



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

**WPCA Regular Meeting
June 23, 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
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 7:00 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve May 26, 2022 minutes by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.

b) Annual Sewer Rates Update

i) Ms. Siebert suggested meeting with Dave Fox, Raftelis, to discuss the rate model and the new sewer rates before our next meeting to finalize the annual sewer rates. A virtual workshop meeting could be held if needed. Ms. Van Ness will check with David Day in Danbury regarding the status of cost increases for Turner Hill District 3 related to the Danbury treatment plant upgrade.

ii) Discussed combining the fees for Route 7 and South Street.

(1) Motion to recognize that District 1 and District 2 are now combined and to formalize one rate structure and adopt the same sewer use and hook-up fees as District 1 by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Zawacki passing 5-0.

c) 34 Bailey Avenue

i) At the May 26 meeting the WPCA 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. Mr. Richmond stated that the developer was on site and had a contractor camera the line and noted there was an obstruction in the line that the camera could not pass. Veolia then went to the site with the vac truck and cleaned the line. The developer then attempted to TV inspect the line again, but the obstruction would not allow the camera to pass according to the developer.

Veolia noted that the developer had not informed them when the TV inspection work was being done, so they were not onsite during either TV inspection attempt. It was not known if the contractor tried to TV inspect the sewer from the opposite direction (reverse setup). The WPCA stated that the developer should be requested to have Veolia on site with the TV inspection contractor to continue the investigation.

2) Old Business

a) Raftelis Consulting Agreement

- i) Ms. Siebert stated that the Raftelis contract is being finalized.

b) Sewer Fees, South Street and Route 7

- i) The WPCA discussed the tie in fees and sewer rates. The annual sewer fees will be discussed at the July meeting.

3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Pearson discussed that the monthly construction progress meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Kozlark, Ms. Van Ness, and Mr. Richmond attending. M&O Construction started construction on May 31st with erosion control installation along Ligi's Way and Farmingville Road. Installation of the force main and fiber optic conduits started on June 6th, beginning just north of the culvert where Ridgefield Brook crosses Ligi's Way. Meredith Washington is AECOM's resident representative for the Route 7 project, and she has been onsite since June 6th. Through yesterday, approx. 650 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed. Looking ahead, M&O plans to continue force main installation for the length of Ligi's Way for the next 2 weeks until they reach Farmingville Road, and that pipe crew will then move to Lee Road to take advantage of no school buses. With construction underway, AECOM has submitted progress payment estimate no.4 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$90,858.38 for M&O Construction. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has reviewed it and recommends that it be approved for payment
- ii) Mr. Pearson noted that M&O Construction has provided two electronic message boards to alert motorists to the construction area that were requested by the First Selectman at the preconstruction meeting. These portable message boards were not required in the contract documents and will be added to M&O Construction's contract through a change order, with the cost at about \$1200 per month per board.
- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed 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 Town webpage and the WPCA website. A representative from the School Dept. that lives along Ligi's Way had contacted Ms. Van Ness to ask if the weekly updates could be issued on Thursday afternoon so that they can be distributed to residents in their weekly newsletter, and AECOM has begun to do that as of last week.
- iv) Mr. Pearson indicated that Jake Muller had indicated that no bids were received for the boardwalk project along Ligi's Way that were opened on May 26th. He informed us

that no bids were received and the Town intends to rebid the project. AECOM will continue to coordinate the Route 7 project with Mr. Muller.

- v) Mr. Pearson noted that DEEP is currently reviewing the Clean Water Fund Grant/Loan application that was submitted to the DEEP on March 28th. They are considering whether the Route 7 project should be a separate grant/loan agreement, or if the South Street Grant/Loan Agreement should be amended to include the Route 7 project.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Pearson stated that the monthly construction progress meeting was held today with Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, and Mr. Richmond, participating. Construction has continued this month including:
 - In the UV/Reaeration building, Trojan (the UV disinfection system supplier) and Aerzen, (the blower supplier) were onsite and completed a preliminary checkout of the installed equipment. Remaining plumbing and HVAC work items were completed. Spectraserv is targeting the end of July for substantial completion, startup of the UV and turnover of the new building to the WPCA.
 - At the Septage Building, HVAC ductwork installation was completed, and work continues to install power and control electrical conduit and wire.
 - At the Blower Building piping insulation was completed, and the remaining plumbing work was completed. Electrical conduit and wire installation continues.
 - At Aeration Tank No.1, the Mixed Liquor pumps and submersible mixers have been started up and tested, and the dissolved oxygen probes were mounted. Planning is underway for the changeover from AT No.2 to AT No. 1 once AT No. 1 is completed.
 - Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with work continuing on the ATC panels conduit and wiring, the sump pumps in the Control Building were installed, and the drains for AT No. 1 in the Control Building basement were tested.
 - At the Influent Building the electrical room addition foundation has been completed, the exterior foam façade removed, and replacement of the roof is underway.
 - In the Operations Building, the demolition of the existing sand filters continues, with the old filter components now fully demolished, and concrete modifications underway.
- ii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that On Tuesday June 7th, while Mitchell Oil (hired by Spectraserv) was re-fueling the new standby generator, a spill of 100-200 gallons of diesel fuel occurred. Some of the spill was able to be captured, but some fuel did seep into the ground. The Fire Marshal and the DEEP were notified, and Spectraserv brought Moran Environmental Recovery in to respond to the spill, and DEEP had an Emergency Response coordinator on site as well. The contaminated soil has been excavated and loaded into roll-off dumpsters. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has have requested a report from the generator supplier as to

why the safety systems on the fuel tank did not function correctly to prevent the spill, as well as a report on the emergency response and cleanup activities.

- iii) Mr. Pearson 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.
- iv) Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM has submitted Progress Payment No. 33 for Spectraserv that covers the month of May in the amount of \$957,314.27 and AECOM recommends it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. As discussed last month, Mr. Pearson indicated that the contract substantial completion date was May 23rd, which has not been achieved. Accordingly, a notation was added to this estimate 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, Mr. Pearson 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.
- v) Mr. Pearson indicated that as of the end of May, Spectraserv has expended 91 percent of their contract time for completion (with the previously agreed to extension) and 69 percent of their contract value expended. Spectraserv had provided a more detailed schedule for the work on the UV Building in February, which is on the critical path, and the work on this building is 9-10 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 on the project within their current schedule to reach substantial completion in January 2023. For the month of May, they only incurred 77% of the projected amount, another indication that they are not gaining time on their schedule.

Mr. Pearson discussed that at Ms. Kozlark's suggestion, AECOM also provided a table that summarizes the percent complete of the major structures and work areas as of the end of May. The percentages range from the low 30's to the high 90's, with the highest values on areas that Spectraserv is pushing to finish, put into service, and turnover to the WPCA.

- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed that given the current situation where Spectraserv is not gaining any time on the schedule, and they continue to provide schedules that they do not meet, AECOM had recommended requesting a meeting with both Spectraserv and their bonding company noting that the WPCA is considering declaring Spectraserv in default of their contract due to the slow rate of progress. After last month's meeting, AECOM confirmed with Jake Muller that he is in agreement with this step, and a letter requesting the meeting, as required by the terms of Spectraserv's performance bond, was issued. Spectraserv has indicated that they will be providing potential date(s) for the meeting, and a representative of the bonding company recently contacted Ms. Siebert as Chair to note that proposed meeting dates would be forthcoming.

4) Veolia

- i)** Mr. Richmond presented the May 2022 Monthly Report.
- ii)** Mr. Richmond discussed the recent problems with wipes and the fence surrounding the Fox Hill pump station. Mr. Richmond speculated that the sewer system at Fox Hill may have recently been cleaned, and perhaps this contributed to the amount of wipes present in the wet well. Ms. Van Ness sent an email to the Fox Hill maintenance company stating that this must be addressed.

5) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. by a **Motion made by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Submitted by Diana Van Ness