



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
March 24, 2022 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

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

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

WPCA Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

**i) Motion to approve February 24, 2022 minutes by Ms. Kozlark,
seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.**

b) Raftelis Consulting Agreement

i) This items was tabled until the next meeting.

2) Old Business

a) Route 7

**i) Discussed April 5, 2022 Public Information Meeting logistics. Ms. Van
Ness will send meeting notice information to various media sites and the
Ridgefield Press for publication. AECOM will prepare a draft presentation
for WPCA review prior to the meeting.**

3) AECOM

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

**i) Mr. Pearson discussed that the Route 7 project preconstruction meeting was held at the
Annex on Thursday March 10th. There were a large number of participants including
Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Zawacki, and Ms. Kozlark for the WPCA and Jon Pearson, Matt
Formica and Jon Melone from AECOM. Mr. Pearson noted that Jon Melone will be
AECOM's Resident Representative on-site once work starts, and he had previously
served in this role for the Cops Hill/South Street WWTF Influent PS upgrade project.**

Also attending the meeting were representatives of M&O Construction, First Selectman Marconi, Mr. Muller (Purchasing), Mr. Buccitti (Highway), 2 people from the school department, representatives of the Fire, Police, Planning & Zoning, and Wetlands depts as well as two representatives from the DOT. At the preconstruction meeting, M&O Construction indicated that they plan to start work on the force main in early May and will start at the South Street end of the force main as required by the contract documents. This requirement was included since the Town is moving forward to bid the boardwalk project along Ligi's way.

- ii) Mr. Pearson noted that there was consensus at the preconstruction meeting that a public information meeting for this project should be held in advance of the start of construction to provide information about the coming work, identify who to contact in the event of issues, and answer questions. It was determined that this meeting will be on Tuesday April 5th at 7 pm at the Annex in the Selectman's Conference Room (former Board of Ed. room). AECOM will prepare a presentation and provide a draft of the presentation to the WPCA for review in advance of the meeting. M&O Construction will attend to respond to questions. At the preconstruction meeting the First Selectman requested that once construction starts, weekly updates on the project construction location and planned work are provided to the public via the WPCA website, a weekly social media posting (contact Eileen Pambianchi) and a weekly email blast to those who sign up for it. This will be discussed at the public meeting and it can be noted that anyone that wants to be on the email mailing list can provide their email address to Ms. Van Ness who can coordinate the weekly email update with AECOM's input and assistance. Ms. Van Ness indicated that the meeting notice was already posted on the Town Website and the WPCA webpage, and it was agreed that the meeting public notice should be placed in HamletHub in addition to the Press.
- iii) Mr. Pearson indicated that M&O Construction has continued to make shop drawing submittals on materials and equipment as well as questions submitted through the Request for Information process. AECOM is reviewing and responding to these items as they come in. M&O Construction has also secured the use of a temporary staging/storage area along the east side of Route 7 just over the Danbury line and has procured the pipe for the force main and fiber optic conduit which is stockpiled at their staging area.
- iv) Mr. Pearson discussed that since the contract has been awarded to M&O Construction, bonds and insurance have been provided, shop drawing submittals are underway, and procurement of construction materials is ongoing, AECOM submitted Progress Payment Estimate No.1 for the Route 7 project for the month of March in the amount of \$332,564.75 for M&O Construction and recommends it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution.
- v) Mr. Pearson discuss that M&O Construction had previously submitted a letter noting the lead time to obtain the pumps and generator for the project is longer than had been previously indicated and will extend the construction schedule and that costs for these items have significantly increased. M&O Construction has submitted further information regarding the schedule impacts noting that the standby generator will not be available for delivery until after the rest of the pump station will be complete in

April 2023 and suggested considering a rental generator to allow the station to be started up and operated until the permanent generator arrives. At the suggestion of the WPCA, AECOM discussed the potential for the Town to provide a temporary generator with Mr. Muller, but he recommended that M&O Construction provide this unit if needed. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM will follow up with M&O Construction on this and ask that they do investigate a rental generator. M&O Construction has not yet submitted a request for an increase in cost, but as noted last month, AECOM does not believe this is explicitly supported by the contract documents. M&O Construction has indicated that they do plan to submit a formal request for an increase in the contract value due to these changes being outside of their control. Once they do, Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM will review it and provide a recommendation, but this will likely trigger the need to re-allocate contingency funds from the South Street project, or to increase the funding for the project. In response to a question, until M&O Construction submits a request for additional time or an increase in the contract value, AECOM cannot provide direction on this question.

- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM completed the preparation of the draft Clean Water Fund Grant/Loan application for the Route 7 project which shows a grant amount of \$1.35 million. When added to the South Street WWTF Upgrade grant of \$12.1 million and the design grant of \$0.9 million, the total grant amount is \$14.35 million, well above the \$11.5 million number discussed at the time of the project referendum. He indicated that the draft application was submitted to the WPCA and Town staff on March 3rd, and AECOM has requested that the First Selectman sign the application as the authorized representative and AECOM will submit it to the DEEP once it is signed.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica stated that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today with Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, and Mr. Richmond, participating. Construction has continued this month including:
 - The Septage Building roofing and coping installation was completed, the wet well protective coating was applied, the septage pumps were installed in the wet well, and the roof drain and hot water supply and return piping to the boiler in the Control Building was completed and tested.
 - Work on the Blower Building continues, with interior work by all trades ongoing including the sink and ice maker installation, installation of the PLC cabinet and start of the associated electrical wiring, and work on the roof coping is underway.
 - Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with HVAC and electrical work ongoing. The MCC was energized and testing of equipment commenced, the PLC cabinet was installed, the ferric chloride piping was completed, tested, and put into service, the chemical fill stations were installed and piped, and the door pads were placed.
 - The stair landing pad was placed for Aeration Tank No. 1 and the stairs were installed.

- Site work continued with installation of the portions of the Route 7 and future Quail Ridge force mains with the WWTF site is ongoing, the wet well and valve vault for Pump Station No.2 were installed, and the 24-inch plant effluent pipe was completed in South Street along with the associated water main relocation by Aquarion.
- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that through the end of February 84 percent of the contract time has elapsed and 62 percent of the contract cost has been incurred. Due to the continued concerns about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised completion date, on March 10th another meeting was held with Spectraserv's President and Project Manager, AECOM and Ms. Kozlark and Mr. Zawacki were held to focus on what commitments Spectraserv would make to accelerate the work. As a result, more submittals of plans on many of the upcoming work items have been made, and Steve Wells Spectraserv's President committed to be full time involved in the day to day project work to assist Christian Garcia the Project Manager. A follow up meeting with Spectaserv and the WPCA is planned for April 5th. Spectraserv also indicated that they do plan to submit a time extension request, supported by information showing delays were out of their control. The latest schedule submittal from Spectraserv shows no additional schedule slippage. The current contractual completion date for Final Completion is August 21, 2022 and the latest schedule update shows completion on April 12, 2023 which is 232 days beyond the contractual date. Ms. Kozlark noted that during the monthly meeting, Spectraserv did not specifically discuss what they have done to accelerate the completion of the work. Following discussion, AECOM agreed to add an agenda item for Work Acceleration activities to the monthly meeting agenda. Ms. Kozlark also questioned the discussion during the meeting of Spectraserv being behind in the submittal of subcontractor invoices. Mr. Formica clarified that Spectraserv is behind in submitting Certified Payrolls for some of their subcontractors, which DEEP requires be submitted as part of the Grant/Loan payment process. Mr. Formica also noted that Spectraserv is keeping the existing UV system in service to meet the May 1 disinfection compliance date until the new UV Building and UV system is completed, tested, and able to be put into service.
- iii) Mr. Formica noted that as discussed last month, since Spectraserv's current schedule shows that the new BluePRO filter system for phosphorus removal will not be operational by 4-1-22 (date is now mid-November 2022), DEEP requested an interim plan to provide some phosphorus removal. AECOM worked with Suez and Spectraserv, developed a plan with their input that noted that the ferric chloride storage and feed system in the Chemical Building would be completed and available for use for phosphorus precipitation in early March, and this would be the interim plan which DEEP noted would be acceptable. The interim plan was submitted to the DEEP on February 28, 2022, and Mr. Formica noted that the DEEP approval of the interim plan was issued today. DEEP has also indicated that the Administrative Order to meet the total phosphorus limits will also be revised to change the required date for compliance with the new lower effluent total phosphorus limit from 4-1-22 to 4-1-23. The temporary ferric system was started up last week and is operational using totes of ferric, placed in the building to feed the new chemical feed pumps. The system is being operated in advance of the April 1 date to test and fine tune the

ferric chloride dosing system, and the data to date shows it is reducing the level of phosphorus.

- iv) As part of the DEEP review of the Temporary Ferric Plan, Mr. Formica noted that the DEEP requested that the WPCA submit a formal notification that the new phosphorus removal system will not be completed by the 4/1 deadline, and that WWTF will not be able to meet the new TP limit. AECOM drafted a letter notifying DEEP of the anticipated non-compliance as requested that was signed by Ms. Siebert and submitted to the DEEP earlier this week.
- v) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has submitted Progress Payment No. 30 for Spectraserv that covers the month of February in the amount of \$603,837.08 and AECOM recommends it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. After last month's meeting, Mr. Formica noted that the CWF payment request was submitted DEEP on the South Street WWTF, and the process to obtain grant and loan payments from the DEEP is proceeding as planned.
- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM's proposed Amendment No. 1 for engineering services during construction, that was discussed and approved at last month's WPCA meeting, was subsequently submitted to the DEEP for review as required. AECOM has been told verbally that it is in the queue for approval, however written approval of the draft Amendment has not yet been received.
- vii) Mr. Zawacki noted that there was a recent article in the Press about the Route 7 WWTF site being sold once the WWTF is decommissioned, and he inquired as to whether the proceeds from the sale of the site would be returned to the WPCA. Ms. Kozlark indicated that there has been no discussion about this by the Board of Selectmen, but the sale will need to be voted on at a town meeting. Ms. Kozlark suggested the WPCA could make the case to the Selectmen for the sale proceeds being returned to the WPCA.

4) Suez

- i) Mr. Pennell stated that Ness Industries installed a new snowplow on the F-250 truck.
- ii) The high-level alarm at the South Street Influent pump station was triggered and Suez replaced the faulty float switch.
- iii) The high-level alarm at the Rt.7 pump station was triggered and Suez was on site for about six hours because of an obstruction in the air bubbler line in the wet well that was cleared.
- iv) One of the two pumps at the Ramapoo Road Pump Station has an internal short and the pump has been sent to Traver Electric for troubleshooting on a rush basis.

5) Adjournment

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by a Motion made by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum, motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness