

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
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Ignieri, Vice Chairman
Barbara Smyth
Greg Burnett
Chris Mannella
John Bove
Bryan Meek

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer
Neyla Bauer, Wastewater Systems Manager
Darin Callahan, Corporation Counsel

Others: Mathew Brown, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia
Jason O'Brien, Veolia
Mat Todaro, Verrill Law
Maye Emlein, Verill Law
Vanessa McPhearson, ARCADIS
Eric Muir, Brown and Caldwell

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

There was no public participation this evening.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO SUPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE WPCA CHAIRMAN, DARREN OUSTAFINE, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO A DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRST TAXING DISTRICT (THE "FTD") WHEREBY THE FTD WILL PROVIDE THE WPCA SUPPLY WATER CONSUMPTION DATA OF THE INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS OF THE FTD, INCLUDING TOTAL METERED GALLONS, SERVICE ADDRESS, OWNER'S NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, AND ACCOUNT TYPE. (COPY INCLUDED)

Mr. Callahan said there is a confidentiality agreement that treats the consumption data for water use by the water department as outside of public data under the public documents act or FOI however, there is a statute that allows the city to enter into an agreement with water treatment facility for the purposes of billing within the municipal sewers system act. He said they will provide the data and the city will keep it confidential and can only be used for the specific purpose of billing. Mr. Mannella said the agreement states that each subsequent year the rate shall be increased by the district rate increase which is an amount that is determined by the First Taxing District and asked what that rate increase will be. Mr. Callahan said it would be subject to their board's approval on an annual basis but is completely decoupled from their actual water rates.

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE WPCA CHAIRMAN, DARREN OUSTAFINE, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO A LONG-TERM DISCHARGE AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRST TAXING DISTRICT (THE “FTD”) FOR THE DISCHARGE OF WATER TREATMENT WASTEWATER FROM THE FTD’S FACILITY IN NEW CANAAN INTO THE CITY’S SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR TREATMENT AT THE CITY’S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY. (COPY INCLUDED)

Mr. Callahan said as it stands right now the water district has a water plant and there is water treatment wastewater that needs to be discharged which gets discharged to the City of Norwalk’s wastewater treatment plant by way of a special industrial user permit that is issued by the DEEP and is a five year permit and need to reapply every five years. There is one trunk line from the water plant connecting with the city’s collection system that delivers the wastewater to the WWTP for treatment and everything will remain the same and they will continue to discharge under an SIU permit, and they will have the ability to on a long term basis to the extent that they are going to upgrade their facilities and the better the facilities are maintained and updated is a win for Norwalk. He said in addition they were able to craft a few add on items into the agreement that will be helpful to the city and would have not otherwise been in the permit itself and will not receive any less money under this agreement then would have otherwise received under the annual rate structure because the agreement itself requires payment based on the annual rate increases. Mr. Mannella asked how they are charged now. Mr. Kolb said they are charged as a commercial customer based on gallons. Mr. Mannella said if there was not a flow meter how they were charged. Mr. Kolb said it is based on historical flow data that First District had provided the city many years ago so by now having a flow meter installed it will provide representative flow data for billing.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM WPCA MEETING HELD ON JULY 17, 2023. (COPY INCLUDED)

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO SUBMIT THE FACILITY PLAN UPDATE TO CTDEEP (PRESENTATION)

Ms. Valadares said the Facility Plan is due to the DEEP by October 2, 2023, which is part of the Consent Order, and the last Facility Plan was done in 2009. Mr. Kolb said staff put together a strong team to work on the Facility Plan update and includes ARCADIS as the lead for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Brown and Caldwell for the Collections system, and Verrill Law for legal assistance for items related to the Consent Order.

Attorney Todaro presented a background of the consent order and said the WPCA approved the Consent Order on April 18, 2022, and the mayor signed it on May 5, 2022. He said the Consent Order has two primary deliverables and one addresses the collections system and the second relates to the Facility Plan update and the anticipated filing date is October 2, 2023.

Mr. Kolb said the goals and focus areas of the Facility Plan Update included reviewing existing & estimate future flows and loads, describing site upgrades and enhancements since the previous Facility Plan, reviewing current treatment efficiency and capabilities, reviewing current NPDES permit requirements, developing and evaluating enhancements and recommended alternatives for key focus areas that include Outfall 002-1, aeration system, and final settling tanks.

Ms. McPherson said the wastewater treatment plant continues to have ample capacity and there are no concerns with the WPCF's ability to accommodate projected flows and loads through 2030. She said the design flow for the wastewater treatment plant is 18 MGD and the current 12-month average daily flow is 12.2 MGD so that leaves plenty of capacity even with the roughly 650,000 gallons per day of additional flow that is being projected based on population increases and planned developments through 2030. She also said Secondary Treatment Capacity is 30.0 MGD, and wet weather treatment capacity is 65.0 MGD.

Ms. McPherson said there are no substantial changes in current NPDES permit in the current version of the permit as compared to the last iteration and the wastewater treatment plant is performing extremely well and The WPCF continues to see a downward trend for effluent nitrogen and excellent performance in removal which is a testament to operations and performance of the wastewater treatment plant, and in 2022, Norwalk was ranked 5th in Connecticut for proposed nitrogen credit sharing.

Attorney Todaro said the Consent Order provides two options for compliance that include providing Outfall 002-1 with primary treatment or its equivalent, or to eliminate Outfall 002-1. Ms. Valadares said after looking at the options they had come to a conclusion that approximately \$45 million dollars would need to be invested into Outfall 002-1 and would only be used on an average of 4 times per year. She said they had filed an extension with CTDEEP and over the past 90 days have engaged Brown and Caldwell to see if option two, which is to eliminate Outfall-002-1 can be fulfilled.

Mr. Muir presented the infiltration and inflow analysis and modeling and said that the data had identified 18 sewer shed areas that exhibited excess flow generation and modeled key rehabilitation activities in the 18 sewer sheds that still exhibited high excess flow and the model showed an 80% reduction in overall volume going through Outfall 002-1 in a one-year 24-hour storm and is extreme process towards renewing the assets and reducing flows substantially. He said the total cumulative cost over a 10-year period of almost \$50 million dollars and will provide a renewed asset as opposed to a new asset and there are many benefits that come along with that. Ms. Valadares said the benefits of advance the elimination of Outfall 002-1 include environmental benefits and energy efficient benefits and the investment will preserve the assets and extend the life of the assets.

Ms. McPherson presented the aeration system and said it is one of the biggest energy users at the wastewater treatment plant and found some significant ways to improve the aeration which is the heart of the wastewater treatment plant which is where the nitrogen removal is happening. She said the scope includes comprehensive aeration system upgrades, significant improvements to the electrical systems to the secondary control building, secondary control building upgrades, and relocating the blowers within the building. She said the project cost is approximately \$48 million dollars for the aeration upgrades.

Ms. McPherson said the final settling tanks are the other focus area of the Facility Plan but is not subject to the Consent Order, but are good to keep in mind for capital planning for the operation of the facility and looked at three different options for mechanism replacement and the spiral scraper is the selected recommendation for mechanism replacement and are proposing to move forward with that, and are also looking at doing some modeling to design an energy dissipating inlet which will help with sludge blankets stability and sludge removal and different options for baffles and effluent launder covers to prevent algae for building up. She said they are also recommending some increases to RAS pumping capacity but overall, the recommended improvements for the FST area are \$20 million dollars.

Ms. Valadares said that the Facility Plan will have three components and will include advance elimination of Outfall 002-1 and will also focus on the aeration tanks and the final settling tanks. She emphasized that the investment to advance elimination of Outfall 002-1 is part of the Consent Order and will have a financial obligation after the plan is submitted of \$50 Million Dollars, and that the aeration tanks and final settling tanks are not part of the Consent Order but will be included in the capital budget request in the next few years to achieve that. She also reminded the board that there is a financial model that is followed and as part of this year there has been a placeholder of \$50 million dollars added for the Facility Plan update and will use the financial model in the next coming years for the improvements to the aeration tanks and final settling tanks to see what the financial impact will be on the rates.

Mr. Burnett asked if there have been any pre-discussions with the CTDEEP that they will be in agreement with the Facility Plan. Ms. Valadares said before exploring option two to eliminate Outfall 002-1 staff meet with the CTDEEP and asked if they would consider giving an extension and even though they did not commit to accepting that they understood that this was very favorable because as part of this it will include improving water quality by investing on the collection system which is in line with their environmental goals. Attorney Todaro said that they also believe the language in the Consent Order supports both options.

Mr. Meek asked if the numbers presented are inflation adjusted dollars and if not, how are they forecasted out 10 years. Ms. Valadares said the numbers are based on the information today but there may be some adjustment depending on inflation.

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSED- MR. MEEK.**

Mr. Meek left the meeting at 6:00PM.

7. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

a. Veolia Monthly Operating Report – August 2023 (copies included)

Mr. Brown presented and said the Veolia collection system team completed 3.27 miles of TV inspection along with the cleaning of over 3.51 miles of sewer lines, and one manhole inspection for the month but over 885 have been done this year and the goal is 600 per year so they have stepped back on the manhole inspections and focused more on surveying areas for the WPCA through CCTV and cleaning. He said the IPP inspection program conducted 32 inspections.

Mr. Brown said that the centrifuge for solids handling lost the main hydraulic unit and expects it to be down for most of September and are hauling liquid loads in place of cake until it is back online.

Mr. Brown said the facility was in compliance with all permit requirements for the month of August, and there were two sanitary sewer overflows that were reported to the DEEP. He noted that the facility is running excellent.

b. Blend Tank No. 1 Rehabilitation

Mr. Brown said that blend tank #1 steel structure repairs have been completed.

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

1) Stairs at Bell Island PS (copy included)

Mr. Brown said the stairs will be replaced at the Bell Island pump station.

2) Flygt Mixers (copy included)

Mr. Brown said there are 15 mixers within the facility and run 24/7 and during inventory realized there are only two spares and met with staff and decided to order a couple new ones to have on hand as they are a critical item.

3) WWTP Generator Software (copy included)

Mr. Brown said the generator was installed in 2012 and had to have the software updated.

4) Valves for Keeler Brook and Ft Point PS (copy included)

Mr. Brown said that a brand-new pump was installed at the Keeler Brook pump station.

5) WWTP Blower Control Updates (copy included)

Mr. Brown said if something happens to the SCADA system there is no way to override the blower system which and have worked with Aaron Associates and

they will be presenting a design to run the blowers stand-alone, if necessary, which is crucial in times of emergencies to keep full treatment to the facility.

Mr. Brown shared photos of the new signage and fencing that has been installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and DPW Operations Center.

Mr. Brown shared photos of the blend tank repairs and said that they should be put back online by Thanksgiving.

8.REPORTS:

- d. FY22/23 and FY23/24 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copies included)
There was no discussion.
- e. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:
 - 1) Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation
Ms. Bauer said the project consists of approximately 8.5 miles of CIPP lining and the bid documents were finalized in early August and went out to bid in late August and are due back on September 28th.
 - 2) Catch Basin Disconnect Program
Ms. Bauer said as part of the collection system master plan the catch basins that are significant inflow contributors to the collection system were identified and are currently working with the Brown and Caldwell team to get the field information that was needed, and they are now working to evaluate the feasibility of disconnecting and also evaluating that the storm system that will be connected can handle the flow.
 - 3) Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer
Ms. Bauer said the project consists of the installation of approximately 1,100 feet of new sewer pipe along Hubbell's Lane and Smith Street and had a design kickoff meeting a few weeks ago and the team is in the process of obtaining approval to perform borings and test pits along the alignment.
 - 4) Keeler Brook PS Replacement

Mr. Kolb said they are still working on Phase I for the existing and proposed site and drawings are being prepared by Wright-Pierce for review by staff.
 - 5) Keeler Brook Force Main Condition Assessment

Ms. Bauer said an investigation was done with Wright-Pierce using smartball technology and there were no defects, air pockets, or leaks found, and the force main is in good shape.

- f. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects (photos included)
 - 1) Collection – Wall Street / 2 Knight Street Relocation and Improvements
Ms. Bauer said the abandonment of the 30” sewer main under Wall Street was completed on September 6, 2023, and the paving is to be scheduled.
 - 2) Collection – Dreamy Hollow Project
Ms. Bauer said the piles for support of the RCP box culverts along Saddle Road have been installed.
 - 3) PS - Five Mile, Old Trolley Way, Karen Dr., and Woodward Ave. Rehabilitation
Ms. Bauer said the improvements, including architectural, mechanical and electrical, have mostly been completed at the Woodward Avenue pump station. She said the contractor is currently sandblasting, cleaning, and coating at the Five Mile pump station and the contractor is also working on the installation of new piping and pumps on the lower level.
 - 4) WWTP – SCADA Enhancements
Ms. Bauer said improvements to the wet weather screens have been incorporated.
- g. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update
 - 1) Appeal status
Mr. Kolb said the adjustments to date are \$24,113.
- h. Information Copies: None

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd