



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM
October 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Amy Siebert
Absent: Corrine Ketchum
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
Veolia: Ryan Richmond, Jason O'Brien

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 6:00 p.m.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve September 28, 2023 minutes as amended to reflect Charter Revision Review to be voted on in a referendum in November by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 3-0.

b) Purchase of New Vector Truck

Dave Buccitti, Highway Department, requested Jeff Pennell and Gary Zawacki meet to discuss the purchase of a new Vector truck. Mr. O'Brien offered to provide data on past use of the existing Vector truck both for planned and emergency uses. Mr. Formica suggested considering the dimensions of the new Septage Receiving Building if a new truck is being purchased.

c) Route 7 Sewer Allocation

- i) The WPCA will review Route 7 sewer allocation if additional units are needed for individual properties.

2) Old Business

a) New Outside Seating Regulations

- i) The WPCA will review Route 7 sewer allocations for properties requesting additional sewer units according to the new outside seating regulations.

b) Charter Revision Review

- i) Ms. Kozlark stated that the Charter Revision Commission request for alternate members for the WPCA will be voted on in a referendum in November.
- c) **Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property.**
 - i) Ms. Kozlark suggested the WPCA request to be on the agenda with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the \$440,000 sale of the property.

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. This month, M&O Construction continued force main leak testing and on Oct. 4th located the leak on a 45 degree bend at the intersection of Ligi's Way and Farmingville Road. The 45 degree bend was replaced and a torn gasket was found to be the source of the leak. The repaired force main was retested and successfully passed. M&O also continued with installation and testing of the fiber optic cables from the intersection of Lee and Farmingville roads to Ligi's Way.
- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O's trenchless subcontractor Directional Technologies continued the trenchless installation of the crossing of the Ridgefield Brook culvert with horizontal directional drilling. The force main was pulled into the installed casing pipe on Oct. 18, and they are currently installing the fiber optic conduits. In response to a question, Mr. Formica noted that the fiber optic conduits at the brook culvert were not able to be installed using directional drilling due to obstructions, and M&O Construction is proposing to install the conduits over the brook culvert using open cut construction. M&O also continued with the open cut installation of the force main and fiber optic conduits between the brook crossing and the corner of Ligi's Way and South Street. Mr. Formica summarized that through the end of Sept., 13,200 feet of the force main has been installed, which is 97% of the total length, and 90 percent has been successfully pressure tested.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O Construction continued site work at the pump station site this month. M&O has completed installation of the temporary sound barrier at the pump station and saw cut the driveway at 901 Ethan Allen Highway in preparation for the installation of the temporary bypass pumping system scheduled to start the week of Nov. 6th.
- iv) Mr. Formica reviewed that M&O submitted their October schedule update which shows the pump station schedule no longer being affected by delays in obtaining key components but now by the efforts to locate the force main leak and complete the pipe installation on Town Streets. The schedule shows completion of the force main in early December, startup of the new pump station in early March, and final project completion in the third week of May 2024. M&O has also informed AECOM that the generator will be shipped a few weeks earlier than previously scheduled, but with the

startup of the pump station now schedule for March, a temporary generator is no longer needed.

- v) Mr. Formica discussed that progress payment estimate no.20 for the Route 7 project for September was submitted in the amount of \$405,419.14 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. Formica 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. Formica summarized that through the end of Sept., 53% of the construction cost has been expended, and 108% of the contract time has passed.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica reviewed the major activities completed since the August WPCA meeting that include:
 - (a) Influent Building -The new influent screens, screenings washpress, and grit removal equipment were checked out by the manufacturer's representatives and these components were then put into service starting on Oct. 18th. Spectraserv's temporary bypass pumping system was partially removed once the existing influent pumps were put back into service. A temporary standby diesel pump remains in place should influent flows exceed the existing pump capacity until the new Pump Station No. 2 pumps are completed and put into service.
 - (b) Operations Building– The new plant recycle pumps 1 and 2 were put into service and the temporary pumps were removed.
 - (c) Thickened Sludge Storage Tank– The concrete base slab, walls and roof slab of the new thickened sludge storage tank have been constructed, and the required leak testing of the tank is being scheduled. Spectraserv's temporary tank continues to be used to store sludge prior to offsite hauling.
- ii) Mr. Formica reviewed that Progress Payment No. 49 for Spectraserv that covers the month of September in the amount of \$311,623.28 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. Formica reviewed that through the end of Sept., Spectraserv has expended 92% of the project cost, while 133% of the contract time has passed.
- iii) Mr. Formica presented Change Order No. 15 for \$65,376.84 for approval for the following items:
 - (1) Septage Building Platform and Steps
 - (2) Operations Building Basement Trench Plates
 - (3) Control Building Sump Grating
 - (4) Aeration Tank No. 2 Ship's Ladder

- (5) Blower Building & Maintenance Garage Light Switches Relocation
- (6) Operations Building Thickening Room Lighting
- (7) Ring Buoys and Personnel Gas Detector Modifications
- (8) Confined Space Entry Davit Equipment
- (9) Operations Building Network Panel Fiber Cassettes
- 10) Truckway Manhole Check Valve
- 11) UV Lifting Module
- 12) Provide SCADA Control Strategy Revisions

Motion to approve Change Order No. 15 for \$65,376.84 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 3-0.

- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv's schedule update this month shows no change in the projected completion date from last month and that the project will be complete by April 17, 2024. This month's payment of \$311,623.28 is only 71% of last month's expenditure of \$411,353, indicating a reduced rate of completion of work. For the last two months, Spectraserv has expended \$749,000 versus their latest cash flow projection of \$770,000.
- v) Mr. Formica noted that AECOM had prepared a draft response to Spectraserv's 7-10-23 letter that responded to AECOM's 6-29-23 denial of their 4/4/22 claim for a time extension and additional costs that was reviewed by the WPCA's attorney. The revised letter was sent to Spectraserv on Oct. 4th. In response to Spectraserv's request, a meeting to review the project with Spectraserv, and their bonding company Liberty Mutual, has been scheduled for Nov. 9th at the Annex. Mr. Formica discussed that Ms. Siebert, Ms. Kozlark, possibly Jake Muller, the WPCA's attorney and AECOM will be participating in this meeting. DEEP was invited to attend but has declined the invitation.

c) Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation

- i) Mr. Formica presented Ridgefield Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation Design – Amendment No. 1 Revision to the Scope of Services, and reviewed the details of the remaining tasks to complete the design and permitting. Amendment No.1 increases the project budget by \$99,851. In response to a question, Mr. Formica noted that the current design does not include construction a trail along the proposed sewer route between Prospect St. and Old Quarry Road. This had been discussed in the past, but no direction to include the trail in the project was decided. Mr. Zawacki noted that he believes this would be a separate trail from the trail the developer of the Coach Homes on the Schlumberger property was required to construct. The direction on inclusion of the trail will be reviewed as part of the design completion.

Motion to approve Amendment No.1 to the Agreement with AECOM for engineering services for the design of the relocation of the Quail Ridge Pump Station for \$99,851 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 3-0.

4) Veolia

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

Route 7 WWTF: Mr. Richmond noted that the side rails on the primary settling tank were repaired and the tank is back in service.

Ms. Siebert departed the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Fox Hill: Mr. Richmond discussed that Pump 1 had a problem, was removed and found to have a broken shaft, and has been sent to IDC to see if it's worth rebuilding the pump or if it would be better to replace it. Mr. Richmond is waiting on pricing and has notified Suzanne Berry of the situation.

Annual Jet/Vac 20% of Collection System: In response to a question, Mr. Richmond noted that this takes 5-7 days to complete. He will work on seeing how much this will cost to outsource if necessary. He noted that Veolia responds to 3-5 emergency callouts for blockages annually where the vacator truck is needed.

Mr. O'Brien stated Veolia would like to amend the contract deadline for the new CMMS program implementation to 90 days after the last equipment O/M manual has been turned over to the project. Since the upgrade is going far past the original end date, so has the release of equipment and their respective O/M manuals which the programmers need to complete the CMMS. Following discussion, it was agreed that this approach would be acceptable and this item should be on the agenda for the November meeting.

5) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Mr. Zawacki, motion passed 2-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness