



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

**WPCA Regular Meeting
October 24, 2019 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA:	Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki Ron Hill, Kevin Briody, Rudy Marconi
Suez:	Jeff Pennell, Michael Burke
AECOM:	Jon Pearson, Don Chelton
93 Ramapoo Rd.	Bill Coffey, Pembroke Septic
Universal Septic:	Rafael Soltis

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

WPCA Regular Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Ms. Siebert

1) New Business

- a) **Approval of Minutes.** Motion to approve September 26, 2019 minutes by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Mr. Briody, Passing 5-0.
- b) **93 Ramapoo Road.** Mr. Coffey requested a single family residence connection to 93 Ramapoo Road, in Sewer District 1. He presented his drawing and the WPCA approved the connection for 1 sewer use unit. Details will be incorporated into the connection permit.
- c) **Turner Hill.** Discussed application for new sewer connection for Turner Hill; capacity is available. The WPCA will review policy for new connections in Turner Hill with counsel.
- d) **Universal Septic.** Mr. Sotil requested Universal Septic to have access to discharge septage into the South Street facility. He was suspended from discharging in 2013 due to discharging influent from the Redding wastewater facility to South Street using false Ridgefield addresses. In order to see discharge privileges reinstated, Mr. Sotil will provide the WPCA with a client address list, and will be required to provide addresses and corresponding phone numbers for each source of septage that will allow verification of the septage source. Mr. Sotil was asked to sign a letter of agreement to abide by these requirements, and a "2 strike" policy (if there is another violation, it would mean permanent suspension). The WPCA reiterated septage can only be from Ridgefield. The WPCA also noted a policy whereby any hauler bringing in septage under false pretenses would be suspended for a minimum of three years, with a second occurrence resulting in permanent suspension. The WPCA noted that septage receiving will be curtailed for several years while the South Street WWTF is undergoing the upgrade. **Motion was made by Mr. Hill to reinstate Mr. Sotil**

under the conditions above by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Briody, passing 4-1, Mr. Zawacki opposing.

- e) **Sewer Hookup Fee.** The WPCA discussed raising the sewer connection fee. The WPCA will request review from our rate consultant.

2) Old Business

a) South Street WWTF Upgrade Bond Resolution.

- a. AECOM is preparing the DEEP Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant/Loan applications for the Design and the South Street WWTF Upgrade construction. Mr. Pearson noted that the grant calculations for the design and the South street WWTF Upgrade were recently submitted to the DEEP as follows – these are under review and are not final figures:

Design Grant Amount: \$886,887

South Street WWTF Upgrade Grant: \$11,917,037

Total: \$12,803,924

It was noted that this total does not include the projected grant of \$922,000 (not a final figure) for the Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main and WWTF Decommissioning which will be applied for in late 2020 or early 2021 once the bids are received for that contract.

DEEP is currently reviewing the submitted calculations. AECOM stressed that these are preliminary grant amounts, and the grant amounts will likely be revised downward as DEEP reviews the grant calculations. Once agreement is obtained on grant amount, and the Bond authorization and other documents are in hand, the two CWF applications can be submitted. Mr. Marconi indicated that the bond resolution for the South Street WWTF Upgrade was approved at the Board of Selectman's meeting on Oct. 23rd, with the required documents to be completed shortly and provided to AECOM.

One of the items required to be submitted with the application is an analysis of project capital cost repayment plan, including methods of cost recovery to be utilized and their relative contribution toward debt retirement (mill rate increases, tie-in fees, benefit assessments, user charge fees). AECOM suggests including the Rate Model prepared by Raftelis for the WPCA in the applications to satisfy this requirement, and the WPCA agreed.

3) AECOM Report

a) WWTF Upgrade Design

- i) AECOM and several WPCA members attended the Planning & Zoning/Inland Wetlands permit hearing on Wed. Oct. 2. Following the meeting, the P&Z special permit approval was issued Oct. 8th, and the Inland Wetlands permit approval was issued Oct. 11th. Similar to the permit approvals for the South Street WWTF Upgrade, submittal of erosion control, phasing, and staging plans by the construction contractor to P&Z/ IWWA for approval prior to issuance of the P&Z Special Permit and the Inland Wetlands permit.
- ii) AECOM asked if there had been any further discussion with the Owner at 901 Ethan Allen Highway regarding obtaining approval for the work at the Route 7 PS site, emphasizing the need to bring this to closure. None had occurred; Mr. Marconi agreed to reach out again. AECOM will forward information on the proposed permanent and temporary easements needed from this property to facilitate the discussion.

- iii) AECOM noted that a temporary easement is needed from the adjacent property at 871 Ethan Allen Highway, and that contact has not yet been made with the property. In response to a question, Mr. Marconi noted he can contact this property owner to discuss the needed easement. AECOM will forward a plan showing the location of the temporary easement on this property.

The next step in addressing the Police Dept requirement for night work in several locations along the Route 7 Force Main construction was discussed. AECOM will forward several potential dates for AECOM and the WPCA to meet with the Police Dept.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- (1) Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has received about 40 shop drawing submittals from Spectraserv, including submittals for major equipment such as the aeration blowers and the standby generator. It was also noted that 5 Requests for Information (RFI) have been received from Spectraserv.
- (2) As requested by Planning and Zoning, a preconstruction meeting was held on 24 October with Planning & Zoning (Richard Baldelli), Inland Wetlands (Beth Peyser), the WPCA, AECOM, Spectraserv, and Spectraserv's consultant the LRC Group, to review the key permit requirements and discuss comments on the draft Stormwater Pollution Control Plan that Spectraserv/LRC has prepared and submitted, as well as comments from Charlie Fisher.
- (3) A progress meeting with the WPCA, Purchasing, AECOM, Spectraserv, and the CT DEEP was held on 24 October. Spectraserv is planning on mobilizing in late November to grade the area where the trailers will be located, set up temporary fence, and install erosion controls. DEEP noted that they were reviewing the submitted Clean Water Fund grant calculations.
- (4) AECOM submitted Progress Payment Estimate No. 2 for Spectraserv in the amount of \$126,084. Following review and discussion, the WPCA approved the payment.
- (5) AECOM noted that the cash flow projection was submitted at the last WPCA meeting, and inquired if there had been any progress on short term borrowing to provide the funds for the South Street WWTF Upgrade until such time as the Clean Water Fund grant/loan Agreement is executed. Mr. Marconi will follow-up with the Town Controller regarding providing the required short term funds.
- (6) Mr. Pearson noted he has been in contact with Jake Muller, Director of Facilities regarding the materials/equipment in the WWTF storage area (behind the Parks and Rec Building) that needs to be moved, and that effort is proceeding. Mr. Muller asked if a plan showing the items in the police impoundment area could be provided so he can follow-up with the Police Dept. AECOM will provide this plan to Mr. Muller.
- (7) DEEP has not yet reviewed either the South Street WWTF NPDES permit modification application or the Route 7 WWTF NPDES permit renewal application. Each permit contains a compliance schedule to meet the new phosphorus (P) limit established before the Facilities Plan was prepared. Both NPDES permit applications include a request to revise the compliance schedule to match the current schedule for the Wastewater Facilities Upgrade project. However, since the permit applications have not been reviewed/addressed at this time, the date for compliance with the Route 7 P limit of August 23, 2019 has not been met. The revised schedule was previously discussed with DEEP at several meetings, and they did not express any concerns over the change. However, DEEP is now informing

Suez that they need to implement a temporary (alum or other flocculant) chemical feed system at the Route 7 WWTF to show good faith efforts to meet the permit phosphorus mass limit in the period until the upgrade project is completed. Suez is proceeding to set this temporary system up for the next phosphorus season.

- (8) Mr. Pearson noted that with the submittal of a number of shop drawings by Spectraserv, including field painting and equipment items, there is a need to select paint colors for interior spaces, piping, and equipment. After discussion, it was agreed Suez would be selecting the colors as needed, except that the exterior colors should be reviewed with the WPCA.
- (9) The process for review and approval of construction change orders was discussed. AECOM noted that timely decisions are needed to keep construction progress on track, and suggested the same procedure as used on past projects be used for the South Street WWTF upgrade, where AECOM reviews proposed change order items, negotiates valid change orders with the Contractor and provides direction to the Contractor, and provide periodic Change Orders to the WPCA that include a number of separate change items so that they can be approved for payment.

4) Suez Report. Mr. Jeff Pennell presented Suez Environmental report for September, 2019.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Mr. Hill at 9:15 p.m., passing 5-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness