



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
October 28, 2021 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Corinne Ketchum, Ron Hill.

AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica

Suez: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Michael Burke, Jon Arneth

**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 approximately 5:45**

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

- i) Motion to approve September 27, 2021 minutes by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.
- ii) Motion to approve October 5, 2021 minutes by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.
- iii) Motion to approve October 12, 2021 minutes as amended by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0.
- iv) Motion to approve October 16, 2021 minutes by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 4-0.

2) Old Business

- a) Ms. Kozlark recommended adding to the Agenda a discussion of rates, connection fees, attorney responses at a future Special Workshop Meeting, November 9, 2021 at 7:00p.m.

3) AECOM

**a) Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning
Construction**

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that following the affirmative vote for the ARPA funds on October 22, 2021, AECOM reached out to the DEEP to update them that the use of the ARPA funds had been approved. The vote also allows the Request for DEEP Authorization

to Award the Route 7 Contract to M&O Construction to be submitted and that package is currently being prepared. Mr. Pearson indicated that part of that request package will be the Change Order with M&O Construction that incorporates the negotiated scope and cost reductions as well as the extended time for completion due to the delay in awarding the contract. AECOM had submitted a draft of this change order yesterday via email and asked if there were any questions or comments on it. Since there were no comments, the next step is to submit the draft change order to DEEP since the amount of the change order exceeds \$100K, DEEP will need to review and approve the draft change order before it is executed.

Once the draft CO is approved by DEEP, AECOM will then submit the Request for Authorization to Award package to the DEEP, and they will then issue authorization to award. The contract will then be prepared for execution.

- ii) Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM is also working on the Clean Water Fund Grant/Loan application for the Route 7 project and will be asking for Diana's assistance in getting the various documents signed and approved. He indicated that when he spoke with the DEEP Clean Water Fund administrator, he noted that the DEEP views the ARPA funds as federal grant funds, and that DEEP does not offer grants on grant funds and this could affect the amount of the grant that is obtained.
- iii) AECOM recently provided comments on the draft legal opinion on the title to the project site required for the Grant/Loan application and Pullman and Comley are working to revise the opinion.
- iv) Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM has been tracking the efforts associated with the negotiations with M&O Construction, additional meetings with the various Town boards, options for additional funding, development of supporting information, and attendance at the 10/16/21 public information meeting and the 10/20/21 Public Hearings/Town Meeting. Mr. Pearson noted that costs associated with these additional efforts, that were not in the current scope of work, will be in the \$60-\$70K range which will need to be addressed in a future contract amendment once the construction contract is awarded.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica stated that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Arneth, and Mr. Burke participating. Construction has continued this month including:
 - The Septage Building CMU walls are nearing completion and work is underway on the wall insulation and masonry façade.
 - Work on the Blower Building continues, with the exterior facade completed, all of the blowers, air piping and valves are installed, and the roofing nearing completion.
 - Concrete work on the UV/Reaeration building continued, with the base slab for the UV channels completed, and the channel walls being reinforced and formed. In addition, mechanical piping and gates have been installed.

- Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with the roofing completed and extensive plumbing, HVAC, and electrical work ongoing. Protective coatings in the chemical areas are being applied.
 - Site work continued with installation of the 20" diameter raw wastewater piping between the influent Building the Aeration Distribution box installed as well as electrical manholes and duct banks near the Septage Building and Chemical Building. The installation of the Route 7 and Quail Ridge force mains in South Street has been completed, and additional drainage piping and catch basins were installed.
- ii) Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM continues to be concerned about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised completion date (and DEEP shares that concern). Spectraserv's latest schedule update shows that they are 10 weeks behind schedule, which they attribute to delays being experienced in obtaining materials due to industry wide shortages with many items backordered. AECOM continues to ask that Spectraserv provide documentation of these delays. In addition, AECOM is finalizing another letter to Spectraserv to document the concerns over the schedule; however, AECOM and DEEP are seeing labor, equipment and materials shortages on many projects that are contributing to schedule issues. There was discussion regarding any actions that the WPCA proactively can take on the schedule, and if the WPCA has any recourse if the delays result in additional costs. Mr. Pearson noted that there is a liquidated damages clause in the contract that if the delays are due to reasons within the control of the contractor. If the delays can be demonstrated to be due to reasons outside of the control of Spectraserv, and they are the result of the COVID pandemic, the contract allows additional time but no increase in cost.
- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed that the DEEP also reviews Spectraserv's monthly schedule updates, and since the latest schedule update showed that they are behind schedule in meeting the April 1, 2022 permit compliance date for the new phosphorus limits, DEEP sent the WPCA an email requesting that planning begin for implementing a temporary system to achieve phosphorus removal until the permanent Blue PRO sand filters are operational and tested. To address this request, AECOM has discussed with Spectraserv having the permanent chemical storage and feed system to add ferric chloride in the aeration tanks to precipitate phosphorus in the final settling tanks completed prior to April 1 2022. With the end of the current phosphorus removal season on 10-31-21, Spectraserv is looking to begin work in the area of the Operations Building basement, including demolishing the existing bulk alum storage tank. Suez had expressed concerns about demolishing the alum tank prior to the new ferric chloride tank and feed system being available. To discuss those concerns, a conference call with Suez staff, Ann Straut at DEEP and AECOM staff was held last Monday, and it was agreed the ferric chloride being added would address DEEP's concern and the alum tank can be demolished.
- iv) Mr. Pearson submitted Progress Payment No. 25 for Spectraserv that covers the month of September in the amount of \$1,010,303.60 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. Pennell presented the Suez Environmental report for September 2021. Mr. Pennell gave an overview of the two smart covers that were installed at Rowland Lane and the corner of East Ridge and Branchville Road to monitor the flow in both sewer lines. Mr. Pennell stated the heavy rainfall from Hurricane Ida dropped 6.25 inches of rain in our area and caused alarms at South Street and pump stations. He also stated that they are still waiting on replacement parts for Copps Hill Pump Station so they can make necessary repairs.

5) Adjournment

- a) Motion to adjourn Meeting at 6:39 pm by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 5-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness