



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

**WPCA Regular Meeting  
September 24, 2020 5:30 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA:	Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki, Ron Hill, Maureen Kozlark
WPCA Absent:	Kevin Briody
Suez:	Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond
AECOM:	Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
Ridgefield Press:	Mack Reid

**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 Minutes by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.

**2) Suez Report.**

- a) Mr. Pennell presented Suez Environmental report for August 2020.
- b) Ramapoo Pump Station. The Add-A-Phase unit was ordered and received within 2 weeks and has subsequently installed successfully. The pump station is running without the generator.

**3) AECOM Report**

- a) **WWTF Upgrade Design**

Mr. Pearson addressed several items on the ongoing design effort to complete the Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning construction contract documents.:

- i) **Easements.** After last month's meeting, the proposed easement agreements were forwarded to the two property owners for review. Discussions with both property owners are progressing, and the latest details will be discussed in the scheduled Executive Session since the easement negotiations have not yet been completed.

- ii) **Force Main Route.** Last month, AECOM had contacted Rick Lupinacci, the School Dept. school bus coordinator to get his input on the three mile long force main route as recommended by the Police Dept. AECOM has forwarded the proposed traffic management plan for the route to Mr. Lupinacci, and are awaiting his input. He has indicated the based on his initial review that he felt he could work with the proposed detours, but needs more time to review the information. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM will follow up with him to bring this to resolution. Based on Mr. Lupinacci's initial comments, it appears that the only section of the force main that would be required to be constructed at night due to traffic impacts is on Farmingville Road from Ligi's Way approximately 1500 feet east in the area of the Great Swamp crossing where there are no abutting residences.
- iii) **Schedule.** With easement negotiations and the traffic management plan route detours nearing closure, Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM is working on incorporating the changes that came out of the permitting process, the easement negotiations, and Police Dept. feedback on the force main route into the contract documents. It is anticipated that the final plans and specifications for the Route 7 PS, FM, and WWTF Decommissioning construction contract will be submitted to DEEP later this fall to obtain approval of the contract documents and request the DEEP's authorization to advertise the project for bids. Based on DEEP's review schedule, it is anticipated the DEEP authorization will be received in February 2021. Allowing a bid and award period of approximately 2 months, and time for obtaining DEEP review and authorization to award the contract, the construction contract is anticipated to be awarded in June, with construction continuing through Fall 2022. This schedule will have both construction contract finishing at about the same time.

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

- i) Mr. Pearson reviewed that last month on Monday August 24th, Spectraserv was informed that a laborer for their concrete subcontractor working on site for the last couple of weeks was hospitalized over the prior weekend and tested positive for COVID-19. Spectraserv immediately stopped work on site, directed that all employees and subcontractor workers to leave the site, be tested for COVID, and require all personnel have a negative COVID test prior to returning to work. Subsequently, all staff tested negative for Covid, and work resumed on August 31st with new Health & Safety (H&S) protocols for Covid.

AECOM also had a call with Spectraserv and Suez staff including their Health & Safety Manager earlier to review the work protocols that Spectraserv put in place to address COVID, and Suez was comfortable with the planned COVID H&S plan

- ii) The monthly construction progress meeting was held today and Gary, Jeff and Ryan participated, was continuing with the following activities:
- Modifications to Aeration Tank No.1 are ongoing, with most of the new walls completed and others being formed and reinforced, with concrete placements

next week. The slide gates in the Effluent box have been installed and the box is being leak tested

- Modifications to the Control Building are ongoing and work is ongoing on the new Chemical Building within the old tanks. The base slab for the tanks and the pump area divider walls has been placed, and work on the new Chemical Building CMU walls should commence shortly. Rough in electrical and plumbing work continues in the building
- Interior wall and ceiling painting is underway
- A number of underground electrical ductbanks and manholes and storm drainage piping and structures have been installed. The new ductbank for the primary power service for the WWTF is under construction.
- The concrete pad for the generator has been placed and the generator is scheduled for delivery to the site next week.

- iii) Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has received over 540 shop drawings submittals and one of the submittals in house is for the exterior façade materials and discussed the color selection for the buildings. Mr. Formica reviewed the various buildings on site and the proposed exterior color scheme and materials were discussed, noting the request from the Architectural Advisory Committee to employ red to match the surrounding buildings, and the WPCA agreed with the proposed colors.
- iv) Mr. Pearson and Mr. Formica discussed the request by the Suez staff that a washer/dryer be added to the project as they are not currently included. Following discussion, it was agreed that a stacked washer/dryer unit will be added via change order.
- v) AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 12 for the Spectraserv that covers the month of August in the amount of \$658,269.15 for approval. Diana has the copies for execution.
- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed that the second Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted to DEEP for the construction of the WWTF upgrade, and the first payment request was submitted for the design this month. The requested funds totaled about \$2.5 million and the Town Controller, Kevin Redmond, confirmed that the funds were transferred to the Town last week. AECOM will work with Mr. Redmond to submit the next payment request this month, and this will be a monthly routine going forward.
- vii) Spectraserv's latest schedule and the discussion at today's progress meeting indicates they are continuing to experience additional delays from suppliers and subcontractors due to Covid 19, and they project these delays will affect the scheduled completion date. They plan to submit a time extension request once the impacts can be defined and AECOM will continue to monitor this situation. In response to a question from Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Pearson noted that the contract documents do address impacts of an epidemic which would allow for additional time, but no additional compensation.

Ms. Kozlark noted she had briefed the Selectmen on the status of the project and easements and noted that the First Selectman had inquired if the WPCA would consider deferred sewer user fee payments if Covid-19 impacts a user's ability to pay their fees.

Ms. Siebert asked Mr. Reid if there were any items or questions that he wished to raise. Mr. Reid requested information on recent sewer rates as well as the current project costs and grant amounts. Ms. Siebert noted that the WPCA will provide this information to Mr. Reid.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Hill at 6:16 p.m. passing 4-0.

Motion to go into Executive Session by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki. Passing 4-0.

Discussed real estate site acquisition. No action was taken.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki passing 4-0.

Motion to resume Regular meeting by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.

Motion to pursue legal action in order to complete easement by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting at 6:54 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**