



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

**WPCA Special Meeting
September 27, 2021 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Corinne Ketchum
AECOM: Jon Pearson
Suez: Ryan Richmond
Attendees: Gregory and Collette Kabasakalian, 2 Washington Street,
Robert Hebert, 58 Prospect Street
Russ Porter, 14 Pilgrim Hill

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

**WPCA Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Ms. Kozlark, Ms. Siebert
arriving at 5:32**

1) New Business

a) Public Comment

- i)** Gregory Kabasakalian questioned the \$4 million fund balance and why the increase in sewer fees.
- ii)** Russell Porter questioned the source of funds to offset the overage.
- iii)** Robert Hebert questioned where we are with the budget for the South Street WWTF Upgrade and if the schedule is behind due to Covid.
- iv)** Ms. Siebert stated that the schedule has slipped due to Covid ; the project is on budget with respect to the contract value. The South Street bid came in higher than the estimate. The WPCA used its fund balance to cover the difference. Route 7 also came in over expectations, due to Covid. The fund balance had originally been intended for the Quail Ridge pump station project.
- v)** Ms. Kozlark stated that they used the \$4 million in the fund balance originally planned for the Quail Ridge pump station project to secure the contract for South Street in order to acquire the grant money from the Clean Water Fund. The Quail Ridge pump station project will now need to be bonded.
- vi)** Mr. Pearson noted that the Sewer Rate Model was recently updated and the Quail Ridge pump station project potentially deferred from FY23 to

FY24. The model was updated to determine what additional funds might be available within the WPCA's budget to help reduce the amount of ARPA funds needed to allow the Route 7 project to proceed.

b) Approval of Minutes

- i) Motion to approve August 26, 2021 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 3-0, Ms. Ketchum and Mr. Zawacki were not at meeting.

c) Discussion of Rate Model from Raftelis

- i) Discussed bumping out Quail Ridge Pump Station project another year. As the pump station is approximately 30+ years old and is not in good condition, there are concerns with this but the Route 7 upgrade is necessary at this time.
- ii) Discussed options to keep the Annual Sewer Rates within the predicted increases modeled as a result of the overall upgrade project and expected expenses.

d) ARPA Funds Discussion

- i) Ms. Kozlark stated the Board of Selectmen were discussing a Referendum versus a Town Meeting. State legislators had been contacted to explore other means of funding. Any additional money available through grants from the State and an Eversource rebate would be applied to the project to help defray costs. AECOM was requested to draft a simple summary of the need for additional funds.
- ii) **Motion that the WPCA would access and apply any additional money to defray the ARPA contribution for the Route 7 Pump Station project by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.**

e) Possible Vote on Additional Funds for Route 7

- i) Ms. Siebert stated the urgency to start the Route 7 project as soon as possible.
- ii) **Motion to take \$500,000 from fund balance to apply to Route 7 project by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Ketchum passing 5-0.**

2) AECOM

a) Route 7 PS, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning Construction.

i) Mr. Pearson state that following the September 1st Board of Selectman's meeting and the September 8th Board of Finance meeting regarding securing additional funds, AECOM was requested to reach out to M&O Construction to request a written extension of the bid holding period that originally was to expire on Sept. 15th. With the requirement to hold one or more public hearings prior to either a Town Meeting or Referendum vote regarding the additional funds, it was clear additional time would be needed to secure the additional funds to award the Route 7 PS, FM, and WWTF Decommissioning Contract. Accordingly, AECOM had requested M&O Construction extend their bid holding period through the end of November. On Sept. 13th, M&O Construction provided a written extension of their bid holding period through the end of November.

ii) Mr. Pearson also noted that AECOM was also requested to contact the DEEP Clean Water Fund staff to obtain input on the requirements that DEEP will need to follow for

the WPCA to use the additional funds once they are approved. This question is being reviewed and AECOM will provide the feedback once received from the DEEP.

iii) To assist the town in enlisting the assistance of the legislative delegation to try to locate additional funds for the project, a tour of the South Street WWTF construction was conducted on Tuesday Sept. 21st, with State Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo, Selectman Manners, and Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Zawacki, Mr. Hill, Ms. Ketchum, and Ms. Van Ness led by Matt Formica and Eva Solarik of AECOM and Jeff Pennell of Suez.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

i) Mr. Pearson stated that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held last Thursday with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Arneth, and Mr. Richmond participating. Construction has continued including:

- The Septage Building concrete floor slab and embedded hatches was placed, and the concrete knee wall was placed with the staging for constructing the CMU walls being assembled.
- Concrete work on the UV/Reaeration building wet well and re-aeration tanks continued, with the sub-structure successfully leak tested and backfilled. In addition, some mechanical piping has been installed.
- Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with extensive plumbing and electrical work ongoing. The roll-up door was installed in the Chemical Building. The Control Building roof was partially installed over last weekend and is expected to be completed this week.
- Work on the Blower Building continues, with the building masonry façade completed and a portion of the aeration piping and potable water piping installed. The concrete pads for the blowers and Motor Control Centers (MCC) were placed, and installation of two of the aeration blowers completed. The MCC was installed in the building.
- Site work continued with installation of Electrical manholes and ductbanks near the Septage Building and Chemical Building. Work continues on site piping and the installation of the Route 7 and Quail Ridge FM's in South Street began.

ii) Mr. Pearson noted that those who took the recent tour of the South Street WWTF construction met AECOM's new Resident Representative, Eva Solarik, who has replaced Ted Angelakis who is out due to injury.

iii) Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM continues to be concerned about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised contract completion date (and the DEEP shares that concern). Spectraserv's latest schedule update shows that they are 7 weeks behind schedule due to delays being experienced in obtaining materials due to industry wide shortages with many items backordered. AECOM is preparing another letter to Spectraserv to document the concerns over the schedule, however, Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM and the DEEP are seeing labor, equipment, and materials shortages on many projects that are contributing to schedule issues.

Mr. Pearson noted that the DEEP also reviews Spectraserv's monthly schedule updates, and since the latest schedule update showed that Spectraserv is behind schedule in

meeting the April 1, 2022 permit compliance date for the new phosphorus limits, the DEEP is requesting that planning begin for implementing a temporary system to achieve phosphorus removal until the permanent BluePRO sand filters are operational and tested. Mr. Pearson indicated that it may be possible to accelerate the completion of the permanent chemical storage and feed system to add ferric chloride in the aeration tanks to precipitate phosphorus in the final settling tanks. AECOM will work with Spectraserv to assess if this is feasible and update the WPCA.

iv) Mr. Pearson submitted Progress Payment No. 24 for Spectraserv that covers the month of August in the amount of \$877,143.44 and recommended it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. After last month's meeting, the DEEP Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted DEEP, and the process to obtain grant and loan payments from the DEEP is proceeding as planned.

4) Suez

Mr. Richmond presented the Suez Environmental report for August 2021 and noted both WWTFs met all permit requirements. Mr. Richmond reviewed September's storm events: Ida brought us over 6 inches of rain and last week's rain event brought us around 4.75 inches of rain. All hands were on deck and our portable 6" trailer pump operated as intended and helped with the deluge of storm flow. There were no bypasses.

5) Adjournment

- a) Motion to adjourn Meeting at 6:32 pm by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 5-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness