

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
June 16, 2025**

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

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Ralph Kolb, WPCA Senior Environmental Engineer
Christine Pacelli, Wastewater Systems Manager
Mario Pizighelli, Stormwater Systems Manager

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Oustafine called the roll; all those listed in attendance were present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING- MAY 19, 2025

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

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY FROM JULY 1, 2025, TO JUNE 30, 2026.

**** MR. MANNELLA MOVED TO NOMINATE THE CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS AND SECRETARY.**

***THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH C.J. FUCCL, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,362,000.00 FOR THE BEACON STREET SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WPCA 2025-1), (LETTER ATTACHED) ACCOUNT# 09254062-5777-C0361

Mr. Pizighelli said six bids were received for the project, and F.J. Fucci was the lowest responsible bidder at 4.3 million dollars. He noted that they were significantly lower than the engineers' estimate. He received feedback from other municipalities regarding recommendations and has not received any negative feedback. It is the staff's recommendation to move forward with F.J. Fucci for this project.

Mr. Frayer asked if the engineer's estimate is what is included in the budget. Mr. Kolb said, "Yes."

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (MR. MANELLA).**

C. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH C.J. FUCCL, INC. FOR THE BEACON STREET SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WPCA 2025--1), FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$ 436,200.00 ACCOUNT# 09254062-5777-C0361

Mr. Pizighelli said that this item is the typical 10% contingency for any change order monies that may be required for this project.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (MR. MANELLA).**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Contract Operations Report

1. Veolia Monthly Operating Report- May 2025 (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock reported that the Veolia collections system team completed 0 miles of TV inspection in May because Veolia has invested in a new CCTV computer for the camera truck, which should be operational in about a week or so. He said 7.5 miles of sewer cleaning, 72 manhole inspections, 10.15 miles of SL Rat, responding to eight service calls, and cleaning all four final settling tank launders and chlorine contact tanks were completed. The IPP inspection program conducted 29 inspections.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility's nitrogen performance for May was 638 pounds.

Mr. Steeprock said new sprayers were added to aeration tanks two and five in the recycle pump zone to help keep the foam down, and a system was installed to clean the polymer pump and piping, which has improved operations on the centrifuge.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility had another month of heavy rain without experiencing a wet weather event.

Mr. Steeprock said all permit requirements were followed for May, and all required reports were submitted to the CTDEEP and the EPA.

2. Nitrogen Performance (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said there was a slight adjustment from what was reported last month. One of the facilities in the program had a data entry error caught during auditing that affected the trading credit price. The WPCA will now be awarded \$33,720.

B. REPORTS:

1. FY 24/25 REVENUES/EXPENDITURES MUNIS REPORTS (COPY INCLUDED)

There was no discussion.

2. SAVE THE SOUND- 2025 LONG ISLAND SOUND BEACH REPORT SOUND HEALTH EXPLORER (PARTIAL COPY INCLUDED)

LINK TO FULL REPORT: <https://soundhealthexplorer.org/swimmable>

Ms. Pacelli said Save the Sound published their 2025 Long Island Sound Beach report and said and was a fairly positive report for Norwalk beaches.

C. DISCUSSION ON WPCA ENGINEERING PROJECTS:

1. DISCUSSION OF SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION REQUEST ON BOUTON STREET (PRESENTATION INCLUDED)

Mr. Kolb said at the May meeting that the WPCA board requested that staff revisit the cost estimate range and present the revisions. He said the proposal was approximately 850' of 8" gravity main and having connections for the parcels to the right of way. He presented the estimated costs and said two components include the sanitary sewer extension project within the city right of way, and the second component is the private sewer lateral work that includes the connection and permit fees, etc. The range is \$15,000 to \$25,000. The WPCA team followed the CTDOT bid documents for a cost range and the engineers' estimate, and at a conceptual level, the range was \$600,000 to \$975,000.

Mr. Frayer noted that the savings seem incredible from running the numbers using different guidelines. Ms. Valadares said estimating without a concept design is difficult, but they are considering an allowance for the unknowns.

The WPCA team asked the board for direction. Mr Oustafine said what he had heard from the folks at the public hearing was that they were not interested with the price that was previously presented and asked the board if more money should be spent to get a more accurate estimate of the rock, which will be a major driver in the cost of any sewer project. Mr. Kolb clarified that the estimate is per parcel and not the total cost, and the private sewer later is an additional cost each parcel owner bears to connect. Ms. Valadares reminded the board that the freeholder's process is something they can decide to use, or that it can be done as a capital improvement project to the collection system, and not charge the residents. Even if the board decides to cover the cost of the major line, there will be some costs associated with each of the properties when the connection is made. Mr. Frayer said he is concerned with the new, much lower project cost and whether the project is approved. Once started, if it is discovered that it would be more expensive, his concern is what the ceiling will be. Ms. Valadares said that before designing the project, borings will be done to evaluate the soil, so there will be a more realistic cost before the project is advertised. Mr. Frayer asked if the cost of the borings is included in the engineering design phase. Ms. Valadares said, "Yes," more than likely, and sometimes, when a design is ready, grants may be available that can be applied for. Mr. Igneri asked how many times there have been projects like this that were declared capital improvement projects, where the residents have not been charged. Ms. Valadares said that in the past 15 years, no projects have been done, and the existing sewer has been rehabilitated, so there is no charge to the residents. Some developers or people have also been interested in extending the sewer where they do the project, but the WPCA takes ownership if they follow our guidelines.

Mr. Oustafine said if the board were to vote for a benefit appraisal, and if it were to be less than \$60,000. The board would be assured the assessment would not pay for the project

because we can't charge above whatever that apparent benefit is to the people who live there, but \$60,000 to \$100,000 for an apparent benefit to home is a lot and probable outside the range on an evident benefit of having a sewer. If the WPCA board is not interested in funding the sewer extension project out of the reserves, the project should not proceed. Still, if we believe the benefit of having a sewer is great and the apparent benefit would likely be in that range, we should probably vote to have a benefit appraisal done to see if it is viable. Mr. Igneri asked if it is not a feasible project, and if an alternative can be offered to the residents to help with the drainage issues from the school. Mr. Oustafine said that as the WPCA, he does not think they can decide on storm sewers or drainage, and the only alternative would be to choose to fund the project from the reserve account, which is not typically done because rate payers in other areas will subsidize the sewer extension. Usually, the people in the project area pay for a sewer extension.

Mr. Mannella asked if it gets to the point where the sewer is leaking into the road due to the septic tanks failing, and there is no viable option to replace the septic, and no design in place, if the house will be condemned. Mr. Kolb said in his discussions with the health department that some modifications can be made to the septic system, but no improvements to the house would be allowed.

Mr. Frayer asked, although not a WPCA issue, one of the residents pointed to the drainage from the football field, causing the flooding in their yards, and wondered if there was any credence to that. Ms. Valadares said there are a lot of issues on Bouton Street related to drainage, not only related to the school, but to the road itself, but there is a physical restraint because all of the watershed that drains under the tracks. A study was conducted a few years ago, but has not been followed up on because improving the drainage in that area would be extremely expensive to the city. To implement that drainage improvement, we need to secure an easement so that the drainage issue in that area is not easy to resolve.

Mr. Mannella suggested that the staff move forward with getting 30% to 40% of the design done to better handle the cost. Mr. Oustafine asked the staff if they knew how much it would cost. Ms. Valadares said that the staff would get some proposals and present the cost to the board.

2. HUBBELL'S LANE RELIEF SEWER

Ms. Pacelli said the Hubbell's Lane sewer relief project is progressing to 100% design. Due to a utility conflict, some redesign was needed for the intersection on East Avenue and East Wall Street, so the project will now progress towards the final design.

3. FINAL SETTLING TANKS

Ms. Pacelli said the design of the final settling tanks is progressing toward 30%. We have a workshop scheduled this week to discuss the development of the basis for the design report.

D. DISCUSSION ON WPCA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

1. COLLECTION- SAMMIS AND BELL ISLAND SEWERSHED REHABILITATION

Mr. Kolb said Insituform has been working on manhole rehabilitations and lateral grouting at the connections. Shortly after July 4th, crews will finish the CIPP lining. They are still on schedule and anticipate all of the work to be completed by the end of September.

2. PS- OLD TROLLEY WAY SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Pacelli said the Old Trolley Way pump station site improvements were performed last month, and the only portion of work that remains is the fencing, which should be completed soon.

3. PS- FORT POINT IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Pacelli said the WPCA team continues coordinating with the Walk Bridge team to discuss the coordination efforts to begin the improvements at the Fort Point pump station, which is scheduled to start in early fall.

VII. DISCUSSION

There was no discussion this evening.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd