



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

**WPCA Regular Meeting
August 26, 2021 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Ron Hill, Maureen Kozlark
WPCA Absent: Gary Zawacki
AECOM: Jon Pearson
Suez: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Jon Arneth
Attendees: Corinne Ketchum, Collette Kabasakalian

**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 5:32 pm by Ms. Siebert

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

- i) Motion to approve July 22, 2021 as amended to eliminate the French language and August 12, 2021 minutes as amended, passing 4-0 by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Siebert, passing 3-0.

b) Public Attendees

- i) Introduced Corinne Ketchum and Colette Kabasakalian.

2) Old Business

a) Route 7 Follow up on Attorney Response

- i) Tabled until next meeting.

3) AECOM

a) Route 7 PS, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning Construction.

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that with the decisions made at the August 12th WPCA special meeting, AECOM reached out to M&O Construction to finalize the cost reductions that would be realized with the scope reductions that were selected by the WPCA. M&O has responded that there would be no additional cost for revising the M/WBE participation when the final paving is removed from their contract.

ii) Mr. Pearson indicated that M&O did raise a concern with the timing of the contract award and start of construction given that it is now near the end of August. If the contract were signed in October, allowing time for materials procurement, force main construction would not be able to start until late Nov./early Dec. Starting at this time likely does not make sense since the paving plants shut down about that time. M&O has noted that would start on the pump station work but would expect the pump station would be ready and waiting for the completion of the force main. This would push the force main installation start until the Spring of 2022 with a late Fall 2022 completion of force main construction, with final site restoration, final paving (by others), and demolition of the Route 7 WWTF in the spring of 2023.

iii) As a follow-up to the 8/24/21 joint Board of Selectman/Board of Finance/WPCA meeting, the WPCA will be asked to attend the next Selectman's meeting to continue efforts to pursue the additional funding needed to award this construction contract.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

i) The monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today and Jon Arneth, Jeff, Ryan, and Diana participated. Construction has continued including:

- The new standby generator and automatic transfer switch were checked out by the manufacturer's representatives and started up.
- Concrete work on the UV/Reaeration Building wet well and re-aeration tanks is continuing
- The roof planks for the Blower/Garage Building were grouted in place, the roofing membrane was installed, work on roof drain piping and air piping in the building is ongoing, installation of the masonry façade is underway, and the Motor Control Center was delivered and placed in the building.
- The Septage Building floor slab has been formed and reinforced, and concrete for the floor slab will be placed this week,
- Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with extensive plumbing and electrical work ongoing.
- Site work completed includes installation of electrical manholes and ductbanks near the Septage Building and cleanup of materials around the site. Erosion controls for the underground piping in South Street have been installed and approved by Planning & Zoning, and installation of the Route 7 and Quail Ridge force mains in South Street has been started.

ii) Mr. Pearson indicated that Spectraserv's most recent schedule shows that the new phosphorus removal system startup has slipped two weeks into mid-April 2022. AECOM continues to be concerned about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised completion date (and DEEP shares that concern), and Spectraserv noted that they are experiencing delays in obtaining materials due to industry wide shortages with many items backordered. We will be preparing another letter to Spectraserv to document our concerns over their schedule.

iii) Mr. Pearson submitted Progress Payment No. 23 for Spectraserv that covers the month of July in the amount of \$855,469.22 and recommended it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. After last month's meeting, the DEEP Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted DEEP, and the process to obtain grant and loan payments from the DEEP is proceeding as planned.

iv) Mr. Pearson noted that there are no proposed change order items to discuss this month but AECOM continues to work with Spectraserv in addressing changes to the work and expect to have the next change order for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

4) Suez

Mr. Pennell presented the Suez Environmental report for July 2021 and noted both WWTFs met all permit requirements.

Ms. Siebert left the meeting at 5:50 PM for a previously scheduled meeting.

a)

5) Public Comment

a) Request to read into the record by Ms. Tracey O'Connor regarding sewer fees, as follows:

i) "Fy2010 Forecast \$470 Actual \$750; Forecast 2020 \$750, Actual \$780; Forecast 2021 \$769, Actual \$818.

ii) Why has this been increased more than listed the Financial Model dated Oct 19, 2018 'Financial Summary Fiscal Year Ending June 30' Preliminary Draft.

iii) Why is this increase not the same as per the forecast?

iv) Why should one person living alone, pay the same rate as 8 people?

v) The sewer hookup fees have not been increased, in more than a decade, perhaps even 2 decades. Please explain the reason behind this decision. Do you not think that is unfair to the taxpayers?

vi) How has/will the increase in so many apartments/Atria, etc., using and paying sewer taxes not allowed a decrease in the forecast?"

6) Adjournment

a) Motion to adjourn Meeting at 5:57 pm by Ms. Kozlark seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 2-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness