



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
November 19, 2020 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki, Ron Hill, Maureen Kozlark, Kevin Briody
Suez: Ryan Richmond, Jon Arneth, Michael Burke
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica
Finance: Kevin Redmond

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

Meeting held via ZOOM Video Teleconference.

WPCA Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Ms. Siebert

1) New Business

- a) **Approval of Minutes.** Approval of October 22, 2020 Minutes as amended by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.
- b) **Kevin Redmond, Finance Report.** Mr. Redmond presented the WPCA budget, including the Bonded Capital Fund Combined Balance Sheet, showing how treatment plant upgrade expenses are being tracked. Mr. Redmond discussed that the payment process with the DEEP was working well and confirmed the Grant and Loan funds are being returned to the WPCA Non Bonded Capital Fund. Mr. Briody asked if a summary of costs paid out of the Fund Balance versus the Capital Fund for the Wastewater Facilities Upgrade project can be added to the Balance Sheet. Mr. Redmond agreed to provide a revised Balance Sheet that provides this information.
- c) **Review Connection Fee.** The WPCA discussed the connection fees for South Street, Route 7 and Turner Hill. After discussion, the WPCA agreed to consult legal counsel to review the connection fee.

2) AECOM Report

- a) **WWTF Upgrade Design**

Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM is continuing to work towards finalizing the Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main and WWTF Decommissioning contract plans and specifications. He noted that the Easement Agreements with both property owners have been executed.

- i) **Schedule.** AECOM has focused efforts this month on finalizing the plans and specifications for the Route 7 construction contract and anticipate the final contract documents being submitted to DEEP in early December. DEEP will take several months to review the documents and during that time the traffic management plans will be submitted to the Police Department and School Department for final review, and the documents will be submitted to CTDOT for the work on Route DEEP's review would then be followed by DEEP's authorization to advertise the project for bids, targeting the March 2021 time frame. Allowing a bid and award period of 2 months, and time for obtaining DEEP review and authorization to award the contract, it is anticipated that the construction contract would likely be awarded in June 2021, with construction following through Sept. 2022.
- ii) **Design Project Budget.** Mr. Pearson noted that at last month's meeting he informed the Authority that AECOM was assessing the efforts needed to complete the design services to address a number of items that have come up on the project that were not anticipated at the time of the last budget projection. Mr. Pearson noted that he had originally planned to submit a request to adjust the budget to address these items this month but have deferred doing that until after the Route 7 contract documents are submitted to DEEP. AECOM plans to have this information prepared for the December WPCA meeting.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) **Construction Status.** The monthly construction progress meeting was held earlier today and Mr. Pearson noted that Diana, Gary, and Ryan participated. Mr. Formica presented a construction update noting the following activities:
 - Modifications to the structure of Aeration Tank No.1 are completed.
 - Modifications to the Control Building are continuing, the chemical tanks have been delivered and installed, the exterior concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls are nearing completion, and the precast roof planks soon to be installed once the walls are completed.
 - Eversource set the new primary power pole at South Street, and Ms. Van Ness provided assistance in expediting this work.
 - Work continues on a number of underground electrical ductbanks and manholes which are approximately 50 percent completed as well as on and storm drainage piping and structures. With the installation of the new electric service pole, the new ductbank for the primary power service for the WWTF is nearing completion.
 - The Final Settling Tank (FST) drives have arrived on site, and the rake arms and walkways are scheduled to be delivered next week. FST 1 will soon be taken off line to allow the rotating rake mechanism to be replaced.

- Work on the piping and ductbanks around the Blower Building foundation is nearing completion and the building foundation will be started shortly.
- Work has begun in the former sludge thickener tank to begin the conversion to a sludge storage tank.

- ii) **Construction Schedule.** Mr. Pearson indicated that as noted last month, Spectraserv has stated that their construction schedule is being affected by Covid related delays in obtaining equipment and materials. For example, the clarifier mechanisms were to be delivered in September, but are just arriving now. Spectraserv is assessing the impact of these delays and will be submitting a time extension request with supporting information regarding the delays. AECOM also noted that the schedule for a number of activities on the project is showing some slippage, which may or may not be related to Covid, and has issued a letter to Spectraserv outlining the concerns with the schedule and the potential effect on the contract time for completion and requested a response to provides their plan to address the slippage. Ms. Kozlark asked if the WPCA would incur additional costs or missing key deadlines due to these delays. Mr. Pearson noted that there could be additional costs for AECOM's services if the construction period is extended and noted that the Contract does include a clause for delays outside the control of the Contractor such as the pandemic, which may provide additional contract time but no increase in construction costs. Mr. Pearson indicated that Spectraserv has verbally informed AECOM that their schedule has been delayed by approximately four months and they will be submitting a request for a time extension. Depending on what activities have been delayed, this could also impact meeting the deadline for the new phosphorus limits, which will be addressed by the pending DEEP Administrative Order. It may be possible to revise the deadline for the new phosphorus limits and once the schedule impacts are better defined, and AECOM will discuss this with DEEP.
- iii) **Contaminated Soil.** Mr. Pearson discussed that as excavations are completed for new structures at the WWTF, and the new structures are built, excess soil is being generated that has to ultimately be disposed of. As part of the bid documents, an allowance was carried for the costs associated with the disposal of excess soils. Most places that are willing to take excess fill require that the material be tested prior to accepting the material to confirm that these materials are not contaminated. A small amount of soil has already been tested, shown to be clean, and disposed of, but recent testing of some of the more recent excess material showed the presence of low levels of pesticides, which will increase the cost for disposal. The source of this contamination is not known. With the disposal of the current excess soils, the allowance amount that was carried, which was based on clean soils, will be consumed. AECOM cannot predict as yet how much this allowance will be exceeded since it is unknown if there is more contaminated soil, but Mr. Pearson noted that this item will require tapping the project contingency to address this in future and will keep the WPCA apprised of the status of this issue.
- iv) **Progress Payment.** AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 14 for the South Street WWTF Upgrade for Spectraserv that covers the month of October in the amount of \$568,992.94 and Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM recommends it be approved.

- v) **Clean Water Fund.** Mr. Pearson updated the WPCA that after last month's meeting, the fourth Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted to DEEP on the South Street WWTF Upgrade and this will be a monthly routine going forward.

- vi) **NPDES Permit/Administrative Order.** Mr. Pearson contacted the DEEP on the status of the revised draft NPDES permit for the upgraded South Street WWTF and the pending Administrative Order. DEEP recently confirmed both documents are still in DEEPs hands for review.

3) Suez Report.

- a) Mr. Richmond presented Suez Environmental report for October 2020.
- b) Suez is negotiating with Northeast Generator for a used tow behind 3 phase generator
- c) Jet Rodding and sewer cleaning for the season has been completed.
- d) Discussed staffing issues at the wastewater treatment facility regarding COVID-19. There will be three operators at the facility and two operators off. Discussed staffing at the South Street Facility with commitment from Suez that the WWTF will be fully staffed. The WPCA requested that monthly staffing levels be included in future monthly reports.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting at 7:20 by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 5-0

Submitted by Diana Van Ness