



Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority Board Meeting

Monday, July 18 2022

5:30 p.m.

Meeting held via teleconference

Full Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Ed Kelly

Merritt Nesin

Matthew Quinones (Absent)

Sandra Dennies

Amiel Goldberg (Absent)

J.R. McMullen

Robert Barocas

Adam Perlaky

Steven Bagwin

William Brink

Rhudean Bull

Ann Brown

Mark Turndahl

Crystal Blair

Abigail Logrono

Robert Pudelka (Absent)

Steve Pietrzyk (Absent)

David Yanik

John Mastracchio

Lynda Roca (Absent)

Chairman, WPCA Board Member

WPCA Board Member/Technical Committee Chair

WPCA Board Member/ Director of Operations

WPCA Board Member / Director of Administration

WPCA Board Member/Board of Reps

WPCA Board Member/Board of Finance

WPCA Board Member/Finance Committee Chair

WPCA Board Member

WPCA Board Member

Executive Director, WPCA

Administration Manager, WPCA

Supervising Engineer, WPCA

Accountant, WPCA

Administrative Account Assistant, WPCA

Account Clerk II, WPCA

Plant Supervisor

Collections System Supervisor

City Comptroller

Collection Attorney (Ackerly & Ward)

CompUtil

Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call

E. Kelly, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm with roll call; there was no pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present seven (7 Board Members).

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

Minutes Approval of the Full Board Meeting of June 20, 2022

E. Kelly made a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 minutes; seconded by S. Dennies. There was no further discussion. **Vote: 7-0-0.**

Safety Report

R. Pudelka was unable to attend the meeting. He will provide safety information at a later date.

Administrative/Budget Report

R. Bull reported the following:

- Update on current vacancies, staffing including new hires & retiring employees
- Covid-19 update
- Workers' Comp update
- No vehicle accidents to report
- Year-end actuals
- Four years-end utility cost comparison to FY'21, '20, '19 and '18

Sub-Committee Reports

Finance Committee

R. Barocas stated that the Finance Committee was held before the Board meeting and the following occurred:

- Reviewed June Financial report.
- No new business to discuss
- Discussed expectations of future updates from the City Controller on the transition to the new audit firm

Technical Committee

M. Nesen reported that the committee meeting was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. He stated that he toured the Plant and it's running very well. The Committee discussed approving the Bid Waiver for the purchase of two electric actuators and stems to standardize the equipment. He went on to say that the current projects are moving along as scheduled.

Workforce Development Committee

S. Bagwin reported there was a committee meeting held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 but that R. Bull had reported on what would have been discussed at the meeting in her Admin/Budget report. Additional topics discussed at the meeting was the issues with the City's time and attendance system and IUOE negotiations moving forward.

Financial Update

CompUtil Report

R. Bull stated that L. Roca would not be presenting her report today. She went on to say that the report is included in the packet for the Board's review so if anyone had any questions she would get them to Lynda and report back.

Receivables & Arrears

M. Turndahl reported for the month of May

- \$3.3 million received verses \$2.936 million previous year sewer use fees
- Oldest receivables by year was paid down by \$19,786
- Average collection rate 99.08% vs. 98.85% last month's
- Cash collection through June \$985,133k mostly sewer use payments

He discussed a partial report for July new fiscal year. He stated that \$275,000 has been collect so far in this month as of today, previously last year \$322,000 was collected for the month. He went on to say he predicts we're going to get pretty close to what we did last year.

June 2022 Financial Update

M. Turndahl reported the following:

- \$2.7 million net income for June
- \$8.1 million available in Pool Cash
- \$22.1 million in Capital Reserve Account
- \$14.6 million in Bond Proceeds

A&W Collections Report & Update

J. Mastracchio reported the following:

- 237 active files
- 54 accounts with balances above (\$5,000) Foreclosure Threshold
- 29 In Payment Plans, 2 stayed due to bankruptcy filings
- Fifteen (15) active foreclosures
- 158 with no payment plan below Foreclosure Threshold
- No accounts referred for July
- Collected \$32,059.01 this month
- Total collected for 2022 \$196,804.40

Executive Director's Top Ten

B. Brink briefly went over his monthly report; the report will be made a part of these minutes.

Discussion and Vote: Approval of Bid Waiver for Aquilla & Neptune, LLC for the Purchase of Two Electric Actuators and Stems for an Amount Not to Exceed \$53,921.60

A. Brown reported that she had received a quote from Aquilla & Neptun in the amount of **\$53,921.60** to purchase two electric actuators with 3" diameter stems and miscellaneous valve parts on Train 1. She explained that the original stems are 2" in diameter which are too small and should be replaced with all 3" diameter stems. She explained that two years ago, the WPCA purchased and replaced the same parts for the underflow gates at Train 2; the WPCA intended to replace the actuators and stems for Train 1 but waited until the construction ended. She reported that the actuators placed on Train 2 work very well, and since the gates are enormous and heavy, they require a very high number of turns to open and close the valves and; that the electric actuators are much easier for the operators to use, allowing the valves can be exercised more frequently. M. Nesin made a motion to approve the Bid Waiver to Aquilla & Neptune, LLC for the purchase of two electric actuators and stems for an amount not to exceed \$53,921.60; seconded by E. Kelly. There was no further discussion.

Vote: 7-0-0.

Discussion: User Charges to Properties to those on Sewered Street that are not Connected

R. Bull presented the latest Unmatched Report that showed six hundred sixty-five (665) properties on sewer streets that are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. She explained that when the WPCA and CompUtil first began looking at the Unmatched Report, there were over nine hundred properties not connected but that with our combined efforts and the help of Matt Schnebley, WPCA's Environmental Technician, who did site visits, the WPCA, in accordance with its policy, was able to back bill three years of user charges for the consumption used to those owners who had not connected that owned property on a sewer street. She stated that those residents have since connected. J. R McMullen stated that he is awaiting an opinion from Dana Lee, Assistant Corporation Counsel, on whether or not the WPCA can charge those property owners on sewer street who had not connected to the sanitary sewer. He stated that Charter language dictates that once a sewer is in the street, the WPCA can charge to maintain the sewers. Also, he stated that he asked Asst. Corporation Counsel's opinion that if a resident is getting water through Aquarion Water Company and is not connected to the sanitary sewer, could those residents be charged the same as if they were connected, based on consumption the same as those who are connected. He stated that if residents realize they are paying for septic cleaning charges and a user charge as if they were connected, they would be more inclined to follow the law to connect to the sanitary sewer. A. Perlaky inquired why a resident would pay for user charges if they are not connected to the sewer, to which J.R. McMullen stated that the law required them to connect, and if they do not, then the resident would be breaking the law. B. Brink replied that the residents who chose to connect are bearing the burden of the fixed cost of running the treatment plant when the burden should be borne by each resident on the sewer street, whether they chose to connect or not. A lengthy discussion ensued. S. Dennies asked R. Bull to pull the Charter language, State Statute, and the WPCA Ordinance and send them to the Board for review. The Board agreed to await the Asst. Corporation Counsel's opinion.

Old Business:

E. Kelly stated that he was unable to locate the WPCA's meeting minutes under Boards and Commissions on the City's website. R. Bull responded and said that the minutes are on the WPCA's website and should be linked to the City's site as well. She stated she would follow up to make sure they get linked together so the public can easily navigate through the sites. R. Barocas mentioned that the Board Members page should be updated to reflect the new members. R. Bull stated she would address that issue as well.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss

At 6:25 pm, E. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the June meeting; seconded by R. Barocas. There was no further discussion. **Vote: 7-0-0.**

Stamford WPCA Top Issues (7/15/22)

No.	Issue Schedule	Action Description	Impact	Status	Status
1	COVID-19 Outbreak	Take action to reduce impact on SWPCA Operations and Finances	Operations and Financial	No positive COVID cases since last Board meeting. All have returned to work. 91% of staff is fully vaccinated.	Unvaccinated staff no longer required to be tested weekly by City contractor.
2	Primary sludge pumping and degritting equipment is aged and in need of replacement. Equipment in primary clarifier No. 1 is severely corroded and needs to be replaced.	Upgrade the primary sludge pumping and degritting system with new equipment to improve primary sludge pumping and grit removal. Replace the equipment in Primary Clarifier No. 1	Increase system reliability and improve grit removal to protect downstream equipment.	Received only two bids on March 17 th , both approx. \$10 million. Bids were much higher than capital budget of \$5.6 million or Engineer's estimate of \$6.4 million.	Will "value engineer" design to reduce construction costs without sacrificing quality and rebid project. Plan to start construction by fall 2022.
3	Providing sanitary sewers to Perna Lane Area	Evaluate cost effective options for providing sanitary sewers to the Perna Lane Area.	Operations	Over 2/3 of property owners in Phase I are in favor of the project. Phase I is moving forward to design and construction.	Tighe & Bond to complete preliminary design report by September. Finalize design in 2022 with gravity sewer in High Ridge Road and an additional pump station or low pressure sewers on Perna Lane. Bid project for start of

					construction in spring 2023.
4	Extreme wet weather - high flow discharge and permit exceedance on 5/1/14. Record rainfall on 7/9/21 and 9/1/21 caused plant flows that approached or exceeded plant capacity.	Perform an Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Study to identify and remove extraneous flows caused by rainfall and high groundwater	Regulatory and Operations	Have completed rehabilitation of sewers in Pilot and Phase I sub areas. Have completed sewer system evaluation surveys (SSES) in Phase II subareas.	Phase II sewer subareas next on priority list have been selected for rehabilitated in FY 22-23 with CDM-Smith completing design in July. Will re-examine past smoke and dye test results to determine that all inflow sources have been removed.
5	BOR Resolution No. 4113 calls for planning for upgrading City drainage infrastructure and the WWTF to cope with extreme weather events.	Coordinate with City Engineering to evaluate impact of extreme weather events on the Hurricane Barrier and three (3) pump stations. Evaluate impact on SWPCA's pump stations and WWTF	Regulatory and Operations	Hazen completed a hydraulic evaluation of WPCF. Maximum raw sewage flow before overtopping mixed liquor channel to FST's is 69 mgd, consistent with design capacity of RSPS of 68 mgd.	Will coordinate with Matt Quinones, Director of Operations and City Engineering to develop short and long term action plans for SWPCA.
6	Personnel Safety	Comply with requirements for arc flash protection.	Operations	Siemens has completed electrical preventive maintenance (EPM) on the electrical switchgear at the treatment plant.	Data collected by Siemens from the EPM will be used by Tighe & Bond to complete the arc flash analyses and MCC panel labeling. Siemens to return on July 23rd to do PM for MCC panels in Sludge Dryer Building.
7	Sludge dryer is operating close to its capacity and there are limited options for disposal of sludge cake due to incinerators operating at their capacity and landfills that are closing, or won't accept sludge cake.	SWPCA needs to evaluate its future options for sludge processing and disposal and develop a long term Sludge Management Plan.	Operations	Hazen submitted its draft report on 6/16/22.	Technical Committee to visit treatment plants having sludge processing facilities similar to those being evaluated, especially new sludge gasification facilities in Linden, NJ and Schenectady, NY which are nearing completion.
8	WPCF evaluations and improvements	Study, design, and construct WPCF improvements to replace aged equipment and increase operations and energy efficiency.	Regulatory and Operations	The Raw Sewage Pump Station, Secondary Treatment and UV Disinfection Improvements are now complete with all new equipment in service.	Vibration testing of the raw sewage pump shafts indicated that vibration of the pump shafts has been significantly reduced by the addition of steel beams to stiffen the structural steel columns

					supporting the pump shafts.
9	Facilities Building 6A which houses SWPCA Collection System, Electricians and Regulatory Compliance staff is deteriorated and has a leaking roof that cannot be fixed.	Evaluate options for relocating SWPCA staff that currently work in Building 6A	Operations	The Facilities Buildings, including Building 6A, was tested for mold and other contaminants that could adversely affect the health of building occupants. Tests were negative.	Will issue a RFQ for an architect to develop a conceptual design for a new building to house SWPCA staff displaced from Building 6A plus provide needed vehicle and equipment storage.