



**Unapproved
Town of Ridgefield
Water Pollution Control Authority
WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM
July 27, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki, Maureen Kozlark (via telephone)
WPCA absent: Corinne Ketchum
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
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. Siebert at 5:31 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve June 22, 2023 minutes by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.

Motion to approve June 29, 2023 minutes by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 3-0, Ms. Kozlark abstained as she was not at this meeting.

2) Old Business

a) Truck Replacement Update

i) Mr. Zawacki orchestrated the purchase of the new 2023 Ford F350 truck which has been delivered and is in use by Veolia.

b) Charter Revision Review

i) Ms. Kozlark stated that the Charter Revision Commission will implement the request for alternate members for the WPCA.

c) Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property.

Ms. Kozlark stated that the proposed 92 unit development for this property is being reviewed by Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetland boards.

3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Formica noted that the monthly construction progress meeting was held earlier today. M&O Construction has continued with the required pressure testing of the force main and spent most of this month locating and correcting minor leaks in the force main that AECOM noted last month. The force main from Route 7 to the intersection of Lee Road and Farmingville Road has now successfully passed the pressure test. This delayed the planned work of installing the last blowoff manhole and then continuing to install the force main along Route 7 northerly from the Haviland Road intersection. Through yesterday, approximately 12,170 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed which is approximately 90% of the total force main, and 8,280 feet of the force main, which is approximately 60% of the installed force main, has passed the pressure test.
- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that the Town Highway department has scheduled the planned pavement milling and final curb to curb pavement overlay for Haviland, Limekiln, and Lee Roads to begin on August 21st. M&O has committed that the fiber optic cable installation and testing on those streets will be completed by that date so as to not impact this paving schedule. Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM is concerned that they may not be able to complete all of this work on time. M&O started installation of pulling ropes in the conduit for the fiber optic cable this week, and the fiber optic cable installation will then follow. Ms. Kozlark expressed a desire to be proactive in managing M&O's efforts to meet this schedule.
- iii) Mr. Formica noted that at the same time as the fiber optic cable installation is being done, M&O plans to install the last blowoff manhole on Farmingville Road followed by installation of a gate valve on Ligi's way to allow the pressure test of the balance of the force main from the intersection of Lee and Farmingville Roads to the trenchless crossing of the brook culvert on Ligi's Way. The trenchless crossing of the Norwalk River is planned to start in the last week of August.
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that M&O's latest schedule shows that the pump station schedule is still being affected by delays in obtaining key components. M&O was recently notified by the generator supplier that the delivery date for the generator has again slipped from mid-December to the third week of January 2024. Mr. Formica indicated that this will likely further delay the startup of the pump station, and AECOM has asked M&O to provide an updated schedule that reflects this change and to again consider the use of a rental generator as a way to mitigate the delayed generator delivery impact on startup of the pump station.
- v) Mr. Formica reviewed that with construction progress, AECOM has submitted progress payment estimate No.17 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$156,914.66 for M&O Construction. AECOM has reviewed it and recommend that it be approved for payment. Mr. Formica noted that costs for the flagger and police details for addressing the force main leaks are not included as this should not be a cost borne by the Town. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. Since the contractual date for substantial completion has now passed, Mr. Formica noted that the progress payment form 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.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica reviewed the major activities completed since the June WPCA meeting that include:
 - (a) Influent Building - The operation of the temporary bypass pumping and screening system that allows the Influent Building to be bypassed has continued. Wiring of the new process equipment is ongoing, and HVAC and plumbing work continues in the building. Additional Odor Control ductwork and new doors were installed.
 - (b) Aeration Tanks. - At the end of June, the upgraded Aeration Tank No.2 was placed into service and the mixed liquor transferred from Aeration Tank No. 1 to allow the inspection of Aeration Tank No.1 prior to the expiration of the 1-year warranty on Aeration Tank No. 1.
- ii) Mr. Formica reviewed that Progress Payment No. 46 for Spectraserv has been submitted that covers the month of June in the amount of \$504,016.40 and AECOM recommends it be approved. The progress payment form 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. Through June, Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv has expended approximately 90% of the project cost, while 125% of the contract time has passed.
- iii) Mr. Formica presented Change Order No. 13 in the amount of \$64,816.96 for six items: Operations Building Bathroom Modifications; HVAC Control Modifications; Operations Building Additional Façade Stone; Operations Building Filter Room Paint Revisions; Influent Building and Operations Building Thickening Room Paint Revisions; Influent Building Rood Drain Replacement **Motion to approve Change Order No. 13 for \$64,816.96 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0.**
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed a pending change order item that would exceed the \$25,000 threshold where WPCA review is needed prior to a change order. He reviewed that Proposed Change Order No. 10 addresses four changes that were needed in the Operations Building Filter Room including: Modify the slide gate at the filter influent channel to a weir gate and provide an overflow drop box; Infilling 17 abandoned openings in walls in the filter structure; demolition of concrete walls between filter cells; Revising the personnel door location on the East wall of the Filter Room and adding a ship's ladder on the south side of the filter room. The approximate cost for this change is \$37,500, but this does not include the costs related to grating changes as agreement on those costs has not yet been reached. The proposed change was discussed and found to be acceptable
- v) Mr. Formica noted that Spectraserv's latest schedule shows the final completion date as January 10, 2024, a 7-week slippage from the last schedule update. However, this date does not fit with the current expenditure rate since the average monthly expenditure for the last 6 months is approximately \$553,000 and will need to be at \$562,000 per month to achieve the January date. The latest cash flow projection from

April to complete the project provided by Spectraserv showed that this month they projected expending \$1.04M in June but only achieved 48% of this amount, an indication that they are again not providing sufficient resources to meet the schedule. Based on the current expenditure rate, Mr. Formica noted that the project completion is projected to be at the end of Feb. 2024.

- vi) Mr. Formica reviewed that when the in-service aeration tank was changed from No.1 to No.2 at the end of June, several days later Veolia noted a rising trend on effluent total phosphorus and that it appeared the level in the bulk ferric chloride storage tank was not visibly dropping. After investigation, it was found that the chemical feed pump for the ferric chloride was not pumping chemical, even though the pump was operating. Some leaks due to loose fittings were found on the suction side of the pump, and the spare feed pump was put into operation. This corrected the issue, however, Mr. Formica noted that the issue persisted for a sufficient period of time that it may result in a violation of the monthly average effluent total phosphorus limit for the month of July. This will not be known until the lab data is available, but since this is likely, the DEEP was informed and is aware of the cause and correction of this problem.

- vii) Mr. Formica discussed that the Nexom BluePro effluent sand filters have not be operating correctly since they were started up in late April. AECOM has had a number of calls with Nexom and Spectraserv regarding the filter operation, and Nexom had indicated that they believe the root cause of this issue is construction debris that has entered the filters. Spectraserv elected to start up the filters prior to the building being completed around the filters in an effort to meet the April 2023 phosphorus permit deadline, despite concerns raised by AECOM on the potential for debris to cause issues with the filters. Nexom had recommended in mid-May that the filters be taken offline and the sand sieved to remove any debris. Spectraserv resisted this recommendation until recently, and this week the removal of the filters from operation was started, and the sieving of the sand is being planned. Since a plant process was being removed from service, AECOM discussed this sequence and the issues with DEEP in advance and confirmed that the chemical addition for phosphorus removal will continue during the period the filters are offline.

c) Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation

- i) Mr. Formica discussed that as noted last month, AECOM is working on developing the level of effort and cost to complete the design and permitting of the project. AECOM received feedback this week from Planning and Zoning that the project will need to be reviewed by P&Z and Inland Wetlands as well as the the Architectural Advisory Committee. In addition there may be a need for a public hearing but P&Z cannot determine in advance if that will be required. They also clarified the process and the need for a state and /or federal conservation easement for the gravity sewer needed to relocate the pump station located behind the Quail Ridge condominiums.

Mr. Formica noted that with the final requirements on these items know known, AECOM will generate an estimate for to the completion of the design for bidding for discussion with the WPCA.

4) Veolia

- a) Mr. Pennell presented the June 2023 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of June 2023.
- b) Mr. Pennell noted that there had been a sewer blockage in the line downstream of Bartollo Restaurant towards Kohls. The line was cleaned and an enzyme drip added to address the grease buildup, and this line has been added to the list for routine checking. It was discussed that there are a number of restaurants discharging into this sewer. It was discussed that it may be worth notifying the restaurants of the issue and emphasizing the need for grease trap maintenance.
- c) Mr. Pennell noted the new Ford 350 truck is being equipped with a Back Rack for lighting as well as a plow package and protective floor mats.

5) Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss strategy for pending claims inviting Ms. Siebert, Mr. Zawacki, Mr. Hill, Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. Formica by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Kozlark.

Ms. Kozlark left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

6) Return to public at 6:40. No votes were taken.

7) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. by Mr. Zawacki seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed 3-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness