

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Dilene Byrd at dbyrd@norwalkct.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Igneri, Vice Chairman
Greg Burnett
Chris Mannella
John Bove
Neil Konstantin

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Chris Torre, DPW Superintendent of Operations
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer

Others: Mathew Brown, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc
Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Maye Emlein, Verrill Law

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Oustafine called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

2. PUBLIC INPUT- (GUESTS AT THE WPCA MEETING AMY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)

Attorney Roberts introduced herself and said that she is the staff Attorney for Save the Sound and Save the Sound has been reviewing Norwalk's compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Consent Order that was issued by the DEEP. Save the Sound would like to commend the WPCA for submitting the plan updates on time that were required by the Consent Order and for taking steps to implement measures included in the master plan. However, they are concerned that neither the master plan nor the facilities plan goes far enough to meet Norwalk's obligations under the Consent Order and identifies the need to take greater action to reduce excess weather flows in the collection system. The Consent Order requires the evaluation of measures to either provide Outfall 002-1 with primary treatment or its equivalent or to eliminate it. However, the facilities plan recommends advancing the elimination of this outfall. Based on this Save the Sound is concerned that this plan does not go far enough to meeting Norwalk's obligations under the Consent Order and noted that both the master plan and the facilities plan call for the removal of inflow and infiltration which Save the Sound strongly supports as they both focus of public I&I sources but believe that private sources such as roof drains and sub-pumps are a very large source of the problem and cannot be solved without addressing them. Save the Sound urges the WPCA to identify and eliminate both public and private I&I sources and thanked the WPCA for the time to comment.

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.

3. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

a. Introduction of Ross Gambino

Mr. Brown introduced Ross Gambino and said he is the Asst. Project Manager that was hired in Norwalk on October 30, 2023.

Mr. Gambino said that he lived in Norwalk before moving to Wilton and for the last three years has worked for Veolia in Fall River, Massachusetts as the combined sewer overflow manager and he is grateful to come back and work for a city that he has roots in.

b. Veolia Monthly Operating Report – October 2023

Mr. Brown presented and said the Veolia collection system team completed 3.37 miles of TV inspections along with the cleaning of over 2.2 miles of sewer lines. He said the IPP inspection program conducted 40 inspections.

Mr. Brown said as he mentioned last month the centrifuge for solids handling had a repair issue and was repaired and delivered on October 19, 2023, and it was put back online on October 20, 2023.

Mr. Brown provided an update on the repairs to the blend tanks and said the coating team mobilized the first week in November and have finished sandblasting the interior of the large tank last week and plan to finish coating the inside of the tank prior to Thanksgiving and will then clean and paint the exterior of the tank.

Mr. Brown said they have promoted the utility worker Tyler Purdie to Operator I and he has begun his new position and is currently working the second shift and is being trained by a senior operator that has more than 36 years of experience.

Mr. Brown said that the average daily flow for October was 13.9 MGD and the six-month average is 12.32 MGD.

Mr. Brown presented photos of Mr. Marcin and Mr. Sullivan presenting at the Risk and Resiliency Conference for the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) and used Norwalk for the presentation for all the smart technology that is being used, and the pilot programs that have been done and the smart covers were the main topic, and it was a great success. Mr. Konstantin asked for a brief synopsis of how the smart covers work. Mr. Brown said they are battery powered unit that uses satellite technology, and they are installed on a manhole that can read either flow or water level and has an alarm system to alert staff when there is an issue and they have been a great tool.

Mr. Brown presented photos of the DPW open house in which Veolia had also participated and thanked the WPCA and the City of Norwalk for the opportunity.

Mr. Igneri joined the meeting at 5:46PM.

c. Major Repair or Replacement / Out of Scope Items:

1) UST Removal Confirmation/Closure (copy included)

Mr. Brown said there are two tanks onsite that were removed many years ago, however they were never properly removed through the DEEP, so they have hired an environmental company to have them removed from the DEEP inventory.

2) Main Lift Pump Wear Ring Replacement (copy included)

Mr. Brown said one of the wear rings on the influent tanks needed to be replaced and will be replaced all the wear rings to be proactive.

3) Pump Station-Backup Float Controls (copy included)

Mr. Brown said this is a multi-tier project and five of the pump stations were done about 1 ½ years ago, and this is for the other five stations so if there is any issue with the electronics or the electronic sensor the floats will turn on the pumps and will send an alarm and will prevent any pump station backups or SSO's if there is a pump or level control failure.

**4. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
OCTOBER 16, 2023. (COPIES INCLUDED)**

Under the attendance add Matthew Brown to the list of attendees
On page 3, change the “steal” to “steel”

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE
ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR
THE COMPREHENSIVE PUMP STATION UPGRADE PROJECT (WPCA 2021-01)
FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 (COPY INCLUDED)**

ACCOUNT NO. 09204062-5777-C0360

Mr. Kolb said there is approximately \$300,000 of change orders that they would like to add to the Kovacs pump station contract that will include HVAC to the Old Trolley Way pump station and concrete work at the Woodward Avenue pump station. In addition to that there is currently not a bypass connection at the Keeler Brook pump station so they will be adding a bypass connection, and lastly there are several items at the Wastewater Treatment plant that is outside of the expertise of the Veolia team and are critical items. Mr. Burnett asked if the funding is available through the budget or will it be a special appropriation. Mr. Kolb said it is part of a capital project and there are funds allocated for pump station projects and there are funds available.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Reports:

- a. FY23/24 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copy included)

There was no discussion.

- b. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Mr. Kolb said that Brown and Caldwell are in the process of evaluating the feasibility of disconnecting 38 catch basins from the city's sanitary sewer collection system.

2. Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Mr. Kolb said that test pits were completed last month on Smith Street and that a 36" sanitary sewer will be installed down Hubble's Lane from East Avenue, and a 60" sanitary sewer from Hubble's Lane and Smith Street to Moody's Lane.

3. Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Mr. Kolb said that Wright-Pierce has finalized the drawings and will be applying for a zoning permit shortly.

c. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects (photos included)

1. Collection – Dreamy Hollow Project

Mr. Kolb said the contractor is currently on Saddle Road making the project modifications.

2. PS - Five Mile, Old Trolley Way, Karen Dr., and Woodward Ave. Rehabilitation

Mr. Kolb reported and said the Karen Drive, Woodward Avenue and Five Mile pump stations have all been substantially complete and Kovacs is now moving onto Old Trolley Way to begin that pump station project and anticipate that it will be completed in the spring.

d. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1. Appeal status

Mr. Kolb said the adjustments to date are \$24,113.

e. Information Copies: None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd