



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

**WPCA Regular Meeting Via ZOOM  
November 17, 2022 7:00 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

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

**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 7:00 pm.**

**1) New Business**

**a) Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve October 27, 2022 minutes by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Zawacki passing 4-0.**

**b) 34 Bailey Avenue**

**i) Mr. Steve Sullivan sent plans showing the concrete encasement regarding the issue with the water retention basin over the sewer line. The WPCA reviewed and accepted the plans.**

**ii) Motion to accept the plans as submitted by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.**

**2) Ms. Kozlark provided an overview of the meeting last Tuesday with Ms. Siebert and Ms. Kozlark to update Mr. Marconi on project status for South Street and Route 7 for the meeting with the Board of Finance. Mr. Pearson sent an updated project status report for the meeting. The Board of Finance wanted additional grant money returned to offset the ARPA funds the WPCA received for the Route 7 project. In discussion it was noted that no additional grant funds have been secured beyond what was planned at the time the ARPA funds were approved, and that an increase in the Route 7 budget will be needed for the project.**

**a) Mr. Zawacki questioned why the ARPA funds would have to be returned to the Town if additional grant money was available. Ms. Kozlark stated the Board of Finance felt that the \$8 million being provided from the Town general fund and the \$3 million in ARPA funds was sufficient, and that if**

additional grant funds are obtained, they should be applied to reduce the amount of the Town ARPA funds used. In response to a question, Ms. Kozlark noted that no other Town recipient of ARPA funds is being asked to pay them back.

- b) Mr. Zawacki questioned why the money from the sale of the Route 7 WWTF property would go to the Town general expense fund instead of the WPCA accounts since the WPCA is incurring the cost for decommissioning the WWTF. He felt strongly that the proceeds from the property sale should be returned to the WPCA, especially since they could be used to offset the needed increase in the project budget for the Route 7 Project. Ms. Kozlark suggested that if the WPCA did not agree with the Selectman's position on the proceeds from the property sale, that the WPCA attend a Board of Selectman's meeting in January to voice this concern.

### **3) AECOM**

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

- i) Mr. Formica discussed that the monthly virtual construction progress meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Kozlark, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, and Mr. Richmond attending. M&O Construction continued the installation of the force main/fiber optic cable last month on Farmingville Road from the Lee Road intersection to about 900 feet west on Farmingville Road. Through yesterday, approx. 10,470 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed, which is 77% of the total force main length. The balance of the work on Farmingville Road was originally planned to be done at night at the request of the Police Dept., but M&O had submitted a request to allow the work during the day as there have been minimal traffic impacts during the recent day work on Farmingville Road. The Police Dept. has indicated that the requested day work hours are acceptable and AECOM is working with the school dept. to review if they have any concerns. If not, AECOM will inform M&O that this change is acceptable. Mr. Formica noted that M&O Construction completed some test pits at the brook crossing on Farmingville Road earlier this week, and due to the weather and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, will not resume force main installation until after Thanksgiving. The temporary pavement repair on Ligi's Way that was agreed to at last month's WPCA meeting is scheduled to begin next Monday 11/21/22.
- ii) Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM has been continuing to work with Ms. Van Ness to prepare and post weekly project updates on where work will be occurring that are being emailed to town departments as well as being posted on the WPCA website, Town website, Facebook page, and Hamlet Hub.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has submitted progress Payment Estimate No. 9 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$291,525.86 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.

- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that as noted last month that M&O's construction schedule is being impacted by delays in obtaining key components for the pump station. Mr. Zawacki questioned what items are being delayed and Mr. Formica noted it is key pump station components such as the pumps, variable frequency drives (VFDs), programable logic controllers (PLCs). Mr. Formica noted there has been no change in the overall schedule since last month where M&O noted the open cut force main installation in Town streets is planned completed by the end of December, the 2 trenchless force main installations crossing the Norwalk River on Route 7 and Ridgefield Brook on Ligi's Way in January and February, and the start of the pump station installation being further delayed until early June with completion of the pump station at the end of October 2023. This would be followed by final completion/demolition of the Route 7 WWTF in February 2024. Mr. Formica noted that AECOM has requested that M&O 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.
- v) Mr. Formica discussed that as AECOM noted last month, with the projected increase in traffic control costs and the extended construction period, an increase in the project construction budget will be needed to complete the project. AECOM is working on developing an estimate of what additional funds are needed.
- vi) Mr. Formica indicated that the DEEP is currently reviewing the Clean Water Fund Grant/Loan application that was submitted to the DEEP on March 28th. AECOM recently spoke with the CWF Accountant and made him aware of the extended schedule and the increasing cost for the Route 7 Project. We also noted that the schedule for permanent financing of the South Street WWTF Upgrade project in the Clean Water Fund Agreement will need to be extended.

**a) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction**

- i) Mr. Formica reviewed that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today and Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, and Mr. Richmond participated. Significant activities this past month included:
  - (a) Control Building – Comcast installed and activated the new phone and internet service in the building, and the SCADA workstations were installed in the building.
  - (b) Aeration Tank No. 2 – Grit removal from the tanks was completed and demolition of the mechanical surface aerators continued.
  - (c) Influent Building - The Exterior Foam Insulation System (EFIS) façade removal was completed and installation of the new thin clad masonry veneer façade was started.
  - (d) Operations Building - Work on the filter area continues with significant demolition work advancing
- ii) The updated breakdown of the completion status of the buildings and structures on the project was reviewed by Mr. Formica. He noted that the other activity upcoming is to relocate some Veolia staff to the Control Building from the Operations Building once the fire alarm notification system is tested and operational. Another upcoming

change is to relocate the balance of the Veolia staff to a temporary lab in the new Blower Building Garage to allow work on the second floor of the Operations Building to proceed.

- iii) Mr. Formica reviewed progress Payment Estimate No. 38 for Spectraserv that covers the month of October in the amount of \$930,496.11 and recommended it be approved. It 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. After last month's meeting, 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.
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM had forwarded a draft of Change Order No. 8 for review earlier this week. It includes 4 items for a total of \$92,346.91 that include: 1. Relocation of Generator, Electrical Building and Rear Access Road to improve access road alignment; 2. Modification of Control Building Site Grading and Parking for handicap access according to ADA requirements; 3. Painting in UV Building ceiling and deleting painting in the Influent Building Electrical Room; 4. Addition of Fire Alarm Dialer in Control Building. Mr. Formica noted that thru Change Order No. 8 the total amount of Change Orders is approximately \$410,000 which represents approx. 1.1% of the original contract value. **Motion to approve the 4 items by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.**
- v) Mr. Formica discuss that Spectraserv recently submitted a request for Substantial Completion for the following work areas of the WWTF:
  - Control/Chemical Buildings
  - Aeration Tank No. 1
  - Blower Building
  - Final Settling Tanks 1 & 2
  - Effluent Flow Meter Vault
  - UV/Reaeration Building and tanks
  - Electrical Building

Mr. Formica discussed that the request for Substantial Completion triggered a review of the work by the Engineer and the Owner to assess the status of completion to collectively assess whether AECOM as the Engineer considers the work to be substantially complete. This review occurred on Monday and Tuesday of last week. After reviewing the field conditions, AECOM recommends the following be confirmed as substantially complete:

- Final Settling Tanks 1 & 2
- Aeration Tank No. 1

For the remaining elements that Spectraserv has requested be confirmed as substantially complete, Mr. Formica discussed that there are a large number of incomplete items that would impair the intended use and the ability to operate the systems in addition to a need for significant cleaning of these buildings. AECOM do not agree that these elements are substantially complete, and believes the request is

premature. AECOM will respond to Spectraserv on their request, and AECOM is preparing a Certificate of Partial Substantial Completion for the two elements that AECOM agrees are Substantially Complete that will include a "Punch List" for the outstanding items including retainage values for these items. For the other elements of the project that are not substantially complete, AECOM will provide an informal Punch List of what needs to be completed before these elements would be considered substantially complete. **Motion to approve 2 items that are substantially complete by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0.**

- vi) Regarding the project schedule, Mr. Pearson reviewed that as of the end of October Spectraserv has expended 104% of the contract time for completion (with the previously agreed to extension) and 79% of their contract value expended. AECOM recently received their monthly schedule update and had forwarded an email with a summary of the changes earlier this week, noting that their projected final completion date is now 8/6/23, 7 days later than the last update. Mr. Pearson discussed that another contract date of interest is the startup and testing of the phosphorus removal filter system. The updated schedule shows the filter performance testing beginning on the same date as last month 3/29/23. This date is very close to the revised date of 4/1/23 under the current DEEP Administrative Order to meet the new effluent phosphorus limit. Mr. Pearson emphasized that AECOM remains very concerned about the ability of Spectraserv to meet the current schedule. He noted that in the DEEP Administrative Order quarterly report that was recently submitted to the DEEP, it was noted that both the WPCA and AECOM are skeptical that this 4-1-23 date would be met.
- vii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that part of the reason AECOM is very concerned over the schedule is that there is still a difference in Spectraserv's projected final completion date in their schedule when comparing it to their average monthly expenditure rate to complete the work. Spectraserv's pay estimate for September was for approximately \$600K (excluding the unexpected grit quantities with an average expenditure rate over the last 6 months of approximately \$750,000 per month. At that rate, Mr. Pearson noted AECOM's projections show that Spectraserv would not complete the work until late October 2023. He noted that Spectraserv provided an updated cash flow projection earlier today that AECOM will be reviewing, but on a first look it appears to be unrealistic and in contrast with the information in the most recent schedule.
- viii) Mr. Pearson noted that as previously discussed there was a meeting last Tuesday with Ms. Siebert and Ms. Kozlarm and First Selectman Marconi to provide an update on the project. AECOM had prepared the updated status report that Ms. Van Ness forwarded by email earlier today. Mr. Pearson reviewed the costs presented in the update and noted that "Value in the "Pending Change Order" column reflects the proposed change order items that have been submitted so far on both projects, and for the Route 7 project it also includes the projected increase in the traffic control costs. He noted that these figures do not include any amount for claims related to supply chain delays and extended construction durations by either Contractor, or any additional engineering costs due to the extended construction schedule. The bottom line of the update is that an increase in the project budget is needed, and Mr. Pearson

indicated that AECOM is working on an updated projection of what is needed for additional funding.

## **2) Veolia**

- i) Mr. Pennell presented the October 2022 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of October 2022. While cleaning the sewer line on Rt 35 as part of the sewer cleaning program, Veolia noticed that there was a lot of trap rock coming down the sewer line while we were cleaning. Based on these observations, Veolia would like to have a sewer video company come in and video the sewer line on Route 35 from the Early Bird Cafe down to Copps Hill Shell to inspect the condition of the line.

**Motion, not to exceed \$5,000, to video the Route 35 sewer line from Early Bird Café down to Copps Hill Shell by Mr. Hill, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.**

## **3) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by a **Motion made by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**