

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and by Telephone  
June 11, 2020 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman David R. Wilson called the remote meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Christian Bratina, William Buckley, David R. Wilson, Thomas Waterhouse and William “Sky” Post (7:38 p.m). Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary, were also present. First Selectman Denise Raap hosted the Zoom meeting and Selectmen Anne Dranginis was also present.

Absent: David Geiger, James Koser

**SEATING ALTERNATES:** Sky Post was seated as a regular member.

**MINUTES**

**a) 5/14/20 Regular Meeting: Motion:** W. Buckley moved to adopt the meeting minutes of 5/14/20 with edits by C. Bratina incorporated. It was noted that since the Selectmen chose the 90-day tax deferment option, the WPCA would have to abide by the same plan, so the April minutes stood as approved in May. D. Wilson added that it doesn’t make a big impact to the WPCA, as there is only one tax bill during that time frame for one of the contract assessments (easements). Upon voting on the May minutes, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion about Woodridge Lake Sewer District:** D. Wilson said the funding opportunity for this year is over. Woodridge Lake will go to the DEEP to see if they can get approval of one of their other options, but DEEP is not happy with ground discharge methods. We will use information they have gathered for us and are verifying loading. Any improvements made by us this year we would consider not being redone if WLSD joins us. We’ve bought some time to get a project together to present. DPC did a nice summary report that breaks data down into several different options. They thought, based on our loading, our capacity could be limited to .6 MGD, but everyone has different opinions on this.

R. Alexe asked where the Commission stands on the necessity for the upgrade, and if WLSD would be considered in light of low interest rates and where are those numbers, and what is its intention in presenting to the Board of Selectmen. Secondly, he also asked if the Commission knew that the 38-page report went directly to the First Selectman, Ted Donoghue and him explaining they (WLSD) spend \$140,000 in identifying data for Litchfield and were left with the impression this was moving forward. Of course the recipients of the report do not have the authority to respond, and it was sent along to D. Wilson and C. Bratina. But, it was disconcerting to see WLSD is bypassing the WPCA and going directly to the Town management.

D. Wilson said WLSD thought the WPCA had the authority to approve and borrow money, but that is not how it works. We keep working on determining the basis of design. Then we can begin the asset analysis and a feasibility study. We have not done that yet because we have not discovered what the money would cost. He has found yesterday that the USDA’s money for next year is between 1.1% - 1.3% based on hardship that can be shown. We cannot show the hardship that WLSD can. He felt we should not spend money now for something we don’t have the rules for. We need to work more on checking influent as it

comes to the plant to determine the loading. We also need to evaluate side streams as it relates to thickening. We also have to look at non-compliance events, although we have already made operational changes to prevent a high percentage of them.

R. Alexe thought an asset management plan is necessary to evaluate where we stand. D. Wilson thought that would be done when we get closer to when we will use it. C. Bratina called it a process control plan and said they have done some of that with DPC and can summarize the report for Mr. Alexe. The plant does have a BOD and TSS overload that has to be addressed. Asset-wise, they can evaluate the condition of the plant equipment for that area. Ted has begun a program to evaluate the assets, and C Bratina said he would be happy to work with him on it.

Regarding R. Alexe's question about the summary sent to the Town, Ted Donoghue said he sent it out to the commissioners to read and digest. The data reported on his monthly operating report is what is reported. The plant is performing the best it's ever run. With the four samplers they will be able to isolate the raw influent without any side stream. There are, however, challenges that need to be addressed whether combining with WLSO or not. He felt they cannot wait two years for an asset management plan. D. Wilson maintained that they still have time, as the next USDA funding round is not until this time next year.

W. Buckley said the consultant (DPC) working for WLSO may have a conflict of interest in evaluating our plant. He is not in favor of allocating Litchfield's capacity that we have paid for to some other community. They were also presumptuous saying who should be on the negotiating committee from Litchfield. If we need capable people beyond our Board, we should hire a consultant when we are ready.

Ted Donoghue said that regardless if we move forward with WLSO, we need to follow the Capital projects and get a new UV system for next season. He still thinks we should begin the asset management program.

Denise Raap asked if it is possible that the DEEP would require Litchfield to regionalize with towns around us? D. Wilson said that in 1984 the minutes indicated we joined with Morris in accepting its flow from Deer Island. There was a comment in there that said we had to take it because we were designed as a regional facility. The Borough of Litchfield Sewer Commission later became the Litchfield Sewer Commission. W. Buckley said he would answer the question as yes, it is a possibility the DEEP could issue the order as they had done in Bethel to abandon their plant and pump to Danbury. They then gave them Clean Water Fund money to do it. D. Wilson said it has not been explored and is premature to ask.

**2. Update of Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement:** D. Wilson said there has been no real progress. He sent W. Buckley Chapter 170 of the Torrington Code Book to review. It looks like we are being charged two or three times for different things. Those must be eliminated.

**3. Hach WYMS, JobCal, and SC200 Purchases:** D. Wilson said Raz is checking with IT to see about the best method of installation of the database system and will need a few more weeks to investigate. D. Wilson said he doesn't like the cloud, and C. Bratina said he still thinks it should be on the plant computer with it backed up on a second hard drive and the cloud. The JobCal might not be the right thing for us per Hach. Tying in with the SCADA system might be a lot of work for less benefit. We need the other Hach controller for the DO on the third tank. Ted said he found one on line for \$500 from China, but he thought they should make a smart investment for an important controller. The expense was previously authorized up to \$2,500, so D. Wilson told him to go ahead and buy the one he thought best.

**4. Commercial Industry Discharge to WWCF:** Arethusa said it would not be increasing its milk production, but now that they have sold the Holstein herd and are getting milk from dairy farms in Falls

Village and Canaan, their ability to increase production is now there. They and the Litchfield Distillery are significant contributors to plant loading. So we need to know more about verifying their processes and charge accordingly. Their flows are far over the DEEP permit. Perhaps there are pre-treatments we could suggest to reduce our plant loading. Arethusa only does grab sampling and is happy to pay the surcharge. C. Bratina suggested a weekly composite sampler for Arethusa, as different processes occur on different days. We also need accurate daily flow data. Maybe their pump capacity is too big. We've found that we've been using more polymer because of fogging from their filtrate. R. Alexe suggested holding another separate meeting with them on the FOG (fats, oils and grease).

**5. Collection System Work:** Ted Donoghue said he is working on Doyle Road. He has two prices and is getting one more. This is a spot repair at a joint that has collapsed and is a substantial source of inflow. There are some other properties in town they will investigate for I&I issues.

#### **6. Plant Equipment Updates**

**a) UV System:** C. Bratina has done the flow data and they have sized it, so they started writing the bid.

**b) Raw Influent Composite Sampler:** It is installed and is running.

**c) Anoxic Mixer:** This should be delivered within the next week.

**d) Sludge Mixers/Sludge Recirculation Pump:** We have made modifications to the other pump, but the FST tank is not getting mixed properly. We will have to buy a mixer, and the Flygt is \$16,133, which can be plugged into the existing panel. D. Wilson wanted to be assured that it would mix when the sludge is down in the cone. **Motion:** W. Buckley moved to authorize the expenditure of \$16,200 from Fund 66 for the purchase of a new mixer from Germany for the finish sludge tank. C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**7. Safety:** Ted said there has not been much training. They are using masks and social distancing. He is trying to obtain the N95 masks for jetting. There will be three operators for the duration of the summer.

**8. Commissioner's Requests:** None

**9. Public Works / Treatment Plant Report:** T. Donoghue reported a very good month and that permit compliance has been maintained since the last report. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. The average daily flow for the month of May was 0.526 MGD and the total flow was 16.304MG. We removed 45,500 gallons of sludge for final disposal during the month of May.

- We processed a total of 107,250 gallons of septage during the month of May a 37% decrease over last May. Year to date we are at an 18% increase. Ted said Raz had a conversation with the disgruntled hauler who was told by Raz to apologize to Ted but has not. Raz told him the accuracy of the calibration on the truck has to be proved, but he said his truck was fine. Ted added that the letters have been sent out to the other haulers for the rate increase.
- For May effluent BOD removal percent was 99% and TSS removal percent was 99%.The minimal removal rates per our NPDES permit is 85%.
- The daily average of Total Nitrogen lbs. /day discharged into the Bantam River was 2.0mg/ or 8 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day.
- The daily average for Total Phosphorous lbs. /day discharged in the Bantam River was 2.7 mg/l. or 9.4 lbs. /day. The monthly average cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l or 9.97 lbs. /day. The results were not as good due to the filtrate from the thickener.

- Our new Assistant Plant Operator, Robert Taylor, started on 5/4/20. He will meet the DPW and chat with Raz tomorrow.
- May 5th was Robert Kent's final day after 30 years of service to the town of Litchfield, and he reports he is enjoying his retirement so far.
- On 5/26/20 the H.I. Stone tanker started leaking sludge after it departed the WWCF. It left a streak of about 650 ft. on Stoddard Rd, and a brief section of Benedict Road, over 50 gallons in all. It was caused by driver error from not closing a valve completely. They closed the road, cleaned it up, and Ted implemented a new bio-solids SOP as a result. He will have booms on hand at the plant. H. I. Stone also took measures including retraining their employees.
- Old Business. 1) Second vehicle – no report; 2) Easements – decide how to address; 3) Electrical Training – have licensed electrician on staff now; will do safety training on electrical; 4) Influent/Septage study – Ted is waiting for the next fiscal year for more funding; 5) UV System – have to move on this project; 6) Anoxic Mixer – see above; 7) Mechanical Bar Screen – have to get back to it.

**a) Easements:** None

**b) Operational – Rotary Drum thickener Performance:** No report

**c) Septic Flow Meter:** No report

**d) Equipment: Influent Sampler – Bar Screen:** Ted said he replaced the mesh screen on the outside so it is fairly new.

**10. Financial Report:** T. Donoghue reported they have done a lot. They have used less polymer and will be carrying a barrel into the next fiscal year. They've taken out more sludge. He should have \$30 - \$40,000 left over in the budget.

#### **11. Old Business**

**a) Second Vehicle:** No report

**b) UV Replacement:** See above

**12. Adjournment: Motion:** W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary