



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
December 16, 2021 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Corinne Ketchum
WPCA absent: Ron Hill
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
Suez: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Michael Burke, Jon Arneth

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

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

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

- i) Motion to approve November 18, 2021 minutes by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.**

2) Old Business

a) Route 7

- i) Ms. Siebert contacted Dave Fox, Raftelis, regarding different fee structure scenarios for connection and annual user fees combining Route 7 District with South Street District. Ms. Siebert discussed feedback from Dave Fox on various types of connection/hook-up/betterment fees that could be considered. Ms. Siebert will arrange with Raftelis to make additional rate model runs to address future projects. There was discussion about the need to advance this effort promptly. Ms. Siebert will further discuss fees with Mr. Fox.**

b) Suez Contract

- i) The WPCA discussed the Third Amendment to the Suez contract relating to paragraph 6. Suez was also requested to change all references in the contract to the town to the WPCA, and Suez agreed. **Motion was made to accept the Suez contract as amended by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Ketchum passing 4-0.****

3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that as discussed last month, on November 12th AECOM had submitted the Request for Authorization to Award the Route 7 construction contract to M&O Construction to the DEEP. On December 6th DEEP issued the letter to the WPCA authorizing the award of the Contract. AECOM then issued a request to M&O Construction on December 7th to sign the Contract Agreement and furnish the required Payment and Performance Bonds as well as Insurance coverage. Earlier today AECOM received the documents from M&O Construction and AECOM is currently reviewing them. Mr. Pearson noted that they also forwarded a copy of the bonds and insurance to Jake Muller, Purchasing Director for review in parallel. Once it is confirmed that the submitted documents are acceptable, AECOM will insert them into the contract specifications and forward the documents to the WPCA for execution together with a Notice to Proceed that should be issued once the WPCA executes the contract. Mr. Pearson noted that at AECOM's request M&O has graciously extended their bid holding period another two weeks to allow the documents to be executed.
- ii) Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM is continuing to prepare the Grant/Loan application for the Route 7 project. DEEP has not yet confirmed that the ARPA funds can be used to pay for the ineligible paving costs, but Mr. Pearson continues to keep in touch with Lee Rogers, the CWF accountant on this question. Once this question is answered, AECOM can finalize the application and will be asking Ms. Van Ness for assistance in securing several items such as Meeting minutes certified by the Town Clerk that are needed to support the application.
- iii) In response to a Request for Projects in FY 22 and FY23 from the DEEP in anticipation of the Federal Infrastructure bill funds being released through the Clean Water Fund, Mr. Pearson discussed that on behalf of the WPCA AECOM submitted both the Route 7 project and the Quail Ridge PS Relocation project to the DEEP in advance of the December 10th deadline.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica stated that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Arneth, participating. Through the end of November, 76 percent of the contract time (including the time extension in Change Order No. 2) has elapsed and 58 percent of the contract cost has been incurred. Construction has continued this month including:
 - The Septage Building exterior masonry façade has been completed and the precast concrete roof planks installed. Work is ongoing on construction of the roof parapet.
 - Work on the Blower Building continues, with interior work by all trades underway including the interior plumbing and HVAC systems, roof top HVAC equipment being installed, and extensive electrical work on lighting, fire alarms, and other systems.

The roll up door was installed and the garage entrance ramp and exterior door landing pads were formed, reinforced, and concrete was placed.

- Concrete work on the UV/Reaeration Building continued, with the UV channel walls passing the leak test, and work continues on the connecting process piping and electrical ductbanks to the building.
- Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with the chemical feed pump tables installed and pumps being mounted, and HVAC and electrical work ongoing. The exterior masonry façade installation is also continuing.
- Demolition work in the Operations Building lower levels continued with the demolition of the alum tanks and containment wall, as well as piping and HVAC duct demolition.
- The new 1500KW standby generator successfully passed the required 4-hour load bank test.
- Site work continued with installation of three of the four city water connections in South Street, as well as continued installation of the storm drain system piping. Grading around the blower building and the Control Building was completed as well as removal of concrete debris from the site.

Mr. Pearson discussed that Spectraserv was not getting responses from Aquarion Water and asked if AECOM could assist and AECOM had asked that Ms. Van Ness get involved to help move things along. AECOM also asked for her help in getting the Eversource Gas division to be responsive and she has reached out to others within the town for assistance and Mr. Pearson expressed appreciation for the efforts she is making.

- ii) Mr. Pearson discussed the schedule status, and noted that AECOM continues to be concerned about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised completion date (and DEEP shares that concern). Spectraserv's latest schedule update shows that they are 11 weeks behind schedule, which they attribute to delays being experienced in obtaining materials due to industry wide shortages with many items backordered. AECOM continues to ask that Spectraserv provide documentation of these delays but have received no significant documentation to date. Spectraserv has not yet responded to AECOM's most recent letter (11/17.21) on schedule concerns but stated today that they would be doing so in the next week. AECOM is also planning to speak with Steve Wells, Spectraserv's President to emphasize the concerns over schedule. Depending on the outcome of the discussions with them, Mr. Pearson noted that the WPCA may wish to request Spectraserv attend an upcoming WPCA meeting to allow the WPCA to voice concerns and hear what the responses are.
- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed that on behalf of the WPCA, AECOM prepared a response to DEEP's request for a plan to implement an interim phosphorus removal system since the permanent phosphorus removal system is not shown to be operational by 4-1-22 in Spectraserv's latest schedule as discussed last month. AECOM had provided a draft of the letter to the DEEP. There were no comments on the letter, and AECOM was requested to submit the letter to the DEEP by the end of the year.
- iv) Mr. Pearson submitted Progress Payment No. 27 for Spectraserv that covers the month of October in the amount of \$841,720.16 and recommended it be approved.

The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. After last month's meeting, the DEEP Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted DEEP, and the process to obtain grant and loan payments from the DEEP is proceeding as planned.

4) Suez

- a) Mr. Pennell presented the Suez Environmental report for November 18, 2021. Kovacs Construction replaced the 2 guide rails in the Copps Hill Pump Station wet well for pump #2. The station has both pumps operating at this time. Suez had a call out at South Street for wet well high level. They replaced the float for the wet well pumps.

5) Adjournment

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. by a Motion made by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum; motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness