

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and by Telephone
March 11, 2021 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman David R. Wilson called the remote meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: William Buckley, Christian Bratina, Thomas Waterhouse, David R. Wilson, and Sky Post. Also present were Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Ann Combs, Recording Secretary, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director and First Selectman Denise Raap, who hosted the Zoom meeting. Members of the public who spoke were Chris Casiello of Arethusa Dairy, Attorney Perley Grimes and resident Kate Honan.

Absent: David Geiger, James Koser

SEATING ALTERNATE: Chairman Wilson appointed Sky Post to be seated as a regular voting member.

MINUTES

a) 2/11/21 Regular Meeting: Motion: W. Buckley moved to approve the meeting minutes of 2/11/21, and T. Waterhouse seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

BUSINESS

1. Public Request and or Comment: Chris Casiello of Arethusa Dairy asked for better lines of communication, as he received two years of sewer bills on the same day. He also received the permit modification from CT DEEP dated 3/3/21 designating Arethusa as a Significant Industrial User. Based on data collected from 7/2020 through 12/2020, DEEP said they contributed over 5% in total BOD and over 5% of TSS to the treatment plant; and therefore per regulations, they designated Arethusa as a Significant Industrial User (SIU), triggering them to request authorization either by obtaining an individual discharge permit, or if eligible, by seeking an approval of registration for coverage under the SIU General Permit. He wished he had more warning, as it will take a significant amount of work in a short time. D. Wilson said they would like to work with him on the permit and could break the billings into more payments.

Perley Grimes, representing the Concerned Litchfield Citizens, asked for an explanation as to why there is listed a maximum flow of 940,000 gal/day when the permit's maximum design flow is 800,000 gal/day. Ted responded that there is also a seasonal design flow of 940,000 gal/day.

Kate Honan, Beach Street, asked for the cost of DPC's study with the five flow meters, and Ted answered that it cost \$26,000 to the rate payers.

2. Update of Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement: D. Wilson said there is nothing new, but Torrington indicated they would have something by mid-March.

3. Public Works White Woods Parking Project: Raz Alexe explained the 19-space parking project on White Woods Road that is perpendicular to the WPCA easement. He will match the grade with gravel. He hopes to secure 3 lot permits and do the bid process by summer. DPW will maintain the area. The connectivity grant will be used for the path near the substation. He will show the WPCA the easement on the plan with four manholes that need work. He will state assurances in a memorandum. W. Buckley asked that there be signage that says, "No overnight parking" so the manholes are not covered. Raz said that Public Works can help with chip sealing at the plant driveway.

4 Selected RFQ Engineering Firm Interviewing Schedule/Letters/Committee: It was noted that the interviewees would like three weeks' notice to prepare. Four of the five will be happy to do in-person interviews. They all five firms agreed with conducting interviews on April 13th, all in one day. C. Bratina and W. Buckley will head up, but all commissioners are welcome to participate. They will post this series of interview as a WPCA meeting, but it will not be open to the public. The letter to the interviewees will be finalized by Ted and sent out tomorrow, one to each firm, and will ask them to bring along their project manager.

5. Discussion on Impact of Arethusa Dairy Significant Industrial User (SIU) Designation: D. Raap asked if Chris Casiello was alerted to this letter from DEEP ahead of time, and D. Wilson said there was a meeting set up for the first Thursday of March. D. Raap said further that C. Casiello felt the Superintendent was the catalyst behind the change in permit, but D. Wilson said it was the WPCA. Chris, Ted, Raz and D. Wilson met about it last Thursday. D. Raap asked if Ted had been told to contact DEEP. Ted stressed that Arethusa has been a willing participant, but over 1 1/2 years ago Chris stated that they did not want to make the investment in a composite sampler and preferred continuing their weekly grab sampling program. The results from this data would be used in calculating the annual surcharge for excess BOD loading to the treatment plant. Some commissioners' have state in the past that the users should not have to subsidize Arethusa excess loading to the plant. From what the data showed with regards to plant loading, Ted was directed by the WPCA Commission to contact the CT DEEP about having them be considered a Significant Industrial User (SIU) for their permit renewal, which the CT DEEP did decide. The application must be submitted before April 29, 2021. W. Buckley asked if they can't meet the SIU, can they meet the MIU (Miscellaneous Industrial Users) general permit. There is a possibility that there may be an exemption for food processing wastewater under the SIU permit. They need more clarification, as FOG is the same for both permits. C. Casiello said there is an exemption for the BOD, as it does not apply to food wastewater, but the FOG does. C. Bratina said Arethusa, DEEP and the WPCA have to work together to come up with a reasonable permit, and he thought they could do that, as these permits are negotiable. C. Casiello was hoping he would get an extension past April 29th from DEEP. He has an engineer he hopes can provide some insight so they can meet again.

6. Sewer Rate Study: D. Wilson said Sandy has populated the spreadsheet formal with recent flow data to study. It should be ready by the next meeting.

7. 2021 Flow Monitoring Study: Ted said it is moving along well and they should get some good data by next month to share.

8. FY 2022 Operational Budget: Ted thinks that water usage with COVID-19 should be less, so per D. Wilson's instruction, they will bill for 2,300 EDUs and take 94% of that for revenue. Sandy feels confident they can reach this goal. Revenue will increase by \$10,000 over the current fiscal year, 36 more EDUs. Liens have been kept the same, and septage has been dropped by \$25,000. Lab testing and electric has increased slightly, as well as capital expense for the Thomaston phosphorus upgrade, which will be paid off in two years versus over 20 years. The budget is flat. They are still putting away \$71,000 into Fund 66. C. Bratina asked to add another \$10,000 for an audit in addition to what is budgeted through the Town. They will act on this budget in April.

9. Chip Sealing Plant Driveway: D. Wilson thought they should wait to see how much damage we do to the driveway if we are facing construction. We will know after the Facility Plan is done. Raz Alexe said if they need to do fine grading to address storm water, it will be different. D. Wilson said we have a topo and survey from the last upgrade. Ted said the worst area is near the main gate, and it could be smart money spent to address it now rather than later.

10. Primary Clarifier Refurbishment Work - Brentwood Quote: Brentwood did an inspection in 2019 but work was delayed due to the pandemic. Recommendations were made for updates in the primary, but for the secondary tank that was inspected that same day, they did not prepare a report. Their quote for each tank (not including labor) was \$20,000. Ted said he would like to do these tanks this summer, one at a time, using Kovacs for the replacement work. C. Bratina asked to have Kovacs come in to inspect for a second opinion. Ted said he would have to wait until the flows come down to take the primary tank offline, and he was hesitant to procrastinate for fear of a catastrophic problem. He added that Brentwood had a competent tech doing the inspection. C. Bratina insisted on putting out a bid for replacement equipment with installation by the same vendor included. Ted wanted to make sure they could get it done this season and will consult with Kovacs. He expressed his frustration is making sure the plant runs with maximum efficiency, as this has already dragged on for two years since his first recommendation. Ted will get an opinion from Kovacs and find out what the delivery on the parts would be for the next meeting.

11. Collection System Work: Ted reported a partial blockage at Center School related to FOG. He will have to be more diligent on FOG inspections now, as they dropped back during COVID-19. Next week they will do manhole inspections and then jetting the following week.

12. Plant Equipment Updates

a) UV System: C. Bratina said it is time to issue a bid so they can get something installed before winter. Ted agreed and asked him to finalize and send the latest version, as he already had permission to publish it. D. Wilson asked about the visit with Suez, and Ted said he is waiting for some prices on parts and will then order. Suez said the system was in good shape for its age.

b) Mechanical Bar Screen: Duperon came to the plant and will write a proposal for the flex rake screen, different from Vulcan's mechanical bar screen. Ted will talk with a plant who had their system installed outside. There were other good reports on this system. C. Bratina said he has written the spec for either Duperon or Vulcan, as they make similar screens.

13. Safety: Ted said there was no training and no accidents to report.

14. Commissioner's Requests: S. Post asked if they could consider having an intern work at the plant if feasible. W. Buckley said it was a good idea and he should send a letter to D. Raap. C. Bratina asked about the status of the Workers Comp employee and when he would be returning to work. Ted said it is yet to be determined.

15. Public Works / Treatment Plant Report: Permit compliance has been maintained since the last report, with the best February ever. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. For the month of February the total flow was 12.519 MG and the daily average flow was 0.447 MGD. We removed 52,000 gallons of sludge for final disposal during the month of February.

- We processed a total of 12,750 gallons of septage during the month of February a 73% decrease over last February. YTD we are down 28%.
- For February 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 1.8 mg/ or 8 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day. This is the lowest it has been since being in the nitrogen trading program.

- The daily average for Total Phosphorous discharged in the Bantam River was 0.4 mg/l. The monthly seasonal average, between May to October, cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l or 9.97 lbs. /day.
- On 2/3/21 there was a trouble call at 141 Tallmadge Ave. It was a building connector issue.
- On 2/17/21 there was a trouble call at Center School. Manhole on SW corner MH was partially blocked due to FOG building up. Source was from upstream.
- On 2/25/21 Jim and Rob started re-painting the basement floor in the main building.

a) Easements: No report

b) Operations: discussed above

16. Financial Report: Ted reported revenue about the same and expenses lower at this point.

17. Old Business

a) Second Vehicle: No report

b) FY 19 Audit/Selecting Potential Firms: D. Wilson asked that they contact Amaechi Obi to follow up on the questions posed to the auditor. D. Raap said the town will go out for an RFP for a new auditor in May and suggested D. Wilson approach Amaechi Obi about participating in that process and to ask about the self-insurance money. C. Bratina would like to work with the Town to make sure the WPCA actually gets an audit.

18. Adjournment: Motion: W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Ann Combs, Recording Secretary