



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM  
January 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Maureen Kozlark, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki  
Absent: Corinne Ketchum  
AECOM: Matt Formica, 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 6:00 pm.**

**1) New Business**

**a) Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve December 15, 2022 minutes as amended by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Zawacki passing 4-0.**

**2) Old Business**

**a) Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant.**

- i)** Ms. Kozlark stated that the article in the Ridgefield Press regarding the Route 7 Treatment Plant property was not accurate. The WPCA will request to be put on the Board of Selectmen agenda to discuss the sale of the property.
- ii)** Mr. Zawacki once again questioned why the money from the sale of the Route 7 WWTF property would go to the Town general expense fund instead of the WPCA accounts since the WPCA is incurring the cost for decommissioning the WWTF. He felt strongly that the proceeds from the property sale should be returned to the WPCA, especially since they could be used to offset the needed increase in the project budget for the Route 7 Project.
- iii)** Ms. Siebert suggested we contact Mr. David Fox at Raftelis to discuss reviewing and updating the rate model due to the extended project construction schedules.

**3) AECOM**

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

- i) Mr. Formica discussed that the monthly virtual progress meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Kozlark, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, and Mr. Richmond attending. As discussed last month, with the arrival of winter weather the bituminous pavement plants closed in Mid-December. As a result, M&O Construction shut down the force main installation crew after December 16th. As of the shutdown, approx. 11,040 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed, which is 81% of the total force main. M&O's latest schedule shows that the force main installation work will resume in late February and continue until Mid-May. The pump station schedule is being affected by delays in obtaining key components and is scheduled to begin in June and continue through October. However, the generator may be delayed longer than that date, and M&O Construction should be submitting an updated schedule shortly that will better define this schedule, as well as the schedule for the Route 7 WWTF demolition. Mr. Formica noted that AECOM has requested that M&O support the extended schedule with documentation of the delays in obtaining key pump station equipment, and we believe that this will necessitate a time extension. One item that M&O has identified recently is that their integrator who is providing much of the electrical equipment had noted that one or more of their suppliers have indicated that they may be able to help prioritize the supply of the equipment for this project if it can be shown to be a priority government project. As such Mr. Formica will develop a letter on the behalf of the WPCA to go out on WPCA letterhead to make that argument in the hope of helping to prioritize the Town's project equipment.
- ii) Mr. Formica noted the M&O Construction has continued with miscellaneous site cleanup activities this past month and has addressed minor pavement repairs in various locations. Based on the condition of the roads (specifically Haviland and Farmingville) there have been a several resident complaints that have come to either the WPCA or directly to the First Selectman's office. AECOM is maintaining a log of the complaints received, and a copy can be provided to the WPCA if desired. To review the road conditions, AECOM met with Dave Buccitti (Highway Supt.) and M&O in the field to develop a plan to move forward. On Haviland Road, the majority of the road issues are potholes on the side of the road away from the force main trench and temporary paving. At the request of Mr. Buccitti AECOM had solicited a proposal from M&O to provide a single or full road overlay in the impacted area. The estimates were approx. \$25,000 to \$30,000 and were reviewed with Mr. Buccitti. He thought these funds would be better spent on the future curb to curb pavement and indicated that the highway department would deal with the Haviland Road potholes now and address the curb-to-curb pavement in the future. On Farmingville Road there are also some potholes outside of the trench and the trench is showing some settlement that will likely need to be addressed once M&O is back on site. Mr. Buccitti indicated again that he would address the potholes but was advocating for a road overlay repair that may likely be out of M&O's scope and would require a change order. Mr. Formica will keep the WPCA up to date on this to see if allocation of any additional funds to address Mr. Buccitti's request would be acceptable. Mr. Formica reminded the WPCA that the final curb-to-curb paving restoration work was removed from M&O Construction's scope of work and

approximately \$500,000 was allocated in the project budget for curb to curb paving for the Town streets by the Highway Department to reduce the project cost.

- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has submitted progress Payment Estimate No. 11 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$92,630.32 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.
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that with the winter shutdown, AECOM worked with Ms. Van Ness to reduce the frequency of construction updates posted on the WPCA website to monthly. Once M&O remobilizes to start work, the update frequency will return to weekly.

**b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction**

- i) Mr. Formica reviewed that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today and Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, and Mr. Richmond participated. Significant activities this past month included:
  - (a) Aeration Tank No. 2 – Work on the air piping headers and valves and installation of piping for Mixed Liquor Recycle pumps continued, and the new stairs were installed.
  - (b) Influent Building Exterior - Installation of the new thin clad masonry veneer façade continued, the Electrical Room roof joist installation was completed, and roofing work was started.
  - (c) Operations Building. - Work on the filter area continued on the installation of the filter equipment in the first 6 filter cells, the filter room addition base slab was completed, and forming and reinforcing for the walls is underway.

Mr. Formica noted that effort was focused on the Influent Building and Aeration Tank No. 2 this past month. The process of the relocation of the Veolia staff out of the Operations Building temporarily both to the Control Building and the temporary laboratory location in the Blower Building Garage is underway to allow work on the second floor of the Operations Building.

- ii) Mr. Formica reviewed progress Payment Estimate No. 40 for Spectraserv that covers the month of December in the amount of \$598,759.10 and recommended it be approved. It 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. It was noted that this payment amount was significantly below the amount of \$712,392 for December contained in most recent cash flow projection from Spectraserv.
- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM had forwarded a draft of Change Order No. 10 for review earlier this week. It includes four items for a total of \$27,556.22 that include: 1. Planning and Zoning A2 Survey Efforts; 2. Adjust Fire Sprinklers in the Operations Building; 3. Operations Building Electrical Room Step; 4. Influent Building Aeration Distribution Box Stairs. Mr. Formica noted that thru Change

Order No. 10 the total amount of Change Orders is approximately \$482,000 which represents approximately 1.3 percent of the original contract value. **Motion to approve Change Order No. 10 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0.**

- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that there is a need to prepare Change Order No.11 to adjust the allowance included in Bid Item 1i - Removal and disposal of grit and sludge from tanks. This bid item established an allowance for the removal of grit and sludge during the progress of the work on a cubic foot basis since the quantity to be removed could not be established until the various tanks were taken out of service. He noted that as previously discussed, the quantity of grit found in Aeration Tank No. 2 was significantly larger than anticipated, and this past month the total paid for grit removal exceeded the allowance value by about \$325,000 in last month's progress payment to Spectraserv. When the Clean Water Fund payment request was processed by the DEEP, the Clean Water Fund accountant was uncertain on the eligibility of the additional cost beyond the allowance amount, so the \$325,000 was withheld from the payment to the Town. Mr. Formica noted we have since discussed this item with the DEEP, and in order for DEEP to be able to release the withheld funds, a draft change order adjusting the allowance value upwards is needed. Since this change order would exceed the \$100,000 threshold, DEEP need to be review and approve the draft change order prior to execution. Mr. Formica suggested that the WPCA authorize AECOM to prepare this draft change order with a value of \$360,000 to account for the grit expected in the few structures that have not yet been cleaned out. AECOM will then submit the draft change order to DEEP, and this should allow the withheld funds to be paid in the next DEEP payment request. **Motion to approve draft Change Order No. 11 in the amount of \$360,000 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0.**
- v) Regarding the project schedule, Mr. Pearson discussed that as of the end of December Spectraserv has expended 110% of the contract time for completion (with the previously agreed to extension) and 82% of their contract value expended. Spectraserv's schedule update for this month has not yet been received, but the last update showed a projected final completion date of 8/15/23. Another contract date of interest is the startup and testing of the phosphorus removal filter system. The last schedule update shows the filter performance testing beginning on 3/29/23. Mr. Pearson noted that this date is very close to the revised date of 4/1/23 under the current DEEP Administrative Order to meet the new effluent phosphorus limit. In the past month, Spectraserv submitted a focused schedule on the effluent filters, and is now proposing to complete the first 6 filter cells (the ones located within the existing filter room) and place them into service prior to completing the additional 2 filter cells that are to be located in the Filter Room addition. AECOM has concerns with this plan, as it means having operational filters while building structure is being completed, but Mr. Pearson sees no reason to suggest that this plan to accelerate getting some of the filters operational by the 4-1-23 deadline should be rejected. Mr. Pearson reviewed that AECOM's concerns stem primarily from the fact that the filters cannot tolerate any items such as debris, tools, etc, falling into the filters as the only way to remove such items would be to empty the sand from the filters. Should this occur, this would be Spectraserv's responsibility to correct. Mr. Richmond

concurred the the filters can be blocked by debris including leaves or other windborne debris so protection of the filters is very important.

Also related to the filters, Mr. Pearson discussed that as part of the Administrative Order which extended the permit compliance date a year to this April from last April, the DEEP required the submittal of quarterly reports from the WPCA on the progress toward meeting the new permit limits. AECOM recommends that the 2022 4th Quarter report indicate the WPCA and AECOM do not believe that Spectraserv will meet this date. Following discussion it was agreed the quaterly report should be prepared on this basis

- vi) Mr. Pearson reviewed that there is additional work needed related to the change order work to replace the manhole on the main sewer entering the plant from the Grove Street Area. This manhole is always full due to the configuration of the incoming sewers, and when it was dewatered as part of the contract work, the manhole structure is deteriorated. Recently, Spectraserv excavated and exposed the pipe in the location upstream of the manhole where a new “doghouse” manhole was to be installed to then allow the flow to be bypassed around the deteriorated manhole. When the pipe was exposed, the pipe was found to be leaking at a joint, and Spectraserv has indicated the only way the new manhole can be installed is if the water level in that sewer is lowered to prevent leakage from the old pipe. This will require intercepting the flow at the next upstream manhole on this sewer, temporarily pumping from that manhole to the Influent Building, allowing the new manhole to be installed in the dry as opposed to building the new manhole around the existing sewer while live using the “doghouse” manhole. Mr. Pearson disucssed that AECOM and Veolia have looked at this plan in the field, and it is possible to do this work, but it will mean accessing the upstream manhole to setup a bypass pump, and running a hose along the ground to the Influent Building. This will mean contacting the two property owners of the Solana Property and the Treetops condominiums to secure permission to enter their property to access the upstream manhole and run a bypass pump hose accross the ground. AECOM is working with Ms. Van Ness to obtain this permission, and there will be some additional costs associated with the unanticipated bypass pumping. Mr. Pearson noted that until the deteriorated manhole is replaced, Spectraserv is not able to complete some of the work in close proximity to the deteriorated manhole, and they have been slow to address this item.
- vii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that at last month’s meeting AECOM had discussed the need for a budget increase for both projects due to the longer construction period, and potentially to address additional short term interest on the Clean Water Fund loan for the longer construction period for the South Street WWTF Upgrade. Mr. Pearson has since had a conversation with Lee Rogers, the DEEP accountant on the project, who confirmed that another option to incurring additional short term interest would be to permanently finance the loan costs that have been incurred at the time the Grant/Loan is modified to bring the Route 7 project into the Grant/Loan Agreement. It was discussed last month that AECOM projected a needed budget increase at about \$1.3 million, and the additional short term interest for the extended South Street WWTF Upgrade construction represented about \$315,000 of that total. Mr. Pearson reiterated that this projected budget increase does not include any costs associated with claims

by either construction contractor for extended on-site costs nor does it reflect any cost reduction through application of the liquidated damages clause in either contract since these costs cannot be defined at this time. If the WPCA elected to permanently finance the loan amount early, there would be some additional costs for an interim closing for permanent financing, but that should be well less than the \$315,000 in interest. Mr. Rogers at the DEEP agreed that this was probably the best approach.

Mr. Pearson discussed that the need to address the budget increase is growing as AECOM is projecting that the current engineering budget on the two projects will be expended in about 3 to 4 months. It was discussed that the next step in increasing the budget is to update the rate model to assess the impacts of using additional funds from the fund balance, but this has not yet been done. Once that has been done, and the availability of the needed funds confirmed, AECOM would suggest discussing these changes with Kevin Redmond, Controller and the First Selectman. Next, a financial meeting with Mr. Redmond, Mr. Marconi, the WPCA, and the Clean Water Fund staff at DEEP. Ms. Kozlark requested that AECOM rough out a schedule of the milestones and dates to advance the budget increase with a target of providing an update to the Board of Selectmen in mid-March. Mr. Pearson confirmed that AECOM will draft a schedule and forward it for review.

#### **4) Veolia**

- i) Mr. Richmond presented the December 2022 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of December 2022.
- ii) Veolia has continued to clean the grease blockages and possible sewer line damage in front of Union Savings Bank. They have been using their newly purchased state of the art cleaning nozzle as well as introducing an enzyme drip into the manhole near Marty Motors to help combat grease. They will try to send a camera through to get a visual on the possible damaged line.
- iii) On [12/8/2022](#) Veolia responded to a sewer backup in front of Bernard's on West Lane. The Town Jet/vac truck was utilized to relieve the blockage and sewer line surcharge.
- iv) The wipes/rag problem is an ongoing problem at 901 Ethan Allen Highway and has resulted in a callout on [12/31/2022](#). The pump station needs unclogging, at a minimum twice, a week. There was discussion of a follow-up visit to the staff in this facility to again reinforce the concerns with wipes entering the sewer system.

#### **5) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21p.m. by a **Motion made by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**