



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

**WPCA Meeting Via ZOOM
September 25, 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
Veolia: Ryan Richmond
Guest: Annie F.

**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 7:04 p.m.

- 1) Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Kozlark made a motion to approve the August 28, 2025 minutes, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.
- 2) New Business**
Discussed meeting regarding the Redding/Branchville area.
- 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 expired on 8/16/25. All of the warranty work identified during the warranty period has been addressed.
 - b. Change Order.** Mr. Formica indicated 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 to be completed.

- c. **Project Resolution.** Mr. Formica noted that a discussion the status of the final resolution of the project which includes the Town's attorney and more recently M&O's attorney can be had in executive session.
- d. **Record Drawings.** Mr. Formica reported that AECOM transmitted the contract required record drawings to Veolia and the WPCA for their records electronically and are in the process of providing the requested hard copies to Veolia in the next few days.

2. South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

a. Construction Update.

- Mr. Formica reported that Spectraserv completed the last of the items that were on the incomplete items list last Saturday 9/20/25.
- Spectraserv continues to investigate, address, or provide updates on the status of the warranty items identified including:
 - Replacement of the FST Torque Modules. The second unit that was removed from FST No. 1 was scheduled to leave the factory to come back to the site last week, however Spectraserv has indicated there is an undefined delay. We will keep Veolia informed on the shipping schedule so they can plan for taking the clarifier offline for Spectraserv to conduct the reinstallation work.
 - Influent PS No. 2 hatch door. Last week Spectraserv provided a response from the underground chamber hatch manufacturer that we had requested in May. It is under review to determine the next steps.
 - Spectraserv is working with system manufacturer Nexom to determine what is needed to address the over torquing value actuators on two of the sand filters.

- b. **Change Orders.** Mr. Formica presented Change Order No. 24 for a lump sum credit of \$2,155.40 for review and approval. With CO 24 the total change orders to date are \$928,317.55 representing 2.5% of the original construction bid amount.

Motion to approve Change Order No. 24 for a credit of \$2,155.40 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.

- c. **Pay Estimate.** Mr. Formica discussed Pay Estimate 66 for work through September 20, 2025 that had a value of **\$40,212.76**. AECOM reviewed it and recommended that it be approved for payment. The progress payment form includes the caveat that since the contract substantial (5/23/22) and final completion (8/21/22) dates have passed and were not met that the WPCA reserves the right to assess liquidated damages if a time extension is not justified and executed in a change order.

Mr. Formica noted that the status of the final resolution of the project can be discussed in executive session.

- d. **Fiscal Sustainability Plan.** Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM had provided the WPCA with the DEEP required draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan which is required as a condition of the CWF Grant/Loan and is intended to provide guidance to the WPCA to provide fiscal planning to support the maintenance and replacement of the assets provided under the South Street WWTF and Route 7 projects going forward. Mr. Formica reminded the WPCA that AECOM is looking for WPCA questions, comments or edits before AECOM submits the draft plan to the DEEP.
- e. **Wetlands Enhancement Plan Proposals.** It was noted that based on last month's WPCA meeting, AECOM, Diana and Ryan have been coordinating with New England Landscape and Management, Inc. to perform the wetlands enhancement work required by the Inland Wetlands Board. The 1st herbicide application was performed on 9/10/25 and a follow up application is planned in a couple of weeks (TBD). This will be followed by the plant removal and replacement a few weeks after the 2nd herbicide application.
- f. **Telephone Data Service Providers.** Mr. Formica reported that last month the potential of the WWTF switching telephone data service providers from Comcast to Frontier was discussed to save money and to improve the performance of the system through the use of a fiber optic connection. AECOM has followed up with the Town's IT department to try to assess what the saving may be and the potential of trying to negotiate a lower price with Comcast in order to weight these options against the cost of having several vendors onsite to configure their systems to the a new Frontier interface (specifically the telephone network vendor, the fire alarm vendor and the SCSCA system integrator for call out alarm). AECOM indicated that they would follow up to see if that information can be obtained from the IT department to allow the WPCA to make a decision.

3. Quail Ridge PS Relocation

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

- a. **Endangered Species.** Mr. Formica reminded the WPCA that with the potential of the endangered Bog Turtle in the area that there is the potential of a more significant effort to submit a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for the wetlands permitting to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and potential the US Fish and Wildlife Service as well as a 401 water quality certification for a determination on the species impact and potentially some additional construction requirements and/or constraints. If a PCN is required, this will be a more significant effort and the permitting time could be extended several additional months (4+).

Based on AECOM's past discussion with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) they requested field investigations to determine if the project could be approved via a self-verification by the ACOE and not require a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for wetland impacts. These field efforts included recertifying the 2015 and 2016 wetlands limits and evaluating the project area for the presence of bog turtle habitat. Some bog turtle habitat was discovered in the wetland areas adjacent to the work area. While not in the work area itself this may still require a PCN as the adjacent wetlands with the habitat

and the work area wetlands are contiguous. AECOM is in the process of seeking this clarification from the ACOE to determine if the PCN is needed.

Mr. Formica also noted that based on the state's review of their Natural Diversity Data Base, DEEP has determined that the Eastern Box Turtle and the Wood Turtle may also be present in the area and as such has required some construction constraints including time of work limitations as well as habitat protection plans developed by herpetologists and site inspections. AECOM has experienced these requirements on other projects and will be including these requirements in the contract documents and will assess if there will be any significant cost or schedule impacts.

- b. **Planning and Zoning.** Mr. Formica reported that AECOM has discussed the possibility of submitting the project to P&Z for their permit in advance even though the project does not meet the requirement to having all federal, state and local permits approved. The P&Z director was open to this noting that the final P&Z permit cannot be approved until all other permits are complete. As such we plan to advance the P&Z permitting effort along with the federal wetland/endangered species efforts.
- c. **Budget.** Mr. Formica noted that AECOM continues to track the project budget closely in light of the multiple permitting meetings and design iterations in reaction to the request of the AAC, the IWB, the ACOE and DEEP as it relates to wetlands and endangered species and other permitting efforts. There is insufficient funding to complete the project design and permitting. AECOM is currently unable to project the estimated additional funding needed to complete the project until we have better clarification of the work required as it relates to completing the permitting as it relates to various turtles and Planning and Zoning as well as the potential contract document changes that may result from these permits.

AECOM plans to continue to advance the permitting efforts with the currently authorized project budget exceeded and to hold the billing on those services until such time that they can assess the budget needs and then provide the WPCA with a contract amendment.

- d. **Project Funding.** Mr. Formica noted that AECOM recently had discussion with Kevin Redmond and the First Selectperson about the project funding, specifically if the project should apply for a 2% Clean Water Fund (CWF) loan in lieu of using the Town's bonding rate of approximately 3.5% for the project cost that will not be paid for immediately out of the WPCA fund balance and financed via long term borrowing. It was noted that if the WPCA applies for the CWF loan, it is not guaranteed. In addition, there are loan agreement/funding legal costs and it comes with DEEP requirements such as Build American Buy American (BABA) requirement and MBE/WBE participation requirements that will increase the cost of the project due to increased contractor costs and increased Owner administrative/documentation costs and engineering MBE/WBE compliance costs. As a follow up to the meeting AECOM investigated the following to better understand if it makes sense to apply for the CWF loan:
 - Discussion with DEEP indicated that while the priority points for the project are low, these loans for collection system work are provided on a 1st come 1st serve basis.

- AECOM had a discussion with a CT based contractor to better understand the cost impacts on their bid if the CWF state requirements were included. They noted that there are additional costs for the needed WBE/MBE subs, that BABA materials can be significantly more and that the administration/record keeping of both of these items by the contractor also increase costs. There is also an increased potential of schedule impact due to the contractor not being able to use their preferred subcontractors to meet the MBE/WBE requirement and the inability to quickly source BABA components. Overall, the CWF requirements are estimated to increase the contractor's cost somewhere in the 10-20% range, which for this project is approximately \$500K to \$1M.

As a point of reference the difference in debt service on a \$3M 20-year loan between 2% and 3% is approximately \$533K.

Ms. Annie F. exited meeting before Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

5) Veolia Report

Mr. Richmond reported /indicated the following:

The odor complaint and investigation by Veolia on 8/6/25 showing no issues with the collection system but was believed to be associated with a private grease trap.

The SCADA service contract proposal from GCS. I will be reaching out to Knapp Engineering for an additional Quote.

The valve actuator repair for Aeration 1D was completed.

Operating at less than 29 lbs/day Nitrogen Loading Discharge

Meeting our stringent Phosphorus loading cap of 0.52 lbs/day

BOD and TSS removal ratings are both at 99%. (85% is the permit minimum)

Sludge for disposal is at 8.5% average for August. (Our goal minimum is 7%)

We have spotted lantern flies at the facility and Mr. Mastriani is eradicating them one by one.

6) Executive Session

- A motion to go into an Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. regarding possible litigation, inviting Mr. Formica, Mr. Richmond and Ms. Van Ness was made by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 4-0.**
- A motion to go out of Executive Session at 8:18 was made by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0. There were no votes or motions during the Executive Session. The WPCA returned to public at 8:18 p.m.**

7) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum passing 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness