



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

**WPCA Special Meeting Via ZOOM
May 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Gary Zawacki, Maureen Kozlark
WPCA absent: Corinne Ketchum
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
Veolia: Ryan Richmond, Jeff Pennell, Jason O'Brien
Attendee: Greg Kabasakalian

**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 6:01 pm.

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Ms. Kozlark noted a correction on the first page under Charter Revision, suggesting that "the WPCA may still will follow up with the Charter Revision Commission" should read "the WPCA may still follow up with this question." **Motion to approve April 19, 2023 minutes as amended by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.**

b) Truck Replacement

i) Discussed replacing the F250 truck with Jake Muller, Purchasing Director. There are no other used trucks available from other Town departments. The WPCA will discuss the financing with Mr. Muller and Mr. Redmond as to how much the WPCA can expend for a replacement truck. There was discussion of whether the Town or the WPCA pays for vehicles, and in the past it was the WPCA.

c) Outside Seating

i) The WPCA discussed the increase in outside seating for restaurants noting concerns with additional wastewater flows from more seats than the Sewer Use units are based on, and concerns with the ability of grease traps to perform their critical function satisfactorily with these higher flows. Planning and Zoning, Health, Fire Marshal, Building, Police, Parking Authority, Highway and the WPCA are reviewing the rules and

regulations for permitting outside seating. It was agreed that the WPCA should notify Planning and Zoning of these concerns.

2) Old Business

a) Charter Revision Review

- i) Ms. Kozlark stated that the Charter Revision will have a Public Hearing on revisions.

b) Sale of Route 7 Treatment Plant Property.

Ms. Kozlark stated that there was a public hearing on the sale of the property on April 26th. The Selectmen discussed selling the property and return the proceeds to the ARPA funds. Mr. Zawacki stated that the article in the Danbury News Times mentioned that if there was contamination at the Route 7 property, the WPCA would pay for the remediation which is inaccurate. Mr. Pearson agreed to draft a statement that this is not the case and send to Ms. Kozlark to submit to the Press and Danbury News Times for publication of a correction.

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. After last month's WPCA meeting, due to the heavy rains that occurred at the end of April that raised the water level of the Great Swamp adjacent to Farmingville Road, M&O Construction paused force main installation work for a week due to the increased groundwater levels. M&O then restarted force main installation work on Haviland Road moving east to Route 7. M&O requested, and was granted, approval to complete the last 150 feet of force main on Haviland Road approaching Route 7 during the night shift to minimize traffic impacts and improve crew safety, installed the force around the Haviland Road/ Route 7 corner, and installed an isolation valve. The force main crew then relocated to Ligi's Way during the week of May 15th and again working nights completed the force main installation up to and through the intersection with Farmingville Road, and continued the force main installation around the corner and east on Farmingville Road. Through yesterday, approximately 11,480 feet of force main and fiber optic conduit have been installed which is approximately 84% of the total force main.

Going forward Mr. Formica indicated that M&O will continue with the force main installation and connect into the already installed force main at the Ridgefield Brook Culvert on Farmingville. M&O will also be pressure testing the installed force main on Lee Road, Limekiln Road, and Haviland Road. That will be followed by installation of the fiber optic cables inside the installed conduits. Completion of these items would then allow the final paving to be completed on these streets by the Town

- ii) 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 and work starting onsite at the pump station has been pushed out until late July and is scheduled

to continue into early January 2024. M&O is still considering using a temporary generator to allow startup of the pump station earlier if the other key components arrive earlier than expected. 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 believes that this will necessitate a time extension.

- iii) Mr. Formica reviewed that with construction progress, AECOM has submitted progress payment estimate no.15 for the Route 7 project in the amount of \$374,737.90 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. 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.
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that a coordination meeting was held on April 26th with the Purchasing Director, Former Town Engineer, AECOM, M&O Construction, SLR Consulting, and Dayton Construction regarding coordination between the Route 7 project and the Ligi's Way Boardwalk project. Mr. Muller had requested, and AECOM will continue to provide, Mr. Muller with schedule updates for M&O's work on Ligi's Way Farmingville for coordination purposes.
- v) Mr. Formica reviewed that since the final curb to curb paving of town streets was removed from M&O Construction's scope of work when the bids were higher than expected, and the final paving will be completed by the Town Highway department using the DOT paving bids, there was a need to determine how the approximately \$536,000 in funds in the Route 7 Project budget would be used by the Highway Department. In addition, there may be a need to transfer funds between the two construction contracts. A meeting was held on May 16th with Ms. Siebert, Mr. Zawacki, Mr. Marconi, Mr. Redmond, Mr. Buccitti, and AECOM where the logistics of how these funds could be transferred was discussed and agreed to.
- vi) AECOM is now preparing a weekly Construction Update for distribution and posting on the WPCA and Town website.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica reviewed the major activities completed since the April 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. The new mechanically cleaned screens and the grit removal equipment has been installed in the building, flow control slide gates were installed, and electrical, HVAC and plumbing work in the building continues. The new influent box concrete work was completed and hydrostatic leak testing of the structure is underway.

- (b) Operations Building. - The CMU walls and precast roof plank installation for the expanded filter room were completed, work on the installation of the building façade commenced, and start up efforts for the 6 effluent filters continued.
 - (c) Site Work - The temporary bypass pump needed to allow the influent manhole MH-1 replacement was set up and operated, the manhole replacement work on the influent sewer manhole was completed, and the areas disturbed by this work have been restored.
- ii) Mr. Formica noted that 6 of the 8 effluent filters are in the startup phase, and Spectraserv is having some issues getting the filters fully operational and is working with the manufacturer to address the issues, and AECOM had sent an email to the WPCA outlining the current status.
- iii) Mr. Formica noted that in response to the notification by the WPCA that the new phosphorus limits would not be met by April 1, 2023 due to construction delays, the DEEP issued a modification to the Administrative Order on phosphorus on April 21, 2023 which extended the compliance date for the more stringent effluent phosphorus limits from 4-1-23 to 4-1-24.
- iv) Mr. Formica reviewed that Progress Payment No. 44 for Spectraserv has been submitted that covers the month of April in the amount of \$569,024.57 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 April, Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv has expended 87% of the project cost, while 120% of the contract time has passed.
- v) Mr. Formica discussed that Spectraserv's latest schedule shows improvement with the final completion date now shown as November 22, 2023, an improvement of about a month from the prior schedule. However, he noted this date does not fit with the current expenditure rate since the average monthly expenditure for the last 6 months is approx. \$580,000 and will need to be at \$720,000 per month to achieve the projected November date. During today's progress meeting Spectraserv stated they have increased the work force onsite in April and May, but that statement is not supported by the data on daily work force. AECOM still believes it will be early 2024 before completion is achieved. Also last month Spectraserv had provided the previously requested updated cash flow projection to complete the project. AECOM reported that Spectraserv exceeded their projected cashflow for April but AECOM is concerned about their aggressive projections for the next four months. Mr. Formica reviewed that with the cashflow projection Spectraserv had provided a narrative presenting several reasons that they had not met their previous cash flow targets. Since AECOM did not agree with the contents of this narrative, Mr. Formica noted that AECOM provided a rebuttal letter earlier this week which copied all project parties including Spectraserv's bonding company.

- vi) Mr. Pearson reviewed that in Spectraserv's April 2022 letter they had submitted a request for additional time and extended site overhead costs, that AECOM had responded to in May 2022 that additional justification was needed to support the claimed additional time and costs in accordance with the contract. Spectraserv submitted some non-project specific information on general delays, but no substantive additional supporting information has been provided showing the impact of the claimed delays on the schedule critical path, and this has been outstanding for a year. Spectraserv had previously requested a meeting to discuss this claim, but they have more recently indicated that they are not willing to meet on it. As a result, Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM will respond to their request denying the claim.
- vii) Mr. Pearson discussed that regarding the Clean Water Fund status, AECOM has drafted the revised project cost tables to support the recent \$1.3 million budget increase and provided drafts to the First Selectman and Town Controller, who did not have any comments, and to the DEEP. Once AECOM receives feedback from DEEP, these tables can be finalized, signed by the First Selectman as the authorized representative, and submitted to allow the Route 7 project Grant/Loan to be issued.
- viii) Mr. Pearson discussed that as noted at last month's meeting, the DEEP had issued a Call for Projects for the FY24-25 Clean Water Fund priority list. On behalf of the WPCA AECOM prepared project request forms for the Route 7 PS, FM, and WWTF Decommissioning Project, the Quail Ridge PS Relocation project, and the Ramapoo Road PS upgrade and submitted them to the DEEP prior to the May 19th deadline. Mr. Pearson also indicated that the DEEP had requested data from the WPCA regarding pump stations, since DEEP is looking at infrastructure climate resilience, and working with Mr. Pennell and Mr. Richmond, the requested information was tabulated and provided to the DEEP.
- ix) Ms. Siebert noted that she had asked AECOM to provide a draft document regarding why Spectraserv has not been terminated that can be used as the basis for a progress update on the South Street project for the Board of Selectmen and possibly the Board of Finance. She will review the draft provided by AECOM.

c) Quail Ridge Pump Station Relocation

- i) Mr. Pearson reviewed that AECOM has started efforts to assess the remaining efforts to complete the design and permitting of the project. He noted that the design was completed to a 90% complete level in early 2017, and draft plans and specifications were provided to the WPCA, Suez (at the time) and the Town Engineer for review. At that time, AECOM had approximately \$30,000 remaining in the design and permitting budget to complete the design and permitting. As discussed last month, the proposed police/fire complex is to be located in the same vicinity as the relocated pump station on the former Schlumberger property off of Old Quarry Road.. AECOM has met with Mr. Muller regarding coordination of the PS project with the police/fire project, and the good news is there does not appear to be a conflict between the two site locations.

- ii) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM met with the Planning and Zoning as well as the Inland Wetlands staff with Ms. Van Ness in attendance to advise them of the desire of the WPCA to advance the project in the near future, and to discuss what permits and other documents will be required from planning and zoning and inland wetlands to obtain permits and approvals for construction. AECOM is continuing to coordinate with P&Z to address if several items are required to complete the design include the need to meet with the Architectural Advisory Committee and the need for a state and /or federal conservation easement related to the propose sewer behind the Quail Ridge Condominiums. Once the final requirements are known AECOM will generate an estimate for the completion of the design for discussion with the WPCA.

4) Veolia

- a) Mr. Pennell presented the April 2023 Monthly Report. The NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report for the Route 7 facility and the South Street facility met compliance for the month of April 2023. The reaeration tanks at the South Street WWTF were cleaned and put into service. The alum feed at the Route 7 WWTF for interim phosphorus removal was initiated. Mr. Pennell stated the UV modules at both plants were installed and turned on. At the end of April, the significant rains caused a flow increase, and the recently installed Ring cameras at the South Street Facility were helpful in monitoring conditions in the temporary influent screening and calling Spectraserv staff in over the weekend, which prevented a potential bypass.

5) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness