



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

**WPCA Meeting Via ZOOM
October 23, 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, Ed Steeprock
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 7:00 p.m.

- 1) Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Kozlark made a motion to approve the September 25, 2025 minutes with edits, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.
- 2) New Business**
Ms. Kozlark mentioned the notice for WPCA volunteers was posted.
- 3) Old Business**
Dr. Richard Lipton contacted Ms. Kozlark regarding sewer usage for 901 Ethan Allen Highway.
- 4) AECOM Report**
 - 1. Route 7 PS, FM, and WWTF Decommissioning**
 - a. Construction Update.**
 - Mr. Formica noted that the contract and warranty work are complete.
 - Mr. Formica noted that M&O's new attorney has advised M&O and M&O has to agree to participate in a project mediation with the WPCA on 11/7/25.

2. South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

a. Construction Update.

- Mr. Formica noted that last month Spectraserv completed the last contract work items on 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 last month but it has been reported by Spectraserv that it remains delayed. 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 month the hatch manufacturer provided a response to AECOM's direction to address the damaged hatch door. Their response indicated that they are willing to replace the damaged hatch in-kind. AECOM indicated that that is not acceptable noting that previous welds had failed and that we had a 3rd party ASW certified inspector review the failed welds which indicated that they used an incorrect type of weld. AECOM has asked for a call from the hatch manufacturers to discuss how they can provide a more robust hatch going forward.

b. **Fiscal Sustainability Plan.** Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM had provided the WPCA with a draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan which is required per as a condition of the DEEP CWF Grant/Loan. It 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.

c. **Wetlands Enhancement Plan Proposals.** It was noted that 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 2nd herbicide application was performed on 10/8/25. We have requested an update from the landscaper on the schedule for the plant removal and replacement and will provide an update.

d. **Telephone Data Service Providers.** Mr. Formica reported that in the last several months the potential of the WWTF switching telephone data service providers from Comcast to Frontier to save money was discussed. AECOM followed up with the Towns 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). The IT department has indicated they will look into quantifying the savings to allow the WPCA to make a decision.

e. South Street WWTF NPDES Permit Renewal

Mr. Formica reported that Mr. Richmond had responsibly brought to AECOM and Diana's attention that the South St WWTF NPDES Permit is expiring 12/31/26 and that per the DEEP guidance, the permittee must submit a renewal application at least 180 days prior to the permit expiration date or by 7/4/26.

Mr. Formica noted that prior to the facility planning, design and construction of the South St WWTF and the Route 7 Pump Station that AECOM had a master service type agreement (MSA) with the WPCA to address smaller items like this. This MSA would be a single agreement that allows the WPCA to request smaller Task Order type assignments they come up. As each Task Order is identified, a scope of work and budget would be developed. Subsequently they would be reviewed and approved by the WPCA before the work starts with the previous fixed contractual terms in the MSA. These MSAs allow for streamlining of the contractual elements of multiple agreements for both parties to a single contract with Task Orders. Mr. Formica indicated that if this is something that the WPCA would like to have us develop for the NPDES permit application and other future items, such as any assistance with collection system items, we would be happy to.

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 advised the WPCA the with the potential of the federally endanger Bog Turtle in the project area, that is it likely that a more significant effort to submit a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for the wetlands with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) may be required as well as what is known as a 401 water quality certification for a determination on the species impact and potentially some additional construction requirements and/or constraints.

At the request of the ACOE, AECOM performed additional 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. This included a Phase 1 bog turtle habitat survey which identified potential bog turtle habitat. As result of these findings, this may require t a second more in depth Phase 2 survey for the bog turtle. This would consist of 4 days field survey to assess the presence the bog turtle in the spring with two of the survey days required to occur in the month of May. This would negatively impact the project schedule.

With the Phase 1 survey results, AECOM is trying to schedule a call with the ACOE to discuss the findings and determine if an additional Phase 2 survey is needed or if the ACOE would be willing to accept the construction constraints that the DEEP has already imposed on the project for the Eastern Box Turtle and the Wood Turtle discussed last month. If allowed, then only the PCN would need to be submitted, and the project would not need to wait for the Phase 2 field survey results in the late spring to finalize the federal permit. We will keep the WPCA posted.

- b. **Planning and Zoning.** Mr. Formica reported that AECOM submitted the project to P&Z for their permit in advance of completing the federal wetland/endangered species efforts with the hope that they will put the project on their meeting schedule shortly if needed. P&Z has previously noted that the final P&Z permit cannot be approved until all other permits are complete.
- c. **Easements.** Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM had received the final project easement plans and draft legal descriptions from the license surveyor this week. AECOM will review and finalize the easements then provide them to the Town to secure the easements with the applicable property owners.
- d. **Budget.** Mr. Formica reported that as noted before AECOM has exceeded the approved project budget with the addition design changes at the direction of several Town and additional permitting efforts. AECOM will continue to track the budget and will continue to advance the permitting efforts but will hold the billing on those services until such time that budget needs can be assessed and a contract amendment provided to the WPCA. This will be done when we have a better understanding of the final permitting needs
- e. **Project Funding.** Mr. Formica noted that as a follow up to the WPCA discussion last month, AECOM had sent Kevin Redmond and the First Selectperson a summary of the potential extra cost to the project if the project was to use a 2% DEEP Clean Water Fund loan versus using the Town's bond rate of approximately 3.5%. It was expected that the impact of the State requirements, including BABA and MBE/WBE requirements, would be more costly than the additional interest using the Town's bonding rate. Mr. Redmond was in agreement that not pursuing the DEEP CWF 2% loan was in the Town/WPCA's best interest.

Mr. Formica noted that there is still the unresolved question of when to bring the project forward for a public vote in light of the ongoing resolution efforts of the South St WWT and Route 7 projects. In addition, the schedule to complete the permitting project remains unknown as previously discussed until the bog turtle surveying and permitting review period can be defined. It was also discussed that a communication campaign effort in advance of a public vote was prudent. This would allow for the project needs and expected lack of a sewer rate impact on the voters to be communicated. It was suggested by the WPCA that a list of questions and issues that should be addressed the project communication effort should start to be developed.

Ms. Annie F. exited meeting before the Veolia report.

5) Veolia Report

Mr. Richmond reported /indicated the following:

- a) The odor complaint at 25 Gilbert Street was investigated on 9/22 showing no issues with the collection system.

- b) The UV disinfection season is over, and we started winterizing the Trojan System.
- c) The WWTF is operating at less than 29 lbs/day of the target annual nitrogen load.
- d) The WWTF is meeting the seasonal phosphorus loading cap of 0.52 lbs/day.
- e) The WWTF is removing 99% of the influent BOD and TSS. (85% is the permit minimum)
- f) The thickened sludge concentration for disposal was 7.5% average for September. (Our goal minimum is 7%)
- g) The Lakeside grit removal system is working well and all the gear oils were changed and system inspected.
- h) Veolia has started their annual cleaning of the collection system with the Town Vac Truck and has cleaned 5,000 feet.

6) Executive Session

- a) **A motion to go into an Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. regarding possible litigation, inviting Mr. Formica, Ms. Van Ness was made by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.**
- b) **The WPCA returned to public at 8:09 p.m.**

7) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10p.m. by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum passing 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness