



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM
November 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Amy Siebert, Corrine Ketchum
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica, Gisele Trivino
Veolia: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Jason O'Brien
Participant: Russel Fink

**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 7:00 p.m.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve October 26, 2023 minutes as amended for the WPCA to request to be on the agenda for a future Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 3-0, Ms. Ketchum abstained.

b) Resignation of Ron Hill.

i) Discussed the resignation of Mr. Hill. Mr. Fink was welcomed as a potential new WPCA member.

c) 2024 WPCA Calendar Approval.

i) Ms. Siebert suggested a Zoom/Hybrid meeting format and to stay with the 4th Thursday of the month for meetings except for November and December.

ii) Motion to accept calendar by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.

d) Purchase of New Vector Truck

i) Dave Buccitti, Highway Department met with Jeff Pennell and Gary Zawacki to discuss the purchase of a new Vector truck. Dave Buccitti had arranged to have two Vector trucks onsite for review. Mr. Zawacki noted that the costs of the two trucks that were shown ranged from \$580,000 to \$700,000, and there is a 1.5 year lead time to obtain a vector truck. Mr. Zawacki discussed the past financial arrangement with Mr. Buccitti and

stated that the WPCA did not use the vactor truck fifty percent of the time so he would have difficulty supporting the same split of costs between the WPCA and the Highway Department as in the past. Mr. O'Brien had reviewed past vactor truck usage data and stated that Veolia typically used the truck between 15 and 20 work days a year for the annual cleaning of 20 percent of the collection system. Mr. O'Brien had also contacted a vactor contractor and noted that at a cost of \$1500 per day, the annual use of 15 to 20 days a year would require an expense of \$35,000-\$40,00 per year to contract out the vactor services. It was discussed that some of the need for the vactor is to address emergency cleaning of clogged or backed up sewers that would make contracting for these services difficult.

2) Old Business

a) Charter Revision Review

- i) Ms. Kozlark stated that the Charter Revision Commission referendum questions passed on Election Day. The WPCA now has the ability to have two alternates. Will check the sewer ordinance regarding members in the sewer district, on septic, and other requirements. Ms. Seibert requested that the WPCA members consider other residents that may be willing to serve.

b) Route 7 Sewer Allocation

- i) The WPCA will review Route 7 sewer allocation.

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 at a future meeting to discuss the 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 work in Ligi's Way including construction of the concrete anchor blocks on the force main under the Ridgefield Brook culvert installed using directional drilling and grouting the annular space between the force main pipe and the carrier pipe. The force main and fiber optic conduits between the brook culvert and South Street were installed, and the force main and fiber optic conduits were connected to the pipe and conduits at the corner of South Street that had been installed and previously leak tested by Spectraserv. M&O also begin installing the pulling ropes in the fiber optic conduits on Ligi's Way. The portion of the force main on Ligi's Way that has not been previously leak tested was leak tested earlier this week and successfully passed the test.
- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O also continued the open cut installation of the force main and fiber optic conduits in the shoulder of Route 7 north of the Haviland Road intersection. Through the end of October, 13,400 feet of the force main has been installed which is 99% of the total length, and 94 percent has been successfully

pressure tested. M&O has been requested by AECOM to implement trench repairs along Farmingville Road prior to the paving plants closing for the winter.

- iii) Mr. Formica reviewed that there was little activity at the pump station site this month, as the pipe crew on Ligi's Way has not yet moved over to the pump station. The latest update from M&O shows the start of work on the temporary bypass pumping system at the pump station now beginning in the first week of December.
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O submitted their November schedule update which shows the pump station schedule no longer being affected by delays in obtaining key components but now being controlled by start of the pump station bypass and the related outstanding submittals. The schedule shows completion of the force main installation and testing in early December, the startup of the new pump station in mid-April, and final project completion in mid-June 2024.
- v) Mr. Formica noted that M&O Construction submitted a request for a time extension with some supporting information, requesting that the current contract final completion date of August 11, 2023 be revised to June 11, 2024 in light of the delays experienced in obtaining the pump station components. Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has reviewed the information submitted and will be requesting additional supporting information to justify the requested time extension. AECOM does not believe that all of the additional time requested will be justified, but need additional information from M&O before AECOM can make a recommendation to the WPCA on responding to the request for additional time.
- vi) Mr. Formica discussed that progress payment estimate no.21 for the Route 7 project for September was submitted in the amount of \$481,957.08 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., 60% of the construction cost has been expended, and 113% 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 installation of the exterior clapboard siding began this month and the new pump station no. 2 pumps were put into service.
 - (b) Operations Building – The new boilers were started up and are being checked out by the manufacturer's representative.
 - (c) Final Settling Tank No. 1 – The tank was taken out of service, leveling of the mechanism and touch up painting were completed, and the tank was put back into service.

- ii) Mr. Formica reviewed that Progress Payment No. 50 for Spectraserv that covers the month of September in the amount of \$352,499.69 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 93% of the project cost, while 136% of the contract time has passed.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv has not yet submitted a schedule update this month, but the last update shows no change in the projected completion date and that the project will be complete by April 17, 2024. This month's payment represents 110% of this month's projected payment indicated in Spectraserv's latest cash flow projection. For the last six months, the monthly expenditures have averaged about \$400,000, and this will need to increase to nearly \$490,000 per month for the next 6 months to meet the April final completion date, a 21% increase.
- iv) Mr. Formica reviewed that on November 9th, a meeting to review the project with Spectraserv and their attorney, and their bonding company Liberty Mutual, was held at the Annex with Ms. Siebert, Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Muller, Attorney Frank, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Formica attending. At the meeting Spectraserv indicated that they wanted to discuss a proposed settlement related to the extended time for completion, but it was indicated that discussion was premature since the project is not completed, and Spectraserv's focus needs to be on finishing the project before the WPCA would be willing to have a settlement discussion. Spectraserv maintained that they will achieve substantial completion of the project in Mid-January and final completion in late April as their latest schedule shows. Spectraserv committed to providing a resource loaded schedule of the remaining work to their approach and workforce to complete the work by tomorrow November 17th. Mr. Formica noted that a tentative date for a follow-up meeting with Spectraserv was scheduled for November 30th.

There was discussion about preparing a letter to the DEEP both on the efforts by the WPCA to push Spectraserv to get the Nexom filters operational in sufficient time to meet the new effluent phosphorus limits which take effect April 1, 2024, and to notify DEEP that the work may not be completed by this date. AECOM was requested to prepare a draft letter for signature by the WPCA and the Town. Ms. Kozlark noted that the draft letter should be reviewed by Attorney Frank prior to finalizing.

- v) Mr. Formica reviewed that on Tuesday of this week, there was an issue with the operation of the new influent pumps in PS No. 2 that were the primary influent pumps. The level in the influent wet well rose to the point where the backup temporary diesel standby pump should have started, but it did not due to a battery failure. When the pumps were restarted, all pumps restarted simultaneously, resulting in a small overflow of raw wastewater from the influent box at the Influent Building. The minor spill was contained within the area around the Influent Box and the Influent Building and did not result in a discharge offsite into either Ridgefield Brook or the site storm drains. As required by the NPDES permit, Veolia notified DEEP of the spill.

c) Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation

- i) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has re-started work on getting the design of the pump station completed and will be reaching out to Jake Muller and others for information needed to coordinate the pump station design with the planned Police/Fire facility as well as details on the potential rail trail extension along the sewer easement proposed between Prospect Street and Old Quarry Road.

4) Veolia

- a) Mr. O'Brien introduced the amendment to the contract for implementation of a new CMMS (Computer Maintenance Management System). The previous deadline for implementation was 12/31/2023. The amendment changes the deadline for implementation to 90 days after the final Operation and Maintenance manual has been turned over by Spectraserv.
- b) **Motion to accept the amendment by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 4-0.**
- c) Mr. O'Brien discussed that because of erroneous flow readings from the malfunctioning facility flow meter in July, the 180 day arithmetic mean of the average daily flow exceeded 90 percent of the existing WWTF design flow, which triggers the need to prepare and submit to DEEP a plan for how future flow increases will be accommodated. AECOM will be reaching out to the DEEP to discuss what is expected in this document, but it is expected to be a minor issue as the flow readings were not correct. The plan needs to be submitted within a year from the triggering date.
- d) Both Facilities met their NPDES permit requirements for the month of October.
- e) All recalls from FORD have been addressed and fixed and the 2023 F350 Pickup is now back at South Street.

5) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, motion passed 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness