



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM
August 24, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki, Maureen Kozlark, Corinne Ketchum
AECOM: Jon Pearson
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 6:31 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve July 27, 2023 minutes by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by
Mr. Hill, passing 4-0, Ms. Ketchum not at July 27, 2023 meeting.**

b) New Outside Seating Regulations

i) Planning and Zoning have approved outdoor dining regulations. The total number of indoor and outdoor seats shall not exceed the total number of seats approved for the site. For example, if a restaurant is limited to 100 seats, the total number of indoor and outdoor seats shall not exceed 100 seats. It was noted that the outdoor dining regulations were approved at the August 1, 2023 Planning and Zoning Meeting and are in effect.

2) Old Business

a) Charter Revision Review

i) Ms. Kozlark stated that the Charter Revision Commission has approved the request for alternate members for the WPCA and will be voted on by a public hearing in November.

b) Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property.

i) The Inland Wetland board is reviewing the proposed 92 unit development. They will hold a special meeting to vote on the approval or denial of this project.

ii) Mr. Zawacki suggested that if the property sale does not occur, the WPCA should consider keeping the Route 7 treatment plant as is for future development. The concept of mothballing the facility was discussed.

3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that the monthly construction progress meeting was held yesterday. M&O Construction focused efforts this past month on both the fiber optic cable installation and on completing the remaining work on Haviland, Limekiln, and Lee Roads in advance of the Town completing final paving of these streets. The force main from Route 7 to the intersection of Lee Road and Farmingville Road has successfully passed the pressure test. Force Main pressure testing from the intersection of Lee Road and Farmingville Road to Ligi's Way has also been started. The fiber optic cable installation has been completed from Route 7 to the intersection of Lee Road and Farmingville Road, including work on some extended days and Saturday work to meet the schedule.
- ii) Mr. Pearson discussed that M&O also started site work at the pump station site this month. The site has been cleared, a temporary power pole installed by Eversource, and field layout of proposed structures is underway. Test pits to locate existing utilities were completed, and erosion controls installed and inspected by Inland Wetlands staff. It was recently discovered that the underground telephone/data service for 871 Ethan Allen Highway is located on the pump station site in conflict with some of the proposed structures, and relocation of this services is being explored. Ms. Kozlark asked if there would be a cost for this relocation, and Mr. Pearson noted that the issue was just raised, and Comcast is making relocation of the service a priority, but no cost has been discussed.
- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed that M&O plans to complete the pressure testing of the force main from the intersection of Lee Road and Farmingville Road to the trenchless crossing of the Ridgefield Brook Culvert on Ligi's Way this month. M&O's trenchless subcontractor Directional Technologies, Inc. will be mobilizing to start work on the trenchless crossing of the Norwalk River on Route 7, with the fusing of the new HDPE pipe beginning this week.
- iv) Mr. Pearson reviewed that AECOM received the August schedule update from M&O yesterday, which shows the pump station schedule still being affected by delays in obtaining key components. The current schedule shows startup of the new pump station in the last days of December, and final project completion in April. Mr. Pearson noted that as discussed last month, the delivery date for the generator has slipped from mid-December to the third week of January 2024. M&O has received a commitment from their generator supplier that a temporary generator can be provided to avoid delaying startup of the pump station.
- v) Mr. Pearson discussed that with construction progress, AECOM has submitted progress payment estimate No.18 for the Route 7 project for July in the amount of \$42,257.49 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. Pearson 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.

- vi) Mr. Pearson noted that Lee Rogers, the DEEP Clean Water Fund accountant for this project, submitted the proposed Amendment to the Clean Water Fund Agreement for the South Street WWTF upgrade to add the grant and loan for the Route 7 project to the Agreement. The Amendment was sent last Friday to First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Controller Kevin Redmond, and the town's bond counsel for review and execution. The Amendment increases the grant amount from the current \$12.1 million to \$13.8 million. Once the Amendment is fully executed, then a first partial payment request can be prepared that covers the costs already incurred on the Route 7 project to obtain the grant/loan funds.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Pearson reviewed the major activities completed since the July WPCA meeting that include:
 - (a) Operations Building -The first new return activated sludge (RAS) pump was checked out by the manufacturer, tested, and placed into operation as the duty RAS pump, allowing the second old RAS pump to be taken out of service and replaced.
 - (b) Sludge Storage – In order to replace the existing underground thickened sludge storage tank, a temporary above ground tank was installed, piped up, and is now in use. The existing sludge storage tank has been demolished and , and the new, larger tank will be constructed
 - (c) Effluent Sand Filters – The filters have been taken offline as we noted last month due to unsatisfactory operation. The sieving of the sand to remove any accumulated construction debris was started last week, with some debris found.
- ii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that Progress Payment No. 47 for Spectraserv has been submitted that covers the month of July in the amount of \$315,688.08 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 July, Mr. Pearson discussed that Spectraserv has expended approximately 90% of the project cost, while 128% of the contract time has passed.
- iii) Mr. Pearson presented Change Order No. 14 in the amount of \$50,297.85 for four items: Operations Building – Filter Influent Overflow Box Modifications, Bathroom Lighting Modifications, Toilets and Urinals Replacement; Blower Building GUH-1 Drain. Following review of the change order, **Motion to approve Change Order No. 14 for \$50,297.85 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.**

- iv) Mr. Pearson noted that Spectraserv's latest schedule update shows that the project will be complete by April 17, 2024. It was noted that this is an approximate three month increase from Spectraserv's last schedule which had a projected completion date of January 10, 2024. This month's payment of \$315,688.08 is only 35% of the \$909,000 contained in the latest cash flow projection from Spectraserv and is also less than last month's payment of \$504,000. Mr. Pearson discussed that yesterday Spectraserv submitted an updated cash flow projection, which shows a significant reduction in projected monthly expenditures from the previous cash flow projections. Both AECOM and Veolia have noted a reduction of onsite workforce, especially several subcontractors not being onsite. In light of these developments, AECOM recommends that the Town's legal counsel be consulted, and a meeting be requested with Spectraserv and their bonding company to discuss the cause of this delay and what efforts both entities will take to accelerate project completion.
- v) Mr. Pearson reviewed that the WPCA had received a letter from Spectraserv on 7-10-23 in response to AECOM's 6-29-23 denial of their 4-4-22 claim for a time extension and additional onsite costs. AECOM is in the process of drafting a response to that letter for the WPCA's attorney for review.
- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed that in July an issue with the new effluent flow meter occurred that affected the measured WWTF effluent flows that have to be reported to DEEP. The new meter was installed, checked out by the vendor, and put into operation last September. The meter operated satisfactorily until last March when it was noted that the flow readings did not appear correct. Spectraserv brought the meter vendor back onsite, and it was confirmed that the readings were incorrect and that it appeared water or moisture had entered the meter housing. A temporary ultrasonic strap-on meter was installed and wired to meter the effluent flow, and the damaged meter removed and returned to the manufacturer. A replacement meter was provided, installed, and checked out by the vendor in mid-June. In early July, Veolia noted that the effluent flow readings again appeared to be incorrect. The temporary strap-on meter was reinstalled and confirmed the permanent meter readings were incorrect. The meter vendor again returned to the site, and it was found that when the replaced meter was re-installed, the electrical grounding connections were not made correctly. That problem has now been corrected. Mr. Pearson noted that erroneous flow data was recorded for several weeks in July, and that has led to working with Veolia to notify the DEEP of the issue, but also led to an artificially high flow being reported to DEEP for the month of July. Mr. Pearson noted this construction issue and the corrective action taken has been discussed with DEEP. Ms. Kozlark expressed concern that this issue indicates concerns with the quality of the installation work by Spectraserv and their subcontractors.
- vii) It was discussed that the planned funding workshop with Dave Fox, Kevin Redmond, the WPCA, and AECOM has been scheduled for Wed. Aug. 30th at 3 pm in an executive session via Zoom.
- viii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that at the request of Maureen Kozlark, earlier this week AECOM prepared a one page brief summary of the budget and schedule status for

both construction projects that was to be distributed to the Board of Selectmen and the News-Times in response to requests for an update. Ms. Kozlark confirmed the draft document was distributed.

c) Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation

- i) Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM is developing the level of effort and cost to complete the design and permitting of the project based on feedback received from Planning & Zoning on the Planning & Zoning Commission and architectural advisory committee reviews that will be needed.

4) Veolia

- a) Mr. Richmond presented the July 2023 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of July 2023.
- b) Mr. Richmond stated the shaft that rotates the flights and chains in the primary clarifiers at Route 7 has sheared in two. Veolia staff was able to get one primary clarifier running. Kovacs Construction will be on site tomorrow to assess the situation. He notified the DEEP of the offline equipment.
- c) Mr. Richmond noted the new Ford 350 truck is equipped with a Back Rack for lighting as well as a plow package.

5) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Ms. Kozlark, motion passed 5-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness