

**CITY OF NORWALK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2025**

Attendance: Darren Oustafine, Chairman
Chris Mannella
John Bove
James Frayer
Heather Dunn (joined at 5:35 PM)
John Igneri
Barabara Smyth

Staff: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works
Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations, DPW
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- OCTOBER 20, 2025

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1)
ABSTENTION-MS. SMYTH.**

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE JANUARY 27, 2016 AGREEMENT WITH ARCADIS U.S., INC. TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT BY FIVE (5) YEARS WITH AN OPTIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR RENEWAL AND TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOPE OF SERVICES LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 3, 2025 (COPY INCLUDED)**

ACCOUNT NO'S 091740602-5777-C0545, 09184062-577-C0545, 09254062-5777-C0791, 09264062-5777-C0791

Mr. Kolb said that ARCADIS has been providing on-call professional engineering services to the WPCA related to the wastewater treatment plant. The third contract, which they are currently in, is set to expire on January 26, 2026. Staff is requesting to enter into a fourth amendment to continue current and future work. ARCADIS was selected via a qualification-based selection and also met the DEEP Clean Water Fund requirements. In 2022, the City of Norwalk entered into a Consent Order with the DEEP, which included multiple deliverables and a five- and 10-year schedule. ARCADIS was brought into that Consent Order because the team's project was long-term. Looking towards new projects, there are the aeration system upgrade and design bids, and construction administrative resident services, totaling \$8 million, as well as a wet-weather project in which ARCADIS was instrumental in the plan. Engineering is not included at this time, but after DEEP approval, staff will return to the board with a new scope of work.

Mr. Igneri asked what they were being paid in the last contact. Mr. Kolb said there is still approximately \$3 million available, so the fourth amendment would extend their timeline, extend the current open purchase orders, and bring the total to \$11 million.

Ms. Smyth asked how many years Amendment Three had been in effect. Mr. Kolb said the original contract was signed in 2016, and since then, due to multiple regulatory directions, the Consent Order, and COVID, the big projects per the original contract scope have been delayed.

Mr. Mannella asked whether the costs had already been budgeted and accounted for, and whether ARCADIS could be changed without the DEEP's approval. Ms. Valadares said, "Yes," that is correct, and unfortunately, they have not received a response on what has been submitted to the DEEP, and they are the engineers on record, and the level of their work has been very good, and they are very responsive, so staff has no concerns continuing to work with them for the next two years.

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

B. AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO RETAIN VERRILL DANA, LLP AS OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE WPCA FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250 000 ANNUALLY FOR SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSAL LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 7, 2025. (COPY INCLUDED)

ACCOUNT# 224062-5252

Mr. Kolb said Verrill Law has been providing legal services to the WPCA for many years, including through various regulatory and permitting challenges, as well as the Consent Order, and assisting the WPCA and the city on various matters related to the WPCA. Over those years, they have never approached the WPCA to increase their rates, until recently. They have asked if the WPCA board would consider a rate increase, but did offer a 20% discount

**** MS. SMYTH MOVE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Contract Operations Report

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

Mr. Steeprock reported that the Veolia collections system team completed 3.5 miles of TV inspection, 3.01 miles of sewer cleaning, 113 manhole inspections, 3.10 miles of SL Rat, responding to 10 service calls, and cleaned the north and south chlorine contact chambers,

and over the winter will go onto an every-other-month cleaning cycle. The IPP inspection program conducted 28 site inspections.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility's nitrogen performance for October was strong at 490 pounds.

Mr. Steepock said the Keeler Brook temporary pump station improvement project is completed. The remote monitoring and controls portion of the project was completed this month.

Mr. Steeprock said the facility performed exceptionally well during the heavy rainfall on October 30th through October 31st. The total rainfall across the city averaged 2.5 inches but did not go into stormflow, and Outfall 002 was not activated and was able to utilize the collection system capacity. The collection system experienced one SSO on Lexington Avenue after the rain event this month. The event was quickly stopped by clearing the downstream blockage. The event was properly reported in a timely manner.

Mr. Steeprock said all permit requirements were met in October, and all required reports were submitted to CTDEEP and the EPA.

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

a. Arc Flash Study (copy included)

Mr. Steeprock said this is a project they requested and is a minimum every five-year requirement to assess the facility and remark any arc-flash hazards. He said that two quotes were received, and they went with the lower one, as both were qualified.

b. Generator

Mr. Steeprock said there is a load bank onsite for the generator that allows them to load-test it, but there are multiple coil blocks and relays in that generator that apply different amounts of load. The larger coils began to chatter due to wear and age, so they were unable to test or load-test the generator at higher percentages. They would like to have that repaired so they can resume load testing at 80% to 90%, as recommended.

B. REPORTS:

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

There was no discussion.

2. NPDES PERMIT- DEEP NOTICE OF APPLICATION SUFFICIENCY (COPY INCLUDED)

Ms. Pacelli said the NPDES permit renewal application was submitted on October 2, 2025, and on October 23, 2025, and received notice from the DEEP that the application is sufficient for processing.

C. DISCUSSION OF WPCA ENGINEERING PROJECTS:

1. FINAL SETTLING TANK

Ms. Pacelli said the 30% basis-of-design report was submitted earlier this month. The team is currently reviewing it and intends to hold a workshop next month to discuss and address comments to move the design forward.

2. BETTSWOOD ROAD AND BARBARA DRIVE SEWER SEPARATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECT

Mr. Pizighelli said they are still in the process of finalizing the grant for this project. The archaeologist needed to conduct test pits along the proposed drainage line on Norwalk Green, and staff have been working with First District Water on a right-of-entry agreement. The drainage design has been completed pending a few last items.

Mr. Mannella asked about the status on Bouton Street. Mr. Pizighelli said that Woodard and Curran are having a surveyor begin an investigation and plan to be there on Wednesday of this week. Following the survey, they will conduct soil borings, then produce the 30% design with cost proposals, which staff will present to the board for review.

D. DISCUSSION ON WPCA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

1. PS- FORT POINT IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Pacelli said the work at the Fort Point pump station is progressing, and the station remains on temporary bypass while electrical and mechanical work continues. It is anticipated that the work will be completed early next month, and staff will continue to collaborate with the Walk Bridge team on that project.

2. PS- KEELER BROOK

Ms. Pacelli said the temporary bypass in continuity is maintained daily by the Veolia team. WPCA staff continue to work with insurance and FEMA on the claim for the August 24th storm damage and are also working with the city on an application to the EDA for a federal grant to support potential funding.

3. COLLECTION- BEACON STREET SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT

Mr. Pizighelli said that the contractor, CJ Fucci, plans to finish the sanitary sewer bypass setup by the end of the week and will start installing some manholes and the actual sanitary sewer pipe next week. They will start at Beacon Street and Sunset Hill Avenue and will work up toward Willow Street and Armstrong Court, leaving the Sunset Hill Avenue and East Avenue section until the second half of the year.

4. COLLECTION- SAMMIS AND BELL ISLAND SEWERSHED REHABILITATION (COPY INCLUDED)

Mr. Kolb said the CIPP lining is complete, and a few manholes around the river were challenging, but the Insituform team has developed a plan to rehabilitate them safely and anticipates completing the work in December.

E. SEWER USE APPEALS/ADJUSTMENT UPDATES

Ms. Pacelli said the sewer use appeals and adjustments to date total \$19,542.

F. INFORMATION COPIES:

1. 2026 WPCA MEETING SCHEDULE (COPY INCLUDED)

There was no discussion.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed this evening.

VII. DISCUSSION

Ms. Smyth asked whether staff would like to share the recent report highlighting the great work that has been done, noting that 2 million gallons per day less are now going through the wastewater treatment plant than in the past. Mr. Kolb said recently that staff looked at wastewater flows over the years and summarized them in a report, and part of that was published today on Nancy on Norwalk. He said that 20 years ago, approximately 14.2 million gallons a day were sent to the wastewater treatment plant, and over the years the flow has decreased to 12.2 million gallons today, so over the past 20 years there has been a 2-million-gallon reduction. Ms. Valadares said it reflects a lot of things happening at the same time, even though the city has been growing positively. There are now energy-efficient appliances, which help reduce consumption, as well as the investment the team and the board have been making to improve the infrastructure, particularly the lining and sanitary sewer separation.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd