost since the last PLO is about \$1,000/month and the legal services for the last PLO were \$25,000.
- The Town could close out the project and waive any payment reimbursement on the remaining project costs.

It was noted that Kevin Redmond should be consulted on this in the near future.

Wetlands Enhancement. Mr. Formica indicated New England Landscape and Management, Inc. was on site this month to remove and dispose of the vegetation from the wetlands. They are planning to return to the site in September to complete the plantings. Their owner indicated that they would like to plant some Blue Flag Iris 'Iris Versicolor' which is marginal aquatic hybrid with violet blue flowers and asked if the WCPA would want to consider this. It was noted that this would require going back to the Wetlands Board. As such Mr. Formica will advise the landscaper to adhere to the original plan.

5) Veolia Report Callouts

- 7/4 Call out Ramapoo Utility Power Loss
- 7/6 Call out South Street High Level
- 7/7 Call out Scott's Ridge Utility Power Loss
- 7/13 Call out Fox Hill Pump Failure
- 7/29 South Street Blackout Condition
- 7/30 Fox Hill Force Main Repair
- 7/31 Fox Hill Pump Station/Force Main issue and Manhole Backup

Major Maintenance Operations in July

- Alert Scientific Calibrated all Lab Equipment
- DO Probe Cap changed for Reaeration Tank
- Ferric Chloride Chemical pump heads changed
- Cleaned UV Channels 1 & 2
- Headworks Building clean air intake and rooftop units cleaned
- UV Building Mulvaney Mechanical Service Call for Relay/Belts
- Acorn Electric replaced broken conduit Aeration 1B
- IDC Electrical onsite to assess Blower 3 VFD and Equipment Feed

6) Motion to go into Executive Session and invite Mr. Formica and Ms. Van Ness by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Zawacki passing 4-0.

a) The WPCA returned to public at 8:38 p.m. with no votes taken.

7) The WPCA discussed the next meeting due to scheduled conflicts. It was decided to meet September 17, 2026.

8) Adjournment

a) Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness