



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

**WPCA Meeting Via ZOOM
November 20, 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

**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 October 23, 2025, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.

2) New Business

2026 Meeting dates were discussed. **Motion was made by Ms. Kozlark to approve the 2026 Meeting dates, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0.**

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 previously agreed to mediation between M&O and the WPCA was postponed from 11/7/25 to 2/3/25 due to M&O indicating that they could not be prepared by 11/7/25.

2. South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

a. **Construction Update.**

- Mr. Formica reported that last month the replacement of the second Final Settling Tank torque module and gear reducer was completed with new items installed last week.
- One warranty remains, which is the Influent PS No. 2 hatch doors. In September the hatch manufacturer provided a response to AECOM's direction to address the damaged hatch door leaf. Their response indicated that they are willing to replace the damaged hatch in-kind. AECOM had indicated that that is not acceptable noting that previous welds had failed and that a 3rd party ASW certified inspector reviewed the failed welds which indicated an incorrect weld type. AECOM contacted the manufacturer (Nystrom) directly who continues to indicate that a response is forthcoming. Spectraserv has indicated that they had received a draft response from Nystrom but they had returned it as it did not address the concerns that AECOM noted in their last correspondence. AECOM will continue to pursue a response and or a call from the manufacturer and Spectraserv.

b. **Fiscal Sustainability Plan.** Mr. Formica noted that AECOM had provided the WPCA with the DEEP required draft Fiscal Sustainability Plan. This plan 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. Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM is looking for WPCA questions, comments, or edits before AECOM submits the draft plan to the DEEP.

c. **Wetlands Enhancement Plan Proposals.** Mr. Formica indicated that AECOM had received input from New England Landscape and Management, Inc. that they do not plan to return to the site until next spring to complete the plant removal and replacement.

d. **Telephone Data Service Providers.** Mr. Formica noted that in the last few months the WPCA discussed the potential of the WWTF switching telephone data service providers from Comcast to Frontier to save money. Last month some cost input from the Town's IT department was received but it does not definitively indicate if the Frontier service would save significant money for the WPCA given the additional costs of needing the telephone, fire alarm and SCADA integrators on site to integrate their system with a new Frontier fiber optic system. With the unknown cost savings and the risk of making a change, AECOM believes that no change is merited.

e. **South Street WWTF NPDES Permit Renewal.** Mr. Formica reminded the WPCA 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. The WPCA noted that this can be a substantial effort and asked that AECOM provide an estimate to complete the work. It was suggested that a Master Service Agreement (MSA) be provided by AECOM and that the permit renewal scope and effort be a Task Order to the MSA.

f. **AECOM Budget Amendment.** Mr. Formica reminded the WPCA the AECOM's last

contract amendment for engineering services was approved by the WPCA in January 2025 and included a budget adjustment to provide services through the projected construction completion at that time which was January 2025 for the Route 7 project and February 2025 for the South Street project. The final completion date for Route 7 was April 4, 2025 and the final completion of the South Street project was September 20, 2025. Since the last Amendment, AECOM has continued and will continue to support any negotiations, resolution discussions, or possible litigation to close out the two projects. This has included efforts on the Route 7 project to support the WPCA in negotiations with M&O since January 2025.

Mr. Formica indicated the AECOM has held out on an additional amendment request to date with the hope that they would underrun some tasks and could offset any additional efforts required. However, he noted that in review of their budget, at this point AECOM will need a budget amendment due to the extended construction durations and the extended contract resolution efforts. AECOM is reviewing the project budget status and is developing a cost to complete for the remaining project elements as well as an estimate of the potential efforts to support the project closure negotiation/legal efforts for the two projects. AECOM is aiming to be prepared to discuss a budget adjustment at the next WPCA meeting.

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 noted that with the potential of the federally endangered Bog Turtle in the project area, that last month it appeared likely that a significant effort to submit a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for the wetlands with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) would be required as well as what is known as a 401 water quality certification and review of the project by the US Fish and Wildlife service (thru the ACOE). At the request of the ACOE, AECOM performed some requested field investigations including a Phase 1 bog turtle survey to determine if the project could be approved for self-verification by the ACOE and not require a PCN for wetland impacts. The Phase 1 bog turtle survey identified potential bog turtle habitat that may require a second more in depth Phase 2 survey for the bog turtle. A Phase 2 survey would be a 4-day field survey with two of the survey days required to occur in the month of May.

AECOM was able to have a call with the ACOE this month to discuss the findings and to determine if the addition Phase 2 survey is needed or if they would be willing to accept the construction constraints that the DEEP has imposed on the project for the Eastern Box Turtle and the Wood Turtle discussed last month. The ACOE indicated that given the DEEP constraints, that the ACOE is optimistic that they can allow a self-verification and not require a PCN or a Phase 2 field survey. A self-verification document was developed, signed by Amy, and was submitted to ACOE. The expectation is that a response from the ACOE will be provided sometime in December of whether the self-verification is acceptable or if the bigger effort is required. We will keep the WPCA posted.

- b. **Planning and Zoning.** Mr. Formica reported that after the permit application submission in October, AECOM has yet to hear if and when they will put us on their meeting schedule. AECOM submitted the project to P&Z for their permit in advance of completing the federal wetland/endangered species efforts. 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 as discussed last month AECOM received the final project easement plans and draft legal descriptions from the license surveyor. They reached out to the Planning and Zoning department on behalf of the WPCA to see who in the Town should be provided with easement documents to advance the effort on the Town/WPCA's behalf. We will keep the WPCA updated on the direction of P&Z.
- d. **Budget.** Mr. Formica noted that AECOM has exceeded the authorized project budget due to the more significant and extended permitting efforts. AECOM will continue to track the budget, advance the permitting efforts, and will hold the billing on those services until such time that we can assess the budget needs and provide the WPCA with a contract amendment. AECOM noted that this would be when there is a better understanding of the remaining permitting needs.
- e. **Project Schedule** Mr. Formica indicated 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 and unknown permitting efforts. Mr. Formica noted that it was previously discussed that a communication campaign effort in advance of a public vote was prudent. This would allow for the project need and expected lack of a sewer rate impact on the voters to be communicated.

5) Veolia Report

Mr. Richmond reported /indicated the following:

- a) The annual contract requirement for collections system jet vac cleaning at 23,000 ft.
- b) Ramapoo Pump Station was power washed by Veolia and repaired by Kovacs Construction. New pipework and new pump for position 2.
- c) Three Callouts. 1) Quail Ridge Pump Station, 2) South Street WWTF and Route 7 Pump Station, and 3) South Street WWTF and Fox Hill Pump Station.
- d) Roger "RJ" Bates was promoted to Assistant Project Manager to backfill my old role and have some prospective applications for a new union employee to backfill RJ's position.
- e) The Season Ultra Low Phosphorus limit was met with flying colors.
- f) Final Settling Tank gear reducer was replaced by Spectraserv with a refurbished unit from Japan.
- g) Gary and I looked at two Vehicles at Colonial Ford and presented the findings to the WPCA.
- h) Veolia replaced a heat circulating pump in the control building basement which saved the WPCA \$3,406.89
- i) The UV disinfection season is over, and we started winterizing the Trojan System
- j) The WWTF is operating at less than 29 lbs/day of the target annual nitrogen load.
- k) The WWTF is met the seasonal phosphorus loading cap of 0.52 lbs/day

- l) The WWTF is removing 99% of the influent BOD and TSS. (85% is the permit minimum)
- m) The thickened sludge concentration for disposal was 7.5% average for September. (Our goal minimum is 7%)
- n) The Lakeside grit removal system is working well and all the gear oils were changed and system inspected.
- o) 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 7:53 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 8:02**

7) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Ms. Ketchum passing 4-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness