



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
February 25, 2021 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki, Ron Hill, Maureen Kozlark, Kevin Briody
Suez: Ryan Richmond, Jon Arneth, Jeff Pennell
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
62 East Ridge: Steven Sullivan, Thom Montanari

**These are not verbatim minutes of the proceedings but identification of
general items and specific actions undertaken.**

Meeting held via ZOOM Video Teleconference.

WPCA Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Ms. Siebert

1) New Business

- a) **Approval of Minutes.** Approval of January 28, 2021 minutes by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.

2) Old Business

a) **62 East Ridge Connection**

- i) Steven Sullivan gave an overview of the issues with connecting to the East Ridge side of the project. Discussed the different scenarios connecting to the Prospect Ridge collection system. Mr. Sullivan noted that the First Selectman indicated that installing the connection in the ballfield would not be acceptable. Constructing the sewer connection in town streets was cost prohibitive at an estimated cost over \$200,000. Discussed connecting to the existing sewer and addressing leaking private homeowner laterals on properties to offset the added flow, and ways to have homeowners repair the leaks.
 - ii) Mr. Sullivan will look into options used in other towns to repair laterals and their legal basis.
 - iii) The WPCA will continue the discussion at the next meeting.
- b) **Review Connection Fee.** The WPCA will set up a workshop with Raftelis Financial Consultants to discuss the connection fees and include WPCA legal counsel.

3) AECOM Report

a) WWTF Upgrade Design

Mr. Pearson indicated that as noted last month, AECOM completed the plans and specifications for the Route 7 PS and FM construction contract, and the completed documents were submitted to the DEEP for review on December 8th. This month DEEP recently provided comments on the contract documents submitted in December 2020. There were less than a dozen comments, and they were mostly administrative items such as naming only one manufacturer for a specified piece of equipment. AECOM will be responding to the comments and revising the documents to incorporate the comments, and this should allow obtaining DEEP's authorization to advertise the contract for bids in March. This keeps this project on the schedule of having the construction contract awarded this coming June.

Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has recently been in contact with the DOT and they are currently reviewing the plans. DOT also provided information we requested on the traffic light and controls at the intersection of Route 7 and Haviland Road. DOT has verbally stated that they will require the pipe installation along Route 7 to be constructed at night due to traffic impacts, however written comments have not yet been provided. AECOM will continue to follow up with DOT.

After last month's meeting, AECOM had provided Charlie Fisher with some feedback related to his request to coordinate the Route 7 Force Main construction with the planned construction of a walking path along Ligi's Way. Mr. Pearson noted the request that storm drainage on Ligi's Way not be connected into the South St. WWTF outfall was forwarded. The consultant working with Mr. Fisher on this project, SLR Consulting, responded and noted the connection of drainage to the outfall was an error and the path plans will be revised to remove this connection. SLR Consulting also indicated that the current project schedule for the walking path has construction starting in late summer early fall, so the two projects will likely overlap. AECOM will continue to coordinate the force main project with the walking path project, and one item will be to include a requirement that the force main on Ligi's Way be constructed first in the construction contractor's sequence of work. AECOM will advise the WPCA of any further concerns on this coordination as it proceeds.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

i) **Construction Status.** Mr. Pearson noted that the monthly construction progress call was held earlier today, with Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Zawacki, Mr. Pennell and Mr. Richmond attending. Mr. Formica provided an update on major construction activities this month covering the following:

- Modifications to the Control Building are continuing, with extensive plumbing and electrical work ongoing. The new boiler is being piped up,

along with hydronic piping in both levels of the building as well as domestic water piping and other building services.

- The electrical conduits to be embedded in the concrete floor slab for the Electrical Building were placed and the work to form and reinforce the floor slab is ongoing.
- Final Settling Tank No.1 was taken out of service on Jan. 19th, the old rotating scraper mechanism has been demolished along with the weirs and baffles, and installation of the new mechanism and weirs and baffles is nearing completion.
- Work Blower/Garage Building foundations has been completed and electrical conduit installation is underway.
- In Aeration Tank No. 1, Installation of the Mixed Liquor Recycle piping is continuing.

ii) **Progress Payment.** AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 17 for the South Street WWTF Upgrade for Spectraserv that covers the month of January 2021 in the amount of \$1,010,837.36 and the WPCA approved the invoice for payment. Mr. Pearson noted the Clean Water Fund payment request and reimbursement process continues as expected and this will continue to be a monthly routine going forward.

iii) **Spectraserv Time Extension.** Mr. Pearson discussed the time extension request due to Covid 19 related delays that Spectraserv submitted on January 11th. He noted that AECOM has reviewed the request and distributed a draft letter that outlines AECOM's recommended response to the WPCA prior to the meeting.

As outlined in AECOM's draft letter, Spectraserv's time extension request outlines a number of items that are not relevant to the covid issue, and there are a number of items that AECOM disagrees with as justification for the time extension. However, Spectraserv has documented the delay in obtaining a number of pieces of equipment, most significantly the final settling tank mechanisms which are on the schedule's critical path. Mr. Pearson noted that the contract documents address the impacts of epidemics to allow for additional time for delays, but no increase in cost. Spectraserv has requested 160 days of time, with no increase in construction cost. There was discussion regarding the potential that the extended construction period could increase AECOM's costs for engineering, but it is premature to conclude this will be the case as most of the construction remains in the future.

The other factor Mr. Pearson noted needs to be considered in reviewing this time extension is the DEEP administrative order and the required date of April 1, 2022 that the new BluePRO filter system needs to be operational to meet the more stringent phosphorus limits. Spectraserv's most recent schedule update shows the filter system startup occurring at the end of March 2022 which should allow the system to be operational very close to the April 1 2022 date in the administrative order.

Mr. Pearson recommend that Spectraserv be granted the 160 day time extension as they have documented delays resulting from the COVID pandemic. If the WPCA agrees to grant the extension, this would be addressed in the final version of the letter to be sent to Spectraserv by AECOM, and then incorporated into the contract via a change order. **Motion was made by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Mr. Hill to accept the 160 day extension, passing 4-0.**

- iv) **Change Order No. 2.** Mr. Pearson discussed that the second construction change order for Spectraserv has been prepared and the proposed change order was distributed via email yesterday. The change order addresses 7 items with a total value of \$48,777.11. All of the items are below the \$25,000 threshold that was established where prior approval of the WPCA was required. The change order was discussed, and Mr. Pearson noted that in the current project budget for the South Street WWTF Upgrade, a contingency was carried to address changes and unknown items, as is typically done for all municipal capital projects. The contingency amount on the South Street project is \$2,640,000 and with Change Order No. 2, the total change order amount is to \$73,246.48 or just under 3% of the contingency (compared to 30% of the construction contract amount expended). . AECOM is tracking the utilization of the contingency and will continue to do so. **Motion to approve Change Order No. 2 by Mr. Zawacki and seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0.**

- v) **Potential Change Item – Pump Local Control Revisions.** Mr. Pearson noted that there is a potential change that would exceed the \$25,000 threshold that was established where prior approval of the WPCA was required. Mr. Formica discussed the current control system design where control of the pumps and blowers would be either through the SCADA system and locally at the Motor Control Centers (MCCs). The blowers being provided have the local controls on the blower control panels and this change would make the pump control similar by relocating the Hand- Off- Remote controls for 11 pumps from the MCCS to a local control panel at each pump. AECOM believes this will have a cost of \$50,000-\$60,000, and Suez agreed this change is desired. If the WPCA approves, the cost would then be negotiated with Spectraserv in an effort to reduce the cost.. **Motion to approve the proposed changes to switch the local controls for 11 pumps by Mr. Briody, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.**

- vi) **DEEP Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Clean Water Fund Priority List and Public Hearing.** Mr. Pearson noted that the DEEP just issued a Draft Clean Water Fund Priority List for FY2021, when shows which projects will be receiving grant and loan funding in this year. The Route 7 PS, FM, and WWTF Decommissioning construction contract is listed as being on the fundable list with a value of \$7 million as the final contract in the Wastewater Facilities Upgrade Project. The DEEP is holding a Public Hearing on March 30th to solicit comments on the Draft Priority List as the Clean Water Fund program requires, and we recommend that the WPCA submit a letter in support of this project being funded. Based on the comments received DEEP may revise the list, so it is important for the town to support this project being funded. As competition for funds is growing, we also suggest the Town contact your legislative representatives to ask that they too submit a letter to DEEP in

support of this project receiving funding. AECOM will prepare suggested letters and forward them to Diana and Amy for submittal.

4) Suez Report.

- a) Mr. Pennell presented Suez Environmental report for January 2021. He noted that the VFD has been installed on one pump at the Quail Ridge Pump Station, and the generator is now able to power that pump, and the pump is operating much better. Suez is having a VFD installed to power the second pump at the station.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting at 7:30 pm by Mr. Briody, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0. Ms. Kozlark left the meeting at approximately 6:25p.m.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness