



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

**WPCA Regular Meeting
May 26, 2022 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert Gary Zawacki, Maureen Kozlark, Corinne Ketchum, Ron Hill
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
Veolia: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Jason O'Brien
100 Danbury Rd.: Steve Zemo
34 Bailey Ave. Steven Sullivan

**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 7:00 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve April 28, 2022 minutes by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 5-0.

b) 100 Danbury Road

- i) Mr. Zemo presented his proposal for an 8-30g project for six units. The project was previously approved for 16 units which will be a reduction of 10 units. **Motions was made to approve the reduction in units to 6 units by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 5-0.**

c) 34 Bailey Avenue

- i) The WPCA had questioned the proximity of the bottom of the proposed stormwater bioretention basin to the top of the 12 inch sewer line as well as the integrity of the collection system that would carry the flow to the South Street Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Steven Sullivan presented a map showing the existing sanitary sewer profile of the sewer line that crosses the north part of 34 Bailey Avenue. It was noted that the profile indicates the sewer is a PVC pipe but it is a VC pipe that is quite old. Ms. Siebert stated that the property should have a WPCA easement for the 12 inch sewer on record, and if no easement exists, one should be granted by the developer under this project. The WPCA also requested that the 12 inch sewer be TV inspected and potentially lined or encased in concrete (depending on the findings of the TV inspection to help keep out

I/I (inflow and infiltration)) and this would be at the expense of the developer. The comments on the proposed project plans from Charlie Fisher, Town Engineer were also discussed as needing to be addressed.

2) Old Business

a) Raftelis Consulting Agreement

- i) Ms. Siebert presented a revised contract from Raftelis that incorporated the revisions as previously discussed, a one-year contract and standard hourly billing rates.

b) Sewer Fees, South Street and Route 7

- i) The WPCA discussed the tie in fees and sewer rates. Ms. Siebert noted that the rates are typically reviewed annually in the June/July time frame. They stated that this would tie in with the Raftelis rate model update.

3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Formica discussed that the first monthly construction progress meeting with M&O Construction was held today with Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, and Mr. Richmond attending. M&O Construction has completed pre-construction photos and video and have erosion control materials on site and will be installing erosion control along Ligi's Way starting next week. They then plan to mobilize to start force main construction beginning on Ligi's Way the week of June 6th. Mr. Formica noted that AECOM has been working 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 and the Town website.
- ii) Mr. Formica noted that M&O Construction is continuing to procure construction materials in preparation for starting the force main work, and is continuing to submit shop drawings for the equipment, structures, and materials and we have submitted progress payment estimate no. 3 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$72,714.12 for M&O Construction. AECOM has reviewed it and recommended that it be approved for payment. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that the boardwalk project along Ligi's Way has been advertised for bids with bids scheduled to be opened earlier today, but no results are yet available on the bids. AECOM will continue to coordinate the Route 7 work with Charlie Fisher and Jake Muller.
- iv) Mr. Formica indicated that the DEEP is currently reviewing the Clean Water Fund Grant/Loan application for the Route 7 project that was submitted to the DEEP on March 28th. Earlier this month, DEEP requested some updated certifications from the Town Clerk, which Ms. Van Ness provided and were submitted to the DEEP.

- v) Mr. Pearson discussed that the Town's Attorney, David Grogins, has contacted AECOM several times in the last week related to the purchase of the Route 7 WWTF site, and the agreement with the prospective purchaser for the sale of the property. Apparently, the prospective purchaser is pushing the Town to complete a site assessment to confirm that the WWTF site not contaminated. Mr. Pearson discussed that there is no requirement for a site assessment to be conducted and the use of the property does not trigger a requirement for a site assessment just because it was a WWTF. Attorney Grogins was also asking about the expected date that the WWTF would be decommissioned. Mr. Pearson had informed him that due to delays in the fabrication/delivery of key equipment for the pump station as M&O Construction noted in their previous letter, the WWTF decommissioning and demolition is currently expected to occur at the end of 2023.

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:
- In the UV/Reaeration building, the roof drains and roofing system have advanced, the Motor Control Center (MCC) has been installed in the electrical room, the UV disinfection and blower mechanical components have been installed as have the new wet well dewatering pumps.
 - At the Septage Building, HVAC ductwork installation continues, work continues to install power and control electrical conduit and wire. The façade was cleaned and mechanical piping installation continues.
 - At the Blower Building the five aeration blowers, variable frequency drives (VFDs), and instrumentation have been started up and tested. The building's programmable logic controller (PLC) has been started up. The HVAC automatic temperature control (ATC) panel and conduit installation continues. The last HVAC gas unit heater for this building was installed.
 - At Aeration Tank No.1, the Mixed Liquor (ML) pumps and submersible mixers have been started up and tested. The aeration diffusers and instrumentation in this tank have also been installed and tested.
 - Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Building are continuing, with startup and testing of the PLC, completion of the fire sprinkler system, and work has begun on the ATC panels conduit and wiring
 - At the Influent Building the excavation for the electrical room addition foundation has been completed, with reinforcing and formwork to follow next week.
 - In the Operations Building, the demolition of the existing sand filters has begun. The existing polymer system was relocated, equipment pads and the new polymer make up units were installed, the new thickened sludge pumps were installed, and piping of the pumps is ongoing.
 - Site work continued with additional site piping, some electrical duct banks, and installation of the last City water line from the street to the UV Building.

- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that the ferric chloride feed system continues to be in operation using the bulk storage tank to feed the new chemical feed pumps. The system is being operated to reduce phosphorus until the new filters are in place and is working to meet the interim effluent requirements.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has submitted Progress Payment No. 32 for Spectraserv that covers the month of April in the amount of \$674,629.51 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.
- iv) Mr. Formica indicated that as of the end of April, Spectraserv has expended 90 percent of the contract time for completion (with the previously agreed to extension) and 67 percent of the contract value has been expended. Spectraserv had provided a more detailed schedule for the work on the UV Building, which is on the critical path, and the work on this building is approximately 5-6 weeks behind that schedule. Spectraserv had also provided a cash flow projection in early April as requested to show how they planned to complete the work remaining within their current schedule to reach substantial completion in January 2023. For the month of April, Mr. Formica noted that Spectraserv only incurred 58 percent of the projected amount, another indication that they are not gaining time on their schedule. Mr. Formica also noted that the contractual date for substantial completion of the project was May 23, 2022, which passed earlier this week.
- v) Mr. Pearson discussed that on April 4th, Spectraserv submitted a letter requesting a time extension as well as extended overhead costs for the extended construction period as AECOM had discussed last month. On Friday May 13th, AECOM responded to Spectraserv's letter, and the response concluded that Spectraserv has not submitted sufficient information to justify an increase in the contract time or additional costs. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has not received anything further from Spectraserv on this yet, thought they verbally indicated today that they are preparing a response. Given that Spectraserv is not gaining any time on the schedule, and they continue to provide schedules that they do not meet, Mr. Pearson suggested that on behalf of the WPCA, AECOM request a meeting with Spectraserv and their bonding company as the appropriate next step.

To get the bonding company involved would require that the bonding company be notified that the WPCA is considering declaring Spectraserv in default of their contract, since they are not making any progress in accelerating the work and the contractual date for substantial completion has now been missed. Prior to requesting the meeting Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM would recommend check with Jake Muller, Purchasing Director that he is in agreement with the approach. Ms. Kozlark discussed that she agreed with this recommendation, and also discussed that the WPCA may wish to consult with an attorney on this as well.

Mr. Hill suggested a Dun & Bradstreet report be obtained as a way to assess Spectraserv's financial situation, and AECOM will forward the report once obtained. Following discussion it was agreed that a meeting with Spectraserv and their bonding company is the next step.

Mr. Pearson discussed that with the passing of the date for substantial completion without achieving substantial completion of the project, the WPCA has the right to assess liquidated damages which are defined in the contract as \$2,000 per day for each day until substantial completion is achieved. However, on April 4th Spectraserv has submitted a claim for additional time and costs, and they have indicated that they plan to respond to AECOM's 5-13-22 letter with additional justification for the claim. The WPCA continues to hold 5 percent of each monthly payment as retainage, and Mr. Pearson noted that the total retainage amount currently held is currently approx. \$1.3 million. In light of this, and since there may be some justification for some of the additional time Spectraserv has claimed, Mr. Pearson recommended that starting with next month's payment, rather than withholding the liquidated damages, a statement is added to the payment estimate signature page that the WPCA reserves its right to assess liquidated damages if a justified claim for additional time is not agreed to. Following discussion, the WPCA agreed with the recommendation.

- vi) Mr. Pearson informed the WPCA that Eva Solarik, AECOM's resident representative on the South Street WWTF project, has submitted her resignation and will be leaving AECOM. Jon Melone will be taking over Ms. Solarik's role as the Resident Representative for the South Street project, and AECOM will be bringing on another resident representative, Meredith Washington, for the Route 7 Project to work with Mr. Melone. Eva's last day will be Wednesday June 8th, and Mr. Melone will be spending time with her between now and then to get up to speed before Ms. Solarik departs.

4) Suez

- i) Mr. Pennell presented the April 2022 Monthly Report.
- ii) Mr. Richmond questioned whether the existing generator at the South Street WWTF that is being removed could be reused at the existing Quail Ridge Pump Station to replace the generator that has become unreliable. Mr. Pearson stated the WWTF generator is 50 KW would be sufficient for the existing Quail Ridge PS since it has a 30 KW unit. Mr. Pennell stated that the larger generator would not fit in the space allocated for the pump station, especially since a diesel fuel tank is needed since the existing generator is propane fueled.
- iii) Mr. Richmond presented a Preventive Maintenance Agreement for the Caterpillar 351 generator from H.O. Penn Machinery Co., Inc. The agreement was approved by the WPCA for a cost of \$2,343.25 for one year.

5) Adjournment

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. by a **Motion made by Mr. Hill seconded by Mr. Zawacki, motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Submitted by Diana Van Ness