



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM
June 22, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki, Maureen Kozlark
WPCA absent: Corinne Ketchum
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
Veolia: Ryan Richmond

**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 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve May 25, 2023 minutes by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by
Ms. Siebert, passing 4-0.**

b) New Sewer Rates

- i)** Discussed sewer rates according to Raftelis rate model that showed a 4 percent annual increase. Ms. Siebert suggested this increase was prudent in light of the extended construction schedule and potential for added costs for both the South Street WWTF Upgrade and the Route 7 Force Main, Pump Station, and WWTF Decommissioning project. In response to a question from Ms. Kozlark, Ms. Van Ness noted no updated cost information for the Danbury treatment plant upgrade has been received from Danbury, and the Rate Model includes about \$1 million for this cost.

Motion to approve the sewer rates as follows :

(1) District 1 (South Street) \$878.00

(2) District 2 (Route 7) \$878.00

(3) District 3 (Turner Hill) \$492.00 by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms.

Kozlark, passing 4-0.

c) Truck Replacement

- i)** Mr. Zawacki discussed replacing the F250 truck with Jake Muller, Purchasing Director and it was decided that Mr. Zawacki will research options for the purchase of a new truck for the WPCA.

2) Old Business

a) Charter Revision Review

- i) Ms. Kozlark stated that the Charter Revision Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 28, 2023 to discuss revisions.

b) Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property.

Ms. Kozlark stated that the article in the Danbury News Times and the Press mentioned that if there was contamination at the Route 7 property, the WPCA would pay for the remediation which is inaccurate. Ms. Kozlark sent an email to the Press and Danbury News Times for publication of a correction.

The Board of Finance requested the WPCA attend their meeting on June 20 to discuss the South Street and Route 7 Project Budget. Ms. Kozlark, Ms. Siebert, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. Formica gave a presentation to the Board of Finance on the status of the projects. The handout package that was distributed to the Board of Finance at the meeting was also provided to the Board of Selectmen.

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. M&O Construction has continued with the force main/fiber optic cable installation on Farmingville Road east from the Ligi's Way intersection and connected to the previously installed force main at the Ridgefield Brook crossing. They have also commenced the required pressure testing of the force main, with the first section tested from Route 7 just by the light at Haviland Road to Limekiln Road about 600 feet south of Haviland Road passing successfully, but the next section tested has not passed, and they will be working to locate and correct the leak in the next few weeks. In response to a question from Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Formica noted that it is not unusual for a minor leak to be found and then corrected during force main pressure testing. The force main crew will then install the last blowoff manhole along Farmingville Road, and then move to Route 7 at the corner of Haviland Road and continue north along Route 7 to the point where the trenchless force main installation will be done. Mr. Formica noted that on or around the same time, the fiber optic cables will be pulled into the installed conduits between Route 7 and Lee Road. There has been a delay in obtaining the HDPE pipe for the two trenchless crossings under the Norwalk River as well under the Ridgefield Brook culvert on Ligi's Way, but that pipe is scheduled to arrive in early July to allow that work to commence. Through yesterday, approximately 12,170 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed which is approximately 90% of the total force main.
- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O's latest schedule shows that the pump station schedule is still being affected by delays in obtaining key components and work starting onsite at the pump station has been pushed out until early August with a

completion at end of December (pending resolution of a few electrical issues) and the WWTF demolition being completed in April 2024. The generator is no longer driving the schedule, it is the delays in delivery of other key electrical components. As AECOM noted previously, M&O has been requested to support the extended schedule with documentation of the delays in obtaining key pump station equipment, and AECOM believes that this will necessitate a time extension.

- iii) Mr. Formica reviewed that with construction progress, AECOM has submitted progress payment estimate no.16 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$104,559.48 for M&O Construction. AECOM has reviewed it and recommend that it be approved for payment. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. Since the contractual date for substantial completion has now passed, Mr. Formica noted that the progress payment form includes the caveat that since the contract substantial completion date has passed that the WPCA reserves the right to assess liquidated damages if a time extension is not justified and executed in a change order.
- iv) Mr. Formica presented Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$14,027.42 for two items: extending the fiber optic cables and to cut and remove an unknown concrete block at the culvert where Ridgefield Brook crosses Farmingville Road. **Motion to approve Change Order No. 3 by Mr. Hill, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 4-0.**
- v) AECOM is now preparing a weekly Construction Update for distribution and posting on the WPCA and Town website.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica reviewed the major activities completed since the May WPCA meeting that include:
 - (a) Influent Building - The operation of the temporary bypass pumping and screening system that allows the Influent Building to be bypassed has continued. Wiring of the new process equipment is ongoing, and HVAC and plumbing work continues in the building. The new influent box hydrostatic leak testing of the structure as well as the pipe connected to the box was successfully completed.
 - (b) Operations Building. - Installation of the building façade continued, a number of new doors and windows were installed, work on the laboratory to install new plumbing fixtures and the new dishwasher were completed, and start up efforts for the 6 effluent filters continued.
 - (c) Site Work - Work on site lighting installation continued, site grading and sidewalk work continued, and work on the underground duct banks for power and control wiring for the influent pump stations was started.
- ii) Mr. Formica reviewed that Progress Payment No. 45 for Spectraserv has been submitted that covers the month of May in the amount of \$479,395.00 and AECOM recommends it be approved. The progress payment form includes the caveat that since the contract substantial completion date has 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 April, Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv has expended 87% of the project cost, while 123% of the contract time has passed.

- iii) Mr. Formica presented Change Order No. 12 in the amount of \$26,482.90 for five items: Belt Filter Press Panel Field Examination, Furnish and Install Time Server, South Street and Ligi's Way paving credit, Influent Manhole 1 Replacement and Upstream Bypass, and Additional Potable Water Usage Contractor Reimbursement.
Motion to approve Change Order No. 12 for \$26,482.90 by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 4-0.

- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv's latest schedule shows the final completion date as November 22, 2023. However, this date does not fit with the current expenditure rate since the average monthly expenditure for the last 6 months is approx. \$570 and will need to be at \$750K per month to achieve the November date. The latest cash flow projection from April to complete the project provided by Spectraserv showed that this month they would have expended \$678K but only achieved 70% of this amount, an indication that they are again not providing sufficient resources to meet the schedule. Following discussion, the WPCA and AECOM agreed to send Spectraserv and their Bonding Company another letter to review the rate of progress and request definition of what additional work efforts will allow their current schedule to be met since the rate of expenditures does not support the current schedule.

c) Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation

- i) Mr. Formica 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. Mr. Formica is continuing to coordinate with Planning & Zoning to confirm if several items are required to complete the design include the need to meet with the architectural advisory committee and the need for any state and /or federal conservation easements for the gravity sewer needed to relocate the pump station. Once the final requirements are known AECOM will generate an estimate for to the completion of the design for discussion with the WPCA.

4) Veolia

- a) Mr. Richmond presented the May 2023 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of May 2023.

5) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. by Mr. Zawacki seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness