

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2024**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
John Igneri, Vice Chairman
Chris Mannella
John Bove
James Frayer
Barbara Smyth

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer
Nelya Bauer, Wastewater Systems Manager
Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations, DPW
Jared Schmitt, Chief Financial Officer

Others: Trever Steeprock, Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Ross Gambino, Asst. Project Manager, Veolia, Inc.
Dave Connors, Regional Manager, Veolia Inc.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

There were no public comments this evening.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE WPCA MEETING HELD ON MAY 20, 2024

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. INTRODUCTION OF TREVOR STEEPROCK, VEOLIA PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Connors introduced Mr. Steeprock and said he has recently been promoted to the Project Manager position for Norwalk, and he has worked closely in the Danbury project for quite some time and is thrilled to have him onboard.

Mr. Steeprock said he holds a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and environmental science and a Connecticut grade four operator's license. He had been at the Danbury facility for just under 10 years and was the assistant manager, and he is excited to be in Norwalk and have a good partnership with the city.

Mr. Connors said that Mr. Gambino has passed his class three certification and extended congratulations to him.

Ms. Valadares thanked the WPCA board for being patient during the transition with personnel and staff is happy with the changes that Veolia did related to personnel, and congratulated Mr. Gambino for passing his test, and welcomed Mr. Steeprock to the team.

The WPCA board congratulated both Mr. Steeprock and Mr. Gambino.

5. AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES RELATED TO THE AUGUST 18, 2024, STORM EVENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000. ACCOUNT NO. 09204062-5777-C0360

Mr. Kolb said on August 18, 2024, there was a major storm event that averaged 4" to 7" of rain and unfortunately lost the Keeler Brook pump station and the Veolia team and the WPCA team had reached out to multiple vendors to provide emergency services. He said Veolia immediately notified WPCA staff and took action and was a very impressive process with the team.

Mr. Frayer asked what the 300,000 will be used for. Mr. Kolb said that staff is working on the emergency procurement with two contractors for the replacement of the pump station, and currently Kovacs has been providing onsite support and is providing temporary power to the pump station and installed temporary fencing to secure the site and believes the \$300,000 will be more than enough to cover their expenses. Mr. Mannella asked if the cost for the Godwin pumps is also included in the \$300,000. Mr. Kolb said the initial bypass was under the Veolia contract so they will be putting an invoice together and he believes the rental fee for the Godwin pumps is approximately \$30,000 per month based on the preliminary invoicing and FEMA has already been to the site to inspect and staff will be submitting everything to them for consideration. Ms. Valadares said there will be other costs related to the pumps running for the bypass but don't have the contract with Kovacs to continue to pay them for the work they are providing so that's the \$300,000 that is being requested and the work that Veolia is providing is covered under the contract with them. Mr. Frayer asked how much more in costs are being incurred to keep the pump station running. Ms. Valadares said \$30,000 per month for the Godwin pumps plus the diesel costs and are assuming a cost of \$25,000 per month for the fuel but are looking to see if there are electrical pumps available which would change the monthly costs significantly, and the goal is to break ground ASAP because the bypass will need to be running until the new pump station is built. Mr. Frayer asked what the estimated time is to run the bypass. Ms. Valadares said two years. Mr. Kolb said that staff is looking at purchasing the pumps so as

not to pay the rental fee and would just need to pay the electrical costs. Ms. Valadares said the positive thing is that this failure was caused by a major storm event staff is trying to secure FEMA funding and are tracking all the expenses. Mr. Kolb said they have also put a claim in with the city's insurance.

Mr. Igneri asked if any other pump stations may have the same issues. Ms. Valadares said "no" and this station was at the highest risk and staff was aware of that but the reason the pump station has not been replaced is because the city could not get into an agreement with Eversource regarding the easement. She said the design for the new pump station is almost ready and even got the permits last year to build it but couldn't finalize the agreement with Eversource but are now close to finalizing the agreement.

Mr. Oustafine said that staff did a fantastic job setting up the bypass in extremely adverse conditions. Ms. Valadares reminded the board that this was a major storm so there were a lot of communities that day that needed something and that makes this accomplishment even greater. Mr. Oustafine agreed and said that other portions of the state experienced biblical flooding with roads washing away, and we were very lucky in that regard as it could have been much worse.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES RELATED TO THE AUGUST 18, 2024, STORM EVENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS UPDATES ON THE FACILITY PLAN UPDATE AND NEW EASEMENT FOR KEELER BROOK PS

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The executive session began at 5:49 PM.

The executive session ended at 6:35PM

During the executive session, there were no votes taken and no motions were made.

7. CONTRACT OPERATIONS REPORT:

- a. Veolia Monthly Operating Report – July and August 2024 (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock reported and said in July the Veolia collections system team completed 3.26 miles of TV inspection, the cleaning of 4.43 miles of sewer lines, 107 manhole inspections, and 3.53 miles of SL Rat, and there was no hot list cleaning done in the month of July.

Mr. Steeprock said the IPP inspection program conducted 17 inspections., The scum tank project was completed which has been showing a lot of benefits at the facility, and Outfall-001 was cleaned.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility experienced on wet weather event on July 17, 2024, and outfall-002 was activated for two hours and ten minutes and discharged 0.49 million gallons over the duration of the event, and all sampling, analysis, and reporting were completed in accordance with the permit and standard operating procedures.

Mr. Steeprock reported on the regulatory events and said the facility followed all permit requirements for the month of July, and all the reporting was completed and submitted to the CT-DEEP and the EPA.

b. August 18, 2024, Storm Event

Mr. Steeprock reported and said in August the Veolia collections system team completed 0.3 miles of TV inspection, the cleaning of 2.99 miles of sewer lines, 8 manhole inspections, and 11.18 miles of SL Rat. He said the IPP inspection program conducted 32 inspections.

Mr. Steeprock said the FST sprayers were updated and have been working well.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility experienced on wet weather event on August 18, 2024, and outfall-002 was activated for nine hours and 27 minutes and discharged 9.1 million gallons over the duration of the event, and all sampling, analysis, and reporting were completed in accordance with the permit and standard operating procedures. He said there was one SSO event due to the failure of the Keeler Brook pump station and the Veolia team along with the WPCA team were onsite throughout the evening and well into the next day to get the situation under control and setting up the bypass pumping, and the Veolia team has been taking extra care to be sure everything remains functional while they continue to look at a longer-term bypass.

Mr. Kolb shared photos of the Keeler Brook pump station and said the dry well and wet well hatches were completely underwater as well as every piece of electrical equipment but within 22 hours the team had the Godwin pumps installed and conveying sewage back into the system. Mr. Steeprock said he is super proud of the team and the job they did.

c. Contract Year 5 – Inflation Adjustment (letters included)

Mr. Kolb said annually Veolia's contract is inflated by the CPI and ECI so for contract year five is 3.7%

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

(1) Facility Lighting (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said Veolia requested to enhance some of the lighting in the facility at some of the critical locations and staff agreed.

8. REPORTS:

a. FY23/24 and FY24/25 Revenues/Expenditures MUNIS Reports (copies included)

There was no discussion.

b. Update on Purchase of Electric Vehicles

Ms. Valadares provided an update and said there was no WPCA money used to purchase any of the electric vehicles and ended up using the fleet account to purchase some of the vehicles so they can be extended to city staff to see how they will expand the program.

c. Discussion on WPCA Engineering Projects:

1. Keeler Brook PS Replacement (copy included)

Mr. Kolb said that a task order has been signed with Wright-Pierce to expedite the procurement for construction in the amount of \$50,000.

2. Beacon Street Sanitary Sewer (copy included)

Ms. Bauer said a task order was signed with Brown and Caldwell for the design of the replacement of approximately 1,500 linear feet of sanitary sewer on Beacon Street from Sunset Hill to Willow Street, and will be upsizing the pipe to a 24" pipe to improve the capacity in that area and mitigate sanitary sewer flows and are looking to complete the design by early next year, and bid the project in February. She said that DPW is currently doing a sidewalk project in that area and as part of that work, and the WPCA will replace portions of the sanitary sewer laterals at nine locations that are in the vicinity of the replacement of the sanitary sewer line project to be sure those laterals are not compromised.

3. Catch Basin Disconnect Program

Ms. Bauer said they have received the final design report from Brown and Caldwell and before moving forward to the next phase staff will be scheduling a meeting with DPW to discuss which projects DPW engineering will be taking, and which projects the WPCA will be taking, and at this point DPW will be disconnecting catch basins at five locations.

4. Hubbell's Lane Relief Sewer

Ms. Bauer said that WPCA staff will be receiving the 90% design drawings from Brown and Caldwell on October 4th and WPCA staff along with DPW staff will be reviewing the design.

d. Discussion on WPCA Construction Projects

1) Collection – Sammis and Bell Island Sewershed Rehabilitation (copies Included)

Ms. Bauer shared the progress of the projects and said that the total project included just under 63,000 linear feet of lining and had completed approximately 49,000 linear feet which is great progress and is 78% complete and will be completed by next year.

e. Sewer Use Bill Appeals/Adjustments Update

1) Appeal status

Ms. Bauer said the appeals to date are \$43,321

f. Information Copies: None

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd