



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

**WPCA Special Meeting
March 19, 2018 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki, Kevin Briody
WPCA Absent: Rudy Marconi
Suez: Jeff Pennell, Matt Brown
AECOM: Jon Pearson

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

WPCA Special Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Mr. Zawacki.

1) New Business

- a) Motion to approve minutes from February 22, 2018 by Mr. Briody, seconded by Mr. Hill, Motion carried 5-0**

2) Old Business

- a) Rate Consultant.** Mr. Zawacki requested an update from David Fox, Raftelis. Mr. Fox requested a kick-off meeting with the WPCA to discuss the Preliminary Data Request list. WPCA will discuss concerns with water use based billing with Raftelis at the kick-off meeting and decide whether this is an option to be considered as part of the rate study. Mr. Pearson will contact Raftelis to ask that they not undertake any efforts related to the consideration of water use based rates until after the kickoff meeting.

3) AECOM Report

- a. Phase 2 Wastewater Facilities Plan.** AECOM submitted the draft responses to the comments submitted by the CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM) and the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) on the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the facilities plan to the CTDEEP. CTDEEP has drafted its own response based on those received from AECOM/WPCA. The responses are being internally reviewed within DEEP and once approved, DEEP will then issue the final responses to OPM and DPH.
- b. WWTF Upgrade Design.** At the last WPCA meeting on February 22nd, AECOM submitted copies of the Preliminary Design Report (PDR) for the project, which is a milestone with the design being approximately 30 percent complete. As requested by the WPCA, the PDR was submitted to the DEEP on February 23rd.

Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM then prepared an updated opinion of project cost based on the 30% PDR documents. The updated opinion of cost for the project based on the 30% submittal is \$48.4 million, which is an increase from the Facilities Plan estimated cost of \$41.9 million. Mr. Pearson noted that the 30% opinion of cost reflects the current early stage of the design, with 70% of the project design yet to be completed. As a result, the PDR

opinion of cost includes a 25% allowance for items in the project that have not yet been defined, but based on past experience will be needed, and that this allowance may not be fully realized once the design is completed, which could reduce the project cost. At the 60% complete stage, another opinion of project cost will be prepared with the design effort farther along, at which time the cost will be more definitive.

The recent Value Engineering (VE) evaluation was discussed. Mr. Pearson reviewed the next steps going forward. In the 3 days that the VE team had to review the project, they identified potential ideas that could result in project savings. Once the details of the potential alternatives are provided by the VE team, AECOM will review each recommendation and provide a discussion of pros and cons, as well as a review of the costs developed by the VE team. With only 3 days to complete the review, there may be details that the VE team was not aware of that affect each recommendation.

AECOM, Suez and the WPCA will meet and discuss each alternative in a workshop to reach consensus on which alternatives are to be incorporated into the project. This workshop will likely be held towards the middle to end of April, separate from the regular WPCA meeting. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM is continuing to work on the design effort during the VE review due to the schedule requirements for the project, but has held off significant efforts on those elements most potentially affected by the VA recommendations.

Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM had met with Suez to review and discuss the elements of the 30% submittal and received valuable feedback from Suez that will be incorporated into the project design as it moves forward. One of the suggestions was to visit the local installation of the revised Septage Receiving system suggested by the VE team, and AECOM will coordinate this visit.

- c. **Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation Design.** Mr. Pearson noted that the preparation of easement plans and descriptions for this project has not yet been started. AECOM will work with Ms. Van Ness to notify Quail Ridge condominiums, the State of CT, and the Charter Group Partners of the need for easements.

- 4) **Suez Report.** Mr. Jeff Pennell presented Suez Environmental report for February 2018 with one permit exceedance. The facility was over the permitted average daily flow of 1 mgd.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Briody at 8:01 p.m., passing 5-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness