



Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2013 – 5:30 PM
Stamford Government Center – Board of Finance Room
888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT
Full Meeting Minutes
(The meeting was videotaped.)

Attendees

Ernie Orgera	Chairman, WPCA Board / Director of Operations
Tim Abbazia	WPCA Board Member / Board of Finance
Cristina Andreana	WPCA Board Member
Daniel Capano	WPCA Board Member
Michael Handler	WPCA Board Member / Director of Administration
Donald Huppert	WPCA Board Member
Mitchell Kaufman	WPCA Board Member / Board of Representatives
Donald Rullman	WPCA Board Member
Dan Schwartz	WPCA Board Member
William Brink	Interim Executive Director, WPCA
Rhudean Bull	Administration Manager, WPCA
Prakash Chakravarti	Supervising Engineer, WPCA
William Degnan	Plant Supervisor, WPCA
Marie Sabo	Laboratory Director, WPCA
Mark Turndahl	Accountant, WPCA
Daniel McCabe	WPCA Legal Counsel

Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call

E. Orgera, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30PM with Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present (7 Board Members).

Public Participation

Four members of the Public asked to speak and were heard: Kathleen Murphy, Cynthia Reeder, Karen Murphy, and Rep. John Zelinsky.

Note: Board Member Abbazia arrived at 5:44PM during the Public Participation session.

Approval of December 5, 2012 Voting Minutes and Full Meeting Minutes

Chairman Orgera stated that he was not prepared to vote on the Full Meeting Minutes but entertained a motion to accept the December 5, 2012, Board Meeting Voting Minutes. Motion made by T. Abbazia, seconded by C. Andreana. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 7-0-1 (abstention: D. Rullman); the motion carried.

Vote: Supplemental Capital Projects Appropriation Request

P. Privitera asked the Board to formally approve supplemental appropriation for two projects; P. Chakravarti explained them: one, the sanitary sewer rehab project and the other, the major repairs project for major Plant repairs and rehab. P. Privitera said that the decision was made not to use any GO Bonds to finance the projects

and that Revenue Bonds will be issued to cover the existing capital requests since findings show that the WPCA do not have any previous bond proceeds remaining. He stated that these two projects were pulled from the FY13-14 Capital Plan, as the CTDEEP expects work at the Plant to be undertaken. He stated the proceeds from the Bonds would cover existing debt/loans as well as make available funds for necessary repairs. Chairman Orgera asked for a motion to approve these capital appropriation requests; motion made by T. Abbazia, seconded by M. Handler. Discussion: D. Huppert stated that several months ago he had requested that Bond Financial Advisors attend the meeting to present information regarding the refunding and that he would want to see that happen first. T. Abbazia stated that they were voting to approve authorization to proceed with the projects, not the funding source. P. Privitera said that this would give authorization to make the repairs. **Vote:** 5-3-0 (opposed: D. Huppert, D. Rullman, D. Schwartz); the motion carried.

Update: FY 2011-12 Financial Statements/Draft CAFR

D. Yanik stated that he had been in touch with the auditors and that there is no completion date for the CAFR yet and no draft of the Management Letter either. He asked to postpone discussion on this item until next month.

Action Item: C. Andreana to provide dates of her availability to review the report to D. Yanik.

Approval: Bid Waivers - Synagro Northeast, LLC and D.W. Transport

B. Brink explained that when the Dryer went out of service in mid-October due to a conveyor breakdown, there was an immediate need to begin hauling sludge off-site for disposal. Since it was an emergency situation, there was no time to do the formal bid process and arrangements were made to move sludge to either Hartford MDC (cost includes hauling and disposal) or to Synagro-Waterbury (cost includes disposal). D. Rullman questioned whether the Synagro contract is firm in the requirement that we pay for these circumstances. B. Brink stated that he has read the contract and felt there might be an indirect clause which applied and that he would discuss it with Atty McCabe. Chairman Orgera called for a motion to approve the two bid waivers presented. Motion made by D. Huppert seconded by D. Capano. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 8-0-0; the motion carried.

Action Item: D. McCabe to review Synagro contract re: this item and report back to the Board.

Billing/Financial Update

Receivables, Arrears, December 2012 Cycle Bill Collection to Date

L. Rocca from CompUtil provided a report on the December collection. She briefly reported on the EOM totals, customer service and A/R issues. She reported on the aged balances and went over the receipts and revenue report.

Discussion: CT Statute & Refunds for Property Owners Who Are on Septic

R. Bull explained that CT State Statute says that accounts can be refunded up to 3 years. She stated that she has concerns regarding consistency and inquired if the Board wanted to visit these requests for refunds on a case by case basis. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to follow the State Statute with respect to refunds. C. Andreana stated that unless additional information is provided to support a different outcome, the Board must adhere to the Statute.

Note: Board Member Kaufman arrived at 6:25PM during the discussion.

Discussion: Special Accounts

B. Brink explained that the WPCA bills customers based upon water usage and that there have been some special cases where customers have proven that their water does not go down the drain and have been given "Special Accounts". He went on to say that we will not grant further special accounts but that he and R. Bull will look at the requests and make an administrative decision if further attention is warranted. In these instances, information will be presented to the Board.

Plant Update

Exceedances

B. Brink explained that the Plant has had a total of four recent instances of short periods of time when the minimum UV dose fell below 30 which constitutes a Permit exceedance. Three were caused by the taking down of secondary clarifier #2 for repair and were related to the draining of the tank by pumping into an adjacent tank (December 29, January 1, and January 2); this situation will be avoided in the future by pumping the water to the headworks when taking a tank down. The last exceedance involved a loss of solids from secondary #3 caused by issues with flow distribution and the high burden on the other tanks when one clarifier is out of service. There were no Permit limit TSS violations. In addition to the change in pump-out receiving location, piping to the clarifiers will be evaluated for hydraulics and flow distribution. E. Orgera asked if all clarifiers were currently on-line and if one would need to be taken down again. B. Degnan reported that all are in service now and that the #2 clarifier will be taken down once the steel for the repair is on-site.

Action Item: B. Degnan to get current clarifier repair timing estimate from contractor and update E. Orgera.

Odor Control

B. Brink summarized the status of the wet scrubber odor control units including issues with the use of Plant water and the chemical feed lines, saying he reviewed what actions will be needed to get them back on-line. The intent will be to run the scrubbers at the solids processing building and the primary area year-round and the goal to get them up and running prior to the arrival of warm weather. He also stated that the other odor scrubber on-site is the RTO and that he has spoken to Synagro about looking into capturing the start-up and shut-down bypass odors to eliminate those releases. He stated that the WPCA will become a good neighbor and will be sure to eliminate odors off of the property line.

D. Capano and D. Rullman asked Atty McCabe about the status of the investigation on the H₂S meter that was not provided with the Plant upgrade project as is believed to be specified in the contract. Mr. McCabe said that he is still awaiting a response. D. Rullman made a motion to have Mr. McCabe make a recommendation for legal action concerning the H₂S meter, seconded by D. Capano. There was no further discussion. Vote: 8-0-1 (abstention: D. Huppert); the motion carried.

Discussion: Sludge Disposal Options/Synagro Contract Update

B. Brink reported that Synagro wants to renew the contract and will consider offering a discount with a longer term agreement. There was a brief discussion where B. Brink discussed details of the current contract and discussed hauling verses shutdown options.

M. Kaufman stated that he was not in favor of shutting down the dryer and that the only operational issues he is aware of is the bypassing of the RTO during start-up and shutdown. After more questions and options from the Board, it was agreed to further discuss this issue in Executive Session to consider strategies for negotiating best possible option for the SWPCA.

Chairman Orgera asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Synagro contract. Atty McCabe advised the Board that since that is not specifically on the agenda, it is not in the best interest of the Board to enter into Executive Session and suggested the item wait until next month or be the topic of a Special Board Meeting. Following some additional comments and opinions offered by Board members, Chairman Orgera surveyed the Board for their availability for a Special Meeting in the coming week. The Board agreed to hold a Special meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 5:00PM to discuss the Synagro contract and to include an Executive Session to discuss legal strategy and negotiations regarding the contract.

Action Item: C. Andreana stated that she would call CT FOI Commission to clarify guidelines for this type of Executive Session discussion.

Update & Discussion: Capital Projects

Upgrade of Secondary Clarifier and Thickener

P. Chakravarti reported that a test of thickener #3 run that day went very well and that the project for the repair of 2 clarifiers and 3 thickeners is approximately 60% completed with the remainder to happen by the end of March.

Cummings Pump Station

He provided an update on the power service reconnection at the station. He mentioned that an 800 amp disconnect equipment is needed but that with Hurricane Sandy, the equipment is in high demand. M. Kaufman inquired about the impact without this equipment, to which P. Chakravarti replied that because Cummings is a stormwater pumpstation, there is a generator on site. In addition, the mechanics visit the site more often, which also lessens the impact without the equipment.

Dyke Lane Pump Station

He reported that Stantec, with the approval of the Technical Committee, has been selected for the evaluation of the station. He mentioned that the \$800,000 grant has been awarded to the City for this project and the total amount of the contract is \$58,000. D. Rullman made a motion to award the contract to Stantec. The motion was seconded by D. Capano. There was some discussion regarding the cost to the City for this work. C. Andreana stated that the SWPCA must be reimbursed for this cost, as this is a stormwater station. **Vote:** 9-0-0.

Carriage Drive

He reported that this project's design is 95% complete; that EPB is reviewing it and Engineering has some minor comments but there are no major changes. The project is going out to bid in mid-February with construction to begin in April/May. The project will include 10,000 linear ft. of new sewers.

Summer Street Ext.

He reported that the work was held off until after the holiday season; work has now begun to repair the 18in pipe collapse. He reported that laterals will be installed. E. Orgera questioned if side walk interruption would occur. P. Chakravarti replied that there would be some minor interruptions.

Discussion/Update: Search Firm for SWPCA Bureau Chief /Executive Director

D. Huppert reported that names of firms had been provided and a website for a Greenwich firm had been reviewed. He stated he would contact P. Privitera regarding going the RFP route. E. Orgera asked about the cost. The Board chimed in stating the cost of services is typically on a percentage basis of the salary.

Old Business

Darien Contract

B. Brink gave a brief update on the Darien negotiations stating that the issue remains the Nitrogen credits. He stated Darien is requesting retroactive credits but our position differs.

28 Intervale Road

E. Orgera provided a brief update. After a lengthy discussion the issue remained who is responsible for any repairs if the Board choose to grant this request. Finally, T. Abbazia made a motion to authorize the City Engineering Department to spend up to \$50,000 to fix the problem at this address and the funds for the repair will come out of the Intervale project Capital budget. The motion was seconded by D. Rullman. **Vote:** 7-0-2 (E. Orgera and M. Handler abstained).

New Business

B. Brink reported that Septic Dumping rates must be reviewed; that he is putting together a top 10 ten priorities report for the board, as well as other City Boards, to be delivered with the next two weeks.

C. Andreana requested a budget to actual report for the next board meeting.

There was some discussion regarding the meeting of the Technical committee; it is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29th at 6:30pm at the Plant site. The Finance committee will meet after the Special Board meeting scheduled for January 16 at 6:00 pm in the BOF meeting room.

Adjourn

D. Capano made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM; seconded by D. Huppert. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 9-0-0; the motion carried.