



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting  
March 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, Michael Burke  
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica  
Pullman & Comley: Lee Hoffman

**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 February 25, 2021 minutes as amended, Ms. Kozlark left the meeting at approximately 6:25 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.

**2) Old Business**

- a) **Review Connection Fee.** The WPCA will set up a follow-up workshop to continue to discuss the Connection Fee.

**Mr. Hoffman left the zoom meeting.**

**3) AECOM Report**

- a) **WWTF Upgrade Design**

Mr. Pearson noted at last month's meeting that in late February 2021, AECOM received DEEP comments on the final plans and specifications for the Route 7 PS and FM construction contract that were submitted in December 2020. There were less than a dozen comments, mostly administrative items. AECOM responded to DEEP's comments and provided revisions resulting from the DEEP comments on March 19, 2021. DEEP has since confirmed the responses are acceptable, and the letter approving the contract documents and authorizing the Town to advertise is being prepared.

AECOM also received written input from the DOT on the final plans regarding paving details, DOT inspection requirements during construction, and constructing the force main in the Route 7 travelled way as night construction. Mr. Pearson indicated that the items resulting from DOT's input were incorporated into the revised contract documents that were submitted to the DEEP. AECOM has also incorporated some coordination items resulting from discussions with the Ligi's Way walking path design engineer and the Town's Charlie Fisher.

With DEEP's Authorization to Advertise the project for bids close to being issued, AECOM has been coordinating with both Ms. Van Ness and Jake Muller (Purchasing Director) about the bidding schedule logistics of advertising the project for bids, as well as the approach for the pre-bid meeting and the receipt of bids in light of the Covid restrictions. Mr. Pearson noted that the anticipated bidding schedule is as follows:

Publish Bid Advertisement: week of April 5th  
Prebid Meeting: April 14th at the Highway Garage followed by visit to Rte 7 PS and WWTF  
Receive bids: May 5th (with potential to extend to May 12th if needed)

Mr. Muller has requested that bids will be received electronically (via email or fax) due to Covid and a number of recent Town bids have been handled this way according to Mr. Muller. Following the planned receipt of bids by mid-May, this schedule should keep the project on track to have a signed construction contract by the end of June as planned.

## **b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction**

i) **Construction Status.** Mr. Pearson noted that the monthly construction progress call was held earlier today, with Mr. Zawacki, Mr. Burke, 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 roof parapet has been completed and the new roofing will be installed shortly
- The floor slab of the Electrical Building was placed, and some of the area around the building has been backfilled with the CMU wall work starting this week.
- Work is nearing completion on the installation of the new Final Settling Tank No.1 rotating mechanism, with the manufacturer's checkout scheduled for next week and putting the tank online shortly afterwards.

- Piping under the Blower/Garage Building slab inside the foundation walls is nearing completion and work to form and reinforce the first floor slab is to begin thereafter.
- In Aeration Tank No. 1, Installation of the Mixed Liquor Recycle piping and pipe supports has been completed.
- The new diesel generator was anchored to the pad and the enclosure completed, and the exterior stairs and platform have been installed.
- The old septage tanks have been excavated, demolished, and removed, and the subgrade is being prepared for the construction of the new tanks and building foundation.
- Tree have been removed along South Street and a temporary sedimentation pond has been constructed just inside the fence.

ii) **Schedule.** Mr. Pearson noted that as of the end of February, including the time extension granted last month, approximately 50% of the contract time has been expended, and 32% of the contract amount has been expended. In response to a question, Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM remains concerned about Spectraserv's ability to complete the project within the contract time for completion. Under the terms of the contract, Spectraserv is responsible for the scheduling of the work, and there is a liquidated damages clause with a potential financial penalty if they do not complete the work on schedule due to schedule issues under their control. Spectraserv maintains they are on schedule and submitted a recent schedule update that AECOM will review and provide comments on.

iii) **Progress Payment.** AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 18 for the South Street WWTF Upgrade for Spectraserv that covers the month of February 2021 in the amount of \$755,719.84 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.

iv) **Potential Centrifuge revisions change order.** Mr. Pearson noted that while there were no formal change orders to approve, there were two potential change order items to review. Mr. Formica discussed a pending change to improve the operability and ease of maintenance for the sludge thickening/dewatering centrifuge. AECOM recommended revisions to several aspects of the centrifuge, able to be defined now that the centrifuge manufacturer has been identified. (Public bidding requirements required that several acceptable manufacturers were named in the specifications; each with unique characteristics affecting final installation and operating details.) AECOM noted the changes recommended include:

- Provide a in-room mast crane for scroll/bowl removal and maintenance in the room without the need to remove the items through the

roof. This in room hoist will double as a sample hoist for the upstairs lab and delete the sample hoist davit.

- Miscellaneous piping and OC modifications (due to layout and allow for in room school/bowl removal).
- Modify the access stair, platform layout, with minor piping and odor control duct revisions.
- Increase the size of the sludge discharge hopper to provide more storage and the ability to reduce the amount of thinner sludge that is hauled off site.
- Minor electric/controls modifications due the features of the unit to be provided.

There was discussion about the benefits of this change, and Mr. Hill suggested considering using the 3' x 3' hatch and a gantry to lower the scroll/bowl to the truckway below as an alternative to lifting the scroll/bowl out through the removable roof planks.

**Motion to approve the pending change order for the centrifuge with crane not to exceed \$32,000 by Ms. Kozlark and seconded by Mr. Briody, passing 5-0.**

- v) **Potential Ice Machine change order.** Mr. Formica discussed a second potential change order requested by Suez to replace the electric water fountain in the Blower Building lower level with an electric ice machine. Ice is needed to package and preserve samples sent to an outside laboratory for analysis, and with the upgraded WWTF, the required amount of samples will increase. Ice is currently purchased, and this change would provide ice at the WWTF. AECOM confirmed a commercial grade ice machine would be specified. The WPCA approved moving forward with this change.

- vi) **DEEP Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Clean Water Fund Priority List and Public Hearing.** Mr. Pearson discussed that in late February the DEEP 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 as the final contract in the Wastewater Facilities Upgrade Project. The DEEP is holding a Public Hearing on the Draft Priority List next Tuesday March 30th, and AECOM has forwarded suggested letters for the WPCA and the First Selectmen to submit to show the Town's support and appreciation for the funding assistance, since this is a competitive funding program. AECOM will work with Ms. Van Ness to get these letters finalized and submitted by the March 30th deadline.

**4) Suez Report.**

- a) Mr. Pennell presented Suez Environmental report for February 2021. Mr. Pennell stated that both pumps at Quail Ridge are now on new VFD's. Replaced two motor starters at the Middle School Pump Station. Discussed starting the alum feed at Route 7 and South Street. Mr. Arneth requested the WPCA review the Computerized Maintenance program, and this will be discussed at a future WPCA meeting.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting at 6:56 pm by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 5-0. .

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**