



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM  
December 15, 2022 5:00 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Maureen Kozlark, Corinne Ketchum, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki,  
Amy Siebert arrived at 5:05 p.m.  
AECOM: Matt Formica, Jon Pearson  
Veolia: Ryan Richmond, Jeff Pennell, 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. Kozlark at 5:00 pm.**

**1) New Business**

**a) Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve November 12, 2022 minutes as amended by Mr. Zawacki,  
seconded by Mr. Hill passing 4-0.**

**b) 2023 WPCA Calendar**

**i) Motion to approve 2023 Calendar as amended, changed December 21  
to December 14, 2023 at 7 :00 p.m. by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr.  
Hill, passing 4-0.**

**2) Old Business**

- a)** Mr. Zawacki 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.
- b)** 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.
- c)** Ms. Kozlark suggested that if the WPCA did not agree with the Selectman's position on the proceeds from the Route 7 WWTF property sale, that the WPCA attend a Board of Selectman meeting in February or March 2023 to voice this concern.

### **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. M&O Construction continued the installation of the force main/fiber optic cable conduit last month on Farmingville Road from the Lee Road intersection easterly to the culvert crossing of Ridgefield Brook. Through yesterday, approximately 11,040 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed, which is 81% of the total force main. The pavement repairs on Ligi's Way were also completed this month.
- ii)** Mr. Formica noted that with the arrival of winter weather the bituminous asphalt plants are closing at the end of this week. As a result, M&O Construction will be shutting down the force main installation crew after this week. M&O Construction'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. Once the new pump station has operated satisfactorily, demolition of the Route 7 WWTF is scheduled to begin in late Fall 2023 and continue into February 2024. Mr. Formica discussed that as he noted last month, AECOM has requested that M&O support the extended schedule with documentation of the delays in obtaining key pump station equipment and believes that this will necessitate a time extension.
- iii)** Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has submitted progress Payment Estimate No. 10 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$195,578.73 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 AECOM had forwarded a draft of Change Order No. 2 for review earlier this week. Mr. Formica reviewed that this change order includes 2 items that had previously been discussed: the provision of two variable message boards as requested by the Town in the estimated amount of \$24,998.92 and the temporary pavement repair on Ligi's way in the estimated amount of \$56,172.80, for a total of \$81,171.72. These are estimated amounts based on unit prices established for each item and payment will be based on the actual quantities provided, similar to the other unit prices for the work.
- v)** Mr. Formica discussed that as noted last month, with the projected increase in traffic control costs and the extended construction period, an increase in the project construction budget will be needed to complete the project. AECOM prepared an estimate of what additional funds are needed at this time, and it was discussed, together with the South Street project budget, later in the meeting.

**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 – Concrete, mechanical and electrical demolition work continued. Air piping headers and valves were installed along with some flow control gates.
  - (b) Influent Building Exterior installation of the new thin clad masonry veneer façade continued and installation of the Electrical Room addition roof joints was started.
  - (c) Operations Building. Work on the filter area continues with significant demolition work nearing completion, and installation of the filter cell bottom cones in the first 6 filter cells completed. Work on the replacement roofing system continued as well as work in many areas in the building.
- ii) The updated table showing the breakdown of the completion status of the buildings and structures on the project was reviewed by Mr. Formica. The most activity this month was on Aeration Tank No. 2. He noted that the other activity upcoming is to relocate some Veolia staff to the Control Building from the Operations Building once the fire alarm notification system is tested and operational. Another upcoming change is to relocate the balance of the Veolia staff to a temporary lab in the new Blower Building Garage to allow work on the second floor of the Operations Building to proceed.
- iii) Mr. Formica reviewed progress Payment Estimate No. 39 for Spectraserv that covers the month of November in the amount of \$539,840.81 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. After last month's meeting, 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 discussed that AECOM had forwarded a draft of Change Order No. 9 for review earlier this week. It includes six items for a total of \$47,040.94 that include: 1. Louvers, Energy Recovery Ventilator ERV-1 and 60 Exhaust Fan EF-8 Modifications; 2. Control Building Electrical Room Fire Rated Door and Fire Stopping; 3. Operations Building Garage Beam Modifications; 4. Install Stainless Steel Backplates for Electrical Disconnects; 5. Operations Building Basement Floor Repairs; and 6. Replace Existing 6-in SCUM Pipe at the Scum Well. Mr. Formica noted that thru Change Order No. 9 the total amount of Change Orders is approximately \$456,000 which represents approx. 1.2 percent of the original contract value.
- v) Mr. Formica discussed that as reviewed last month, Spectraserv has submitted a request for Substantial Completion for a number of the elements of the WWTF and based on a field review of the status of each element, AECOM had recommended that

the Substantial Completion be granted only for Final Settling Tanks 1 & 2 and Aeration Tank No.2. Based on this, AECOM had forwarded copies of the Substantial Completion Certificates that formally confirm that substantial completion of these elements has been achieved, together with the valued punch list for these two elements of the project. These certificates will be executed by AECOM, the WPCA as the Owner, and Spectraserv. For the other elements of the project that are not substantially complete, Mr. Formica noted that AECOM will provide an informal Punch List of what needs to be completed before these elements would be considered substantially complete.to Spectraserv. **Motion to approve 2 items that are substantially complete by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 5-0.**

- vi) Regarding the project schedule, Mr. Pearson discussed that as of the end of November Spectraserv has expended 107% of the contract time for completion (with the 160 day time extension included in Change Order No. 3) with 80% of their contract value expended. AECOM has not received their schedule update for this month, and the last update showed a projected final completion date of 8/6/23. 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. This date is very close to the revised date of 4/1/23 to meet the new effluent phosphorus limit under the current DEEP Administrative Order. Despite Spectraserv's statement during today's monthly construction meeting that they will meet this date, AECOM remains very concerned about the schedule. In the next Administrative Order quarterly report that is required to be submitted to the DEEP after the end of this month, Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM will again reinforce that the WPCA and AECOM are skeptical that this 4-1-23 date will be met.
- vii) Mr. Pearson reviewed that part of the reason AECOM remains 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. Based on the actual expenditure rate over the last 6 months, AECOM's projections show that they would not complete the work until late December 2023. Spectraserv provided an updated cash flow projection last month that does not match up with their latest schedule and AECOM provided comments to them asking for clarification of the differences. No response from Spectraserv has yet been received. Ms. Kozlark questioned whether the "piecemeal" approach to the effluent filter completion noted by Spectraserv (complete 6 filter cells first) was a viable option. AECOM noted that it may be viable, but no details on this approach have been provided at this time to assess it.
- viii) Mr. Pearson reviewed the current status of the overall project budget for each of the two ongoing construction projects using a summary table and schedule figure for each project. The current budgets and expenditures to date for construction, engineering, contingency, and short term interest during construction were reviewed. Mr. Pearson also reviewed the original and current schedules and basis for each of the two projects for construction, engineering services during construction, and short term interest during construction for each project. Using the current construction schedule provided by each contractor, Mr. Pearson reviewed the projected additional costs for contingencies, engineering services and interest during construction for the South

Street WWTF upgrade due to the extended construction schedule that were estimated to total approximately \$585,000, and for the contingency, additional traffic control costs, and engineering services for the Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning which total approximately \$655,000. Mr. Pearson noted that these estimated additional costs, which total approximately \$1.25 million, do 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. It was discussed that there is a need to update the sewer rate model as the first step in securing the needed additional funds. Mr. Pearson noted that while no action was needed tonight, there is a sense of urgency to address the increase in the project budget. It was discussed that the additional funds will likely come from the WPCA Fund Balance, and if so, a formal vote of the WPCA to commit the additional funds is what will be needed for the Clean Water Fund grant/loan. In response to a question, Mr. Pearson noted that the additional costs should be eligible for grant/loan participation once DEEP reviews the request. It was also suggested that the possibility of permanently financing the loan amount that has already been incurred be explored to reduce short term interest costs if DEEP would allow that approach.

#### **4) Veolia**

- i)** Mr. Pennell presented the November 2022 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of November 2022.
- ii)** Mr. Pennell stated that he received a call last week from Mr. Marconi regarding a blockage at Bernard's restaurant on West Lane. The owner of Bernard's stated that he had his lateral cleaned earlier that day. The blockage was in the manhole in the middle of West Lane near the fountain and was caused by grease accumulation. Mr. Pennell called in Veolia employees to clean the line and contacted the Ridgefield Police for traffic details due to the location of the manhole in the middle of West Lane.

#### **iii) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. by a **Motion made by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum, motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**