



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
November 18, 2021 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

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

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

**WPCA Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Ms. Siebert. Ms. Kozlark
joined the meeting at 5:42p.m.**

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

- i) Motion to approve October 28, 2021 minutes by Mr. Zawacki,
seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.**
- ii) Motion to approve November 9, 2021 minutes by Ms. Ketchum,
seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.**

b) Approval of 2022 Calendar

- i) Approval of 2022 Calendar dates, with a starting time of 7 :00 p.m.**

2) Old Business

a) Route 7

- i) Ms. Siebert contacted Dave Fox, Raftelis, regarding combining Route 7
with South Street. Mr. Zawacki suggested tabling this discussion until we
have more information from Raftelis.**

3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that at last month's meeting the draft Change Order No. 1 to
incorporate the negotiated scope and cost reductions as well as the extended time for
completion due to the delay in awarding the contract with M&O Construction was
discussed. After review by the WPCA and the Director of Purchasing AECOM had**

submitted the draft change order to DEEP and on November 10th, DEEP issued approval of the draft Change Order.

- ii) With DEEP's approval of the draft change order, Mr. Pearson indicated that on behalf of the WPCA, AECOM submitted the Request for Authorization to Award the Route 7 construction contract to M&O Construction to the DEEP on November 12; DEEP is reviewing the package. The Request for Authorization to Award package also included the final legal opinion from Pullman and Comley. AECOM is also preparing the contract documents package to send to M&O Construction requesting that they obtain bonds and insurance and sign the contract upon DEEP authorization to award the contract.
- iii) AECOM is also working on preparing the Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant/Loan application for the Route 7 project. As part of that effort, AECOM identified a number of questions that needed review with the Town and DEEP. To address these questions, on Tuesday November 9th a conference call was held with Rudy Marconi, Kevin Redmond, Glenn Santoro (Bond Counsel), Lee Rogers/Ann Straut/Julie Wilson from the DEEP, and Kim Mason from the Treasury Dept. On the call, it was discussed that the Town/WPCA is looking to maximize the CWF grant. DEEP confirmed that the CWF cannot provide grant funds on top of the ARPA funds (which are also a grant), and the \$2.9M in ARPA funds would need to be deducted from the Project total of \$9.7M, leaving roughly \$6.8M as grant eligible. AECOM and Town noted that they would like to apply the ARPA funds to the ineligible final paving restoration costs (approx. \$1.1M) so that the full \$6.8M would be grant eligible, and DEEP wanted to confirm with the Treasury Dept. that this was an allowable use of ARPA funds. DEEP also raised a concern that the paving costs are not eligible under the CWF and wanted to confirm the ARPA funds could be used for the paving costs. If these are both confirmed, this would result in approx. \$1.36M in grant funds. Ms. Kozlark requested that AECOM update the WPCA on this matter as more information is provided by DEEP, and Mr. Pearson agreed.

During the conference call, DEEP noted that the CWF application would need to be submitted by the Town and not the WPCA since the remaining portion of the original \$48M referendum is being used to partially fund the project. The grant/loan will be a new CWF Agreement, not an amendment to the South Street Grant/Loan Agreement. To support the \$4.5M in funding from the WPCA fund balance, the DEEP will need a Commitment letter for the \$4.5M in funds from the WPCA, supported by WPCA meeting minutes where the votes were taken to commit the \$4.5M. Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM has reviewed the meeting minutes and found the vote for the additional \$0.5M, and found discussion but did not find documentation of a vote on the commitment of the \$4.0M. Mr. Pearson suggested that the WPCA take a vote tonight to re-affirm the commitment of the \$4.0M from the WPCA Fund Balance for the Route 7 PS, Force Main and WWTF Decommissioning project. **Motion to approve the commitment of \$4.0 million from the WPCA Fund Balance for the Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning project by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 5-0.**

- iv) Mr. Pearson discussed that in anticipation of the Federal Infrastructure bill funds being approved, the DEEP has issued a call for projects for any project planned in FY 22 and FY23 that will be requesting funding and/or has not yet executed a grant/loan agreement. The responses are due by December 10th, and on behalf of the WPCA AECOM will submit for both the Route 7 project and the Quail Ridge PS Relocation project.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica stated that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Arneth, and Mr. Burke participating. Through the end of October, 70 percent of the contract time (including the time extension in Change Order No. 2) has elapsed and 55 percent of the contract cost has been incurred. Construction has continued this month including:
- The Septage Building exterior masonry façade is nearly complete.
 - Work on the Blower Building continues, with the exterior facade completed, and interior work by all trades underway including the interior plumbing and HVAC systems, roof top HVAC equipment being installed, and extensive electrical work on lighting, fire alarms, and wiring of process blowers.
 - Concrete work on the UV/Reaeration building continued, with the UV channel walls completed and currently being leak tested and much of the connecting process piping completed.
 - Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with the wall tile work completed, plumbing fixtures being installed, acoustical ceilings being installed, and HVAC, and electrical work ongoing. The exterior masonry façade installation is also underway.
 - Site work continued with installation of the storm drain system piping and hydrodynamic separator installed, grading around the blower building, and water service piping being installed.
- ii) AECOM continues to be concerned about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised completion date (and DEEP shares that concern). Spectraserv's latest schedule update shows that they are 10 weeks behind schedule, which they attribute to delays being experienced in obtaining materials due to industry wide shortages with many items backordered. AECOM continues to ask that they provided documentation of these delays. AECOM recently issued a letter to Spectraserv outlining the concerns with schedule, requesting that they provide a response with specific actions Spectraserv will undertake to address the schedule slippage. DEEP and Spectraserv's bonding company were copied on this letter. Spectraserv has indicated that they will provide a response as requested during today's progress meeting.
- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed that on behalf of the WPCA, AECOM will be preparing a response to DEEP's request for a plan to implement an interim phosphorus removal system since the permanent phosphorus removal system is not shown to be

operational by 4-1-22 in Spectraserv's latest schedule as discussed last month. The DEEP has requested this plan be submitted by the end of the year.

- iv) Mr. Pearson submitted Progress Payment No. 26 for Spectraserv that covers the month of October in the amount of \$956,326.30 and recommended it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. After last month's meeting, the DEEP Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted DEEP, and the process to obtain grant and loan payments from the DEEP is proceeding as planned.
- v) The DEEP issued the draft South Street WWTF Revised NPDES Permit for public comment. This is the permit that increases the WWTF permitted capacity to the 1.12 mgd. The public comment period ended November 8, 2021. No action is needed from the WPCA on this, as it was a notification only. If DEEP did not receive any significant comments, a final version should be issued.
- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed that the WPCA has also recently received a second Letter of Agreement (LOA) from Eversource for grants for energy incentives related to the South Street WWTF upgrades. These grants from Eversource were based on applications AECOM developed with a subcontractor. The 1st LOA was for incentives related to HVAC and lighting upgrades, and was valued at approximately \$72,000. The recent process incentives are valued at approximately \$338,000 for a total of \$410,000. AECOM is reviewing the draft LOA with Eversource to finalize it for Town signature. In response to a question from Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Pearson noted that the payment for the energy incentives occurs at the end of the project after Eversource conducts site visits to confirm the installed equipment.

4) Suez

- a) Ms. Siebert stated that she spoke with Mr. O'Brien regarding the Suez contract concerns. Mr. O'Brien sent an Amendment Agreement for Operation, Maintenance and Management Services for review. The WPCA will review and comment on the agreement for further discussion.
- b) Mr. Pennell presented the Suez Environmental report for October 2021. Mr. Pennell stated that they completed 20% cleaning of the collection system. Mr. Pennell stated the heavy rainfall that occurred on October 26 exceeded the zinc total permit limit due to high flows received at the plant and caused alarms at South Street and pump stations. He noted issues with wipes clogging the Route 7 pumps is again occurring with increased frequency. The potential for requesting that the property owner install a grinder on the sewer connection for 901 Ethan Allen Highway if the problem persists was discussed. He also stated that they are still waiting on replacement parts for Cops Hill Pump Station so they can make necessary repairs.

5) Adjournment

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm by a Motion made by Mr. Zawacki seconded by Ms. Kozlark; motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness