



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

**WPCA Meeting Via ZOOM
July 24, 2025 7:00 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki, Corrine Ketchum, Maureen Kozlark
Absent: Russell Fink
AECOM: Matt Formica, Jon Pearson
Veolia: Ryan Richmond
Guest: Debra Franceschini

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

WPCA Regular Meeting was called to order by Ms. Siebert at 7:00 p.m.

1) Approval of Minutes. Ms. Ketchum made a motion to approve the June 26, 2025 minutes, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 4-0.

2) New Business

a) Sewer Rates. WPCA discussed the new sewer rates and noted Mr. David Fox, Raftelis, has been contacted to review the rate model in advance of the vote on this year's rates, before August 20, 2025.

3) Old Business

4) AECOM Report

1. Route 7 PS, FM, and WWTF Decommissioning

a. Construction Update. Mr. Formica noted that the one-year warranty period for the pump station and force main will expire on 8/16/25. There is one warranty item that M&O has not yet addressed, which is the replacement of a fence gate identified in February 2025 and several times thereafter. M&O has been in contact with their fencing subcontractor to replace the gate.

- b. **Change Order.** Mr. Formica reported that there is no Change Order for review this month. There remains one pending change order item that has not been resolved. AECOM has sent several emails to resolve this item that M&O has not responded to, that would allow a change order with several other items to be completed.

2. South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- a. **Construction Update.** Mr. Formica reported that construction has continued this month including the following items.
- Spectraserv continues to work on the incomplete items list. There are a few items left which include but are not limited to:
 - Providing Acceptable HVAC/Odor Control system air flow balancing field testing and reports. The majority of equipment testing has been resubmitted and accepted. A second set of balancing reports on about a dozen items that had previously been indicated to be provided “under separate cover” was recently submitted and is under review.
 - Finishing the installation/configuration of the WIN-911 alarm telemetry texting modem. Currently, alarm conditions are called out to the on-call operators via the phone dialer but are not texted to the operators as well. AECOM is continuing the coordination of the trouble shooting effort of this item with Spectraserv, GCS, Andrew Neblett and Verizon.
 - Spectraserv continues to investigate, address, or provide updates on the status of the warranty items identified including:
 - Replacement of the FST Torque Modules. The first unit had its torque module replaced. The one that was removed was sent to the factory to replace the torque module, have it calibrated and then returned to the site. Spectraserv indicated that they would be providing a status update and a return date shortly.
 - Replacement of a pressure gauge on the PW Skid
 - Influent PS No. 2 hatch door broken welds.
 - Paving. They are in the process of scheduling a date to come to the site to complete the work.
 - Filter valve actuator operation.
- b. **Pay Estimate.** Mr. Formica noted that following last month’s WPCA meeting, Spectraserv executed AECOM’s marked up Pay Estimate 65 for work through May 2025 that had a value of \$215,200.22. This pay estimate was fully executed and was or is in the process of being paid. The pay estimate did not allow for payment of incomplete work per the direction of the Town’s Counsel. As per usual, it included the caveat that since the contract substantial (5/23/22) and final completion (8/21/22) dates have not been met that the WPCA reserves the right to assess liquidated damages if a time extension is not justified and executed in a change order.

The contract retainage on the areas other than the generator, final settling tanks and aeration tanks which had valued punch lists remains at 5% in accordance with the Contract Documents due to:

- The quantity of incomplete items and the pace at which they are being addressed.

- The Owner's right to assess liquidates damages in accordance with the Contract Documents if a time extension is not justified and executed in a Change Order.

There has not been another pay estimate submitted by Spectraserv to date.

- c. **Schedule.** Mr. Formica indicated that the last schedule update was provided by Spectraserv on 6/9/25 which indicated that all field work and field-testing documentation would be completed/provided by Wednesday 6/25/25. As noted before, the recently submitted balancing reports are under review and the Win 911 text message modem trouble shooting are outstanding.
- d. **Change Orders.** Mr. Formica stated that there is no change order to review this month
- e. **Fiscal Sustainability Plan.** Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM has developed a draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan which is intended to provide guidance to the WPCA for fiscal planning to support the maintenance and replacement of the assets provided under the South Street WWTF and Route 7 projects going forward. This plan was required by the CT DEEP. AECOM will be submitting it to the WPCA for review likely next week. Mr. Formica kindly requested that the WPCA review the draft and let us know if you have any questions, comments or edits before AECOM submits the draft plan to the DEEP.

3. Quail Ridge PS Relocation

Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM continued efforts on the design this month as follows:

- a. Mr. Formica reported that at last month's WPCA meeting AECOM discussed the need for the 8-foot noncontiguous walking path that AECOM had been asked to include along the gravity sewer after AECOM was informed that the Conservation Commission has already constructed a path between the Goodwill trailer and the existing Rail Trail. As a result, AECOM had received formal direction from the first Selectperson's Office that the walking path proposed along the sewer easement should be eliminated. Mr. Formica thanked Ms. Kozlark for her help in resolving this matter and noted that AECOM will be removing the walking path from the plans and easements.
- b. Last month AECOM attended an in-person meeting with the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC). The AAC had concerns with the visual impact of the new pump station given the traffic volume on South Street and Old Quarry Road and the view down Old Quarry Road. They were also concerned with the tree removal required for the pump station construction. In addition to the planned vinyl privacy fence similar to the Route 7 pump station, they also requested that trees (arborvitaes or white pines) be planted on the north side of the pump station to soften the appearance from South Street should the Goodwill trailer be moved in the future and on the west side to soften the appearance coming down Old Quarry Road. The AAC also requested the curve of the pump station driveway be eliminated to reduce the number of trees removed. AECOM indicated the need for a curve to allow the needed turning radius to allow vehicles to enter pump station, that it was unlikely that the curve of the access road could be completely eliminated, but we would look at driveway revisions to reduce the number of trees impacted. As a result, AECOM updated the site plans to slightly relocate the driveway to

reduce the number of trees removed and to include planting about a dozen white pines. These revised plans were sent to the AAC for review.

- c. AECOM also attended a Zoom meeting with the Inland Wetlands Board (IWB). The discussions with the IWB focused on their concerns on the width of the gravity sewer easement, how the easement area would be stabilized after the sewer installation, and how it would be maintained in the future. It was noted the contractor would likely only remove trees in the easement that they need to construct the sewer, that the areas of work would have erosion control until they are seeded and stabilized. AECOM noted that there has not been discussion to date on the maintenance of the sewer easement, but this can be discussed with WPCA. They have requested that AECOM appear before them again at their meeting tonight and Mr. Formica indicated that he planned to do so after this meeting is adjourned. Mr. Formica noted that it was surprising that they wanted to meet again as they previously indicated that they would provide us with comments on 9/11. Mr. Formica noted that once we have the formal comments from IWB and feedback from AAC the project application can be reviewed and presented at a planning and zoning meeting.
- d. **Budget.** Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM has been monitoring the project budget in light of the ongoing and upcoming permitting meetings and wanted to alert the WPCA that we have some concerns about the ability to complete the remaining work to get the 100% design and permitting effort within the remaining budget. As you are aware there have been several iterations of the drawings including the inclusion and removal of the walking path, and multiple meetings with IWB and AAC and resulting design modifications. We are tracking the budgets closely and will advise the WPCA if any adjustment is needed.

5) Veolia Report

Mr. Richmond reported /indicated the following:

- a) Mr. Richmond discussed the Veolia monthly client report including maintenance performed, facilities call outs, and compliance with the South Street WWTF permit.
- b) Ramapoo Pump Station: Kovacs Construction has the replacement pump and is working on the replacement plan for installation.
- c) The International Utility Service Truck had the Hydraulic Brake Pump and Sensors replaced at the Dealership.
- d) Veolia repaired/replaced the UV system ballasts that were blown and will send them out to be refurbished to cut costs.
- e) Veolia is achieving great nitrogen numbers in the final effluent and has reduced the Nitrogen bill from \$30,000 in 2023 to \$15,000 in 2024. The forecast for 2025 Nitrogen should result in additional savings.
- f) Veolia is meeting the new stringent phosphorus loading discharge limit.

- g)** Mr. Richmond indicated that he had been notified that Veolia is/will be providing additional personnel starting next week to help out while operating with only one manager.
- h)** Mr. Richmond stated he has been meeting with a private tutor to help with the Class 4 license.

Ms. Debra Franceschini exited meeting before Executive Session at 7:30p.m.

6) Executive Session

- a)** A motion to go into an Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. regarding possible litigation, inviting AECOM, Mr. Richmond and Ms. Van Ness was made by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.
- b)** The WPCA returned to public at 8:14 p.m.

7) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Mr. Kozlark, passing 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness