



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

**WPCA Regular Meeting Via ZOOM
October 27, 2022 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Maureen Kozlark, Corinne Ketchum, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki
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 7:00 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve September 22, 2022 minutes as amended by Ms. Ketchum,
seconded by Ms Kozlark, passing 5-0, Mr. Zawacki.**

b) 34 Bailey Avenue

- i) Ms. Van Ness contacted Mr. Steve Sullivan regarding the issue with the water retention basin over the sewer line that still needs to be addressed.

2) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Formica discussed that the monthly virtual construction progress meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Kozlark, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, and Mr. Richmond attending. M&O Construction continued the installation of the force main and fiber optic cable conduits last month on Haviland Road easterly to Route 7, and in the last week the crew moved to Farmingville Road starting at the Lee Road intersection, working towards Ligi's Way. Through yesterday, approx. 9,600 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed, which is 70% of the total force main length.
- ii) Mr. Formica indicated 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 WPCA website, Town website, Facebook page, and Hamlet Hub.

- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has submitted progress payment estimate no.8 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$501,931.71 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 several recent items that have an impact on the project cost. The first item relates to the allowance for traffic control in the contract. AECOM had estimated the allowance amount carried in the bid for traffic control, as this is outside M&O Construction's control since the Police Dept. determines what details are needed, and the allowance is used to pay for the police details as these costs are incurred. In this month's progress payment, the allowance amount has been reached and exceeded. A future change order under M&O's contract will be needed to increase the allowance amount, and Mr. Formica noted that AECOM is developing an updated estimate of the revised amount needed under the allowance. This cost will consume the majority of the uncommitted contingency in the project, so an increase in available funds for the project will be needed as it is very likely there will be additional changes as the work proceeds. AECOM is developing a projection of the needed budget increase.
- v) A second item discussed by Mr. Formica relates to additional paving costs on Ligi's Way. The trench and temporary paving have settled, and repairs are needed due to the nature of the material encountered there. During installation of the force main in Ligi's Way, significant debris and material unsuitable as backfill were encountered which increased the trench width to remove. Due to the many boulders and other obstructions in the trench, filling and compacting the replacement backfill material in the voids around the obstructions was difficult, despite significant efforts by M&O Construction. Dave Buccitti, the Highway Supt. has been receiving calls about the road condition and requested that M&O repair the current temporary pavement by milling the trench and replacing the temporary pavement before the winter, and M&O has provided proposed change order in the estimated amount of \$57,286 which Mr. Buccitti agrees is reasonable for the work involved and AECOM recommends it be approved. Following discussion about this cost it was agreed the additional paving work should proceed.
- vi) Mr. Formica noted that at last month's meeting it was discussed that M&O's construction schedule is being impacted by delays in obtaining key components for the pump station. M&O submitted an updated schedule today that shows the open cut force main installation completed by the end of December, the two trenchless force main installations crossing the Norwalk River on Route 7 and Ridgefield Brook on Ligi's Way being done in January and February, and the start of the pump station installation is being further delayed until early June with completion of the pump station at the end of October 2023. This would be followed by final completion/demolition of the Route 7 WWTF in February 2024. Mr. Formica noted that AECOM has requested that M&O support the extended schedule with documentation suppliers of the equipment of the delays in obtaining key pump station equipment, and AECOM believes that this will necessitate a time extension since the current contract completion dates are 1/11/23 for the pump station, 4/11/23 for the

demolition of the Route 7 WWTF, and final completion by 8/11/23. Once AECOM has confirmed that a time extension is warranted, AECOM will update the WPCA. AECOM also noted that there may be additional costs due to the extended construction period.

a) 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) UV/Reaeration Building: The new UV disinfection system and reaeration system was placed into service on Thursday Sept. 29th and has been in operation successfully since. The system will continue to be run beyond the end of the disinfection season to fine tune the system and correct any issues.
 - (b) Blower Building: The aeration blower testing was completed and the blowers were placed into service.
 - (c) Aeration Tank No.1: Flow was transferred from Aeration Tank No. 2 into Aeration Tank No. 1 and the new tank and blowers were put into service on Wednesday Oct. 12th, and the new system has been running successfully since that time. Work commenced on cleaning the accumulated grit out of Aeration Tank No. 2.
- ii) Mr. Formica indicated that Spectraserv recently submitted a request for Substantial Completion for the following elements of the WWTF:
 - Control & Chemical Buildings
 - Aeration Tank No. 1
 - Blower Building
 - Final Settling Tanks No. 1 & 2
 - Flow Meter Vault
 - UV/Reaeration Building and tanks
 - Electrical Building

The request by Spectraserv for Substantial Completion triggers a requirement for conducting a review of the work by the Engineer and the Owner to assess the status of completion and develop a list of incomplete items (referred to as the Punch List), to collectively assess whether the work is considered to be substantially complete. Mr. Formica discussed that the significance of Substantial completion is that it fixes the date on which the WPCA takes ownership of the new facilities and becomes responsible for O&M as well as providing insurance coverage for the new facilities, and the 1-year warranty period begins. It also allows retainage to be reduced on the completed work to the value of the Punch List. Mr. Formica noted that AECOM has scheduled Mon Nov. 7th and Tues. Nov. 8th for a site visit and review of these completed items with Mr. Pennell and Mr. Richmond and would encourage any participation from the WPCA on these days as well. Ms. Kozlark indicated that she would plan to attend part of the visit.

- iii) AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 38 for Spectraserv that covers the month of August in the amount of \$494,103.90 and Mr. Formica noted that AECOM recommends it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. 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. After last month's meeting, the CWF payment request was submitted DEEP and the process to obtain grant and loan payments from the DEEP is proceeding as planned.
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that with the change in Aeration Tanks in service, Spectraserv has begun to clean out the accumulated grit that is present in Aeration Tank No. 2. The contract has a line item on a unit price basis for removal/disposal of this material with an estimated quantity. It was noted that the actual amount of grit in the bottom of the tank, which is 8 feet deep in places, is significantly more than the estimated quantity in the contract line item. Since it is paid for on a unit price basis, this line item will need to be increased by change order at a future date once the actual amount of grit that is removed is defined.
- v) Regarding the project schedule, Mr. Pearson noted that as of the end of September Spectraserv has expended 100% of the contract time for completion (with the previously agreed to extension) and 76% of their contract value has been expended. AECOM recently received their schedule update noted that Spectraserv's projected final completion date is now 7/16/23, 7 days later than indicated in the last update. Another contract date of interest is the startup and testing of the phosphorus removal filter system. The updated schedule shows the filter performance testing also having slid out approximately 8 days from the last update, now starting on 3/29/23. 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. Mr. Pearson emphasized that AECOM remains very concerned about the schedule. In response to Ms. Kozlark's suggestion at last month's meeting, AECOM contacted the DEEP to get their input on what DEEP's response would be if this date is missed. DEEP could not provide a definitive response as it is somewhat of a hypothetical question until it is better known how much this date will be missed by. DEEP indicated that none at DEEP will be happy about missing that date, that EPA may weigh in on the situation, and that DEEP is aware that the WPCA and AECOM are doing everything they can to push Spectraserv to finish sooner. DEEP suggested re-visiting this question in the Feb 23 time frame when the likely completion date for the phosphorus filters is more clearly defined. Ms. Kozlark stated that DEEP should be made aware in writing of the likelihood the the 4-1-23 date will be missed well before that date. AECOM agreed.

Mr. Pearson discussed that part of the reason AECOM is very concerned over the schedule is that there is still a difference in Spectraserv's projected final completion date when comparing it to their average monthly expenditure rate. Spectraserv's pay estimate for September was for approximately \$490,000 with an average expenditure rate over the last 6 months of approximately \$690,000 per month. At that rate, AECOM's projection shows that Spectraserv would not complete the work until November 2023. Spectraserv indicate that they are working on an updated cash flow

projection that supports the schedule at today's meeting and promised it would be submitted before the next monthly meeting.

- vi)** Mr. Pearson noted that Joe Coffman from Liberty Mutual (Spectraserv's bonding company) continues to be onsite 3 days a week, and will be onsite 4 days a week going forward to assist Spectraserv.
- vii)** After last month's meeting Mr. Pearson had contacted Steve Wells at Spectraserv to request potential meeting dates for AECOM and WPCA representatives to meet as Mr. Wells had requested in Spectraserv's 7-1-22 letter. Mr. Wells response was that they felt the meeting would be more beneficial after they have had a chance to assess the schedule impacts of several current revisions under discussion on the telephone/internet/SCADA communications, as well as the Operations Building. HVAC system, and he requested the meeting be deferred until a later undefined date.
- viii)** Mr. Pearson reviewed that one of the pump suppliers on the project, Vaughan Pumps, contacted several Town departments, including Accounts Payable, the First Selectman, and Ms. Van. Ness, noting they have not been paid for their work. Ms. Van Ness has asked Vaughn for a copy of the invoice that has not been paid and AECOM will follow up with Spectraserv once the unpaid invoice is received from Vaughan.
- ix)** Mr. Pearson noted that First Selectman Rudy Marconi contacted AECOM on Monday to request an update for the Board of Finance, as he was asked at a recent meeting whether the WPCA had secured any additional grant money for the project. AECOM has submitted the draft Project Update that Ms. Van Ness had distributed earlier this week, and the feedback on the draft was that only an update on the grant status was needed. AECOM provided a draft grant summary to Mr. Marconi by email, that showed that the anticipated grant for the Route 7 project is approx.. \$1.4M, which is what was noted when the WPCA met with the Board of Finance in Sept. 2021, and no additional grant funds beyond that have been obtained. There was discussion of the need to provide the First Selectman with an update on the project, and early December is being targeted for this update. There was discussion about whether or not proceeds from the potential sale of the Route 7 WWTF property would be available to offset costs on the project. Mr. Zawacki questioned why the money from the sale of the Route 7 property would not ultimately go to the WPCA since the WPCA is paying for the decommissioning of the Route 7 plant. He also questioned why the WPCA must pay back the ARPA funds.
- x)** Regarding the discussion with DEEP about the Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant/Loan for the Route 7 project being covered under the same CWF agreement, Mr. Pearson noted that the schedule in the current CWF South Street WWTF Upgrade Grant/Loan Agreement requires the CWF loan be permanently financed within 6 months of March 31, 2023. This schedule will also need to be amended at the time the Route 7 project Grant/Loan is being added. Mr. Pearson discussed that the project cost budget will also need to be adjusted at that time to reflect an increase in the project contingency for Route 7 as noted previously, the Amendment already processed for AECOM's work, and any future amendment needed to accommodate the extended

construction schedules for both projects. AECOM will be working to better define these items so that they can be submitted to DEEP.

2) Veolia

- i) Mr. Richmond presented the September 2022 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of September 2022. Mr. Richmond noted that the South Street UV system was having difficulty with elevated e-coli values that is the result of construction. Mr. Richmond noted that the programmable logic controller (PLC) at the Copps Hill Pump Station had failed and was recently replaced with an electronic controller. Mr. O'Brien stated that the computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) system for the South Street WWTF will be installed beginning in January 2023.

3) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. by a **Motion made by Mr. Zawacki seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Submitted by Diana Van Ness