

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam, CT 06750  
Thursday, August 10, 2023 ~ 7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** David Wilson called the regular August meeting of the Litchfield WPCA to order at 7:42 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Members present were Dave Wilson, Christian Bratina and James Koser. Also present was Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent and Raz Alexe, Public Works Director.

Absent: Christine Harding, William Buckley, Sky Post, and David Geiger

**SEATING ALTERNATIVES:** None presented.

**MINUTES: Motion:** C. Bratina put forth a motion to accept the 5/18/23 minutes. J. Koser seconded and there was no discussion. All members voted “aye” and the motion passed.

**Motion:** C. Bratina put forth a motion to accept the 7/13/23 minutes, as amended by D. Wilson and C. Bratina. J. Koser seconded and there was no discussion. All members voted “aye” and the motion passed

**BUSINESS**

**1) Public Request and or Comment:** K. Honan- a resident from Beach Street, had one question about the idea of the WPCA drafting a letter to the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman about expanding the collection system. Her question was “What is expanding the system?” D. Wilson responded that he had spoken with the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman about the idea, and she showed no interest in exploring this idea. The past history was that no one in the areas of possible future expansion of the collection system wanted to pay the assessment to fund the project D. Wilson also shared that if you change the Sewer Service Area you must update the POCAD map. The area of North Shore Drive is already in an “area of concern” so it could be connected to the sanitary sewer system. In addition to this area Marsh Road and one other area are along Bantam Lake area in Litchfield too, but it would not be economically feasible to connect these areas. In the past there was a study that looked at the impact of septic systems on Bantam Lake, but there was no real findings that were presented at the time. K. Honan asked if the design capacity on our NPDES permit of 0.8 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) is still the design capacity for the plant. D. Wilson answered “yes, it is.”

**2) Update on Torrington Inter-municipal Agreement:** D. Wilson reported that we will wait until the November election to formally negotiate.

**3) Woodard & Curran Update:** D. Wilson reported that he had spoken with Tom Schwartz from Woodard & Curran and they will breakdown our invoices with a spreadsheet for Tasks. Task 1 has 8 tasks in it. This spreadsheet will show the percent completed and the invoices will reflect this as well. T. Donoghue reported he caught one error on the last bill submitted to the WPCA for review. The mistake was on the rate charged for T. Schwartz. The first invoice has him at \$230 an hour and the second invoice had his rate at \$190 an hour. The \$230 rate per hour is correct. The adjusted invoice did arrive just after 5:00 PM this evening, but it was not presented to the board for review and authorization for payment. T. Donoghue will email it out to the Commission members tomorrow.

- 4) **Solar Project Update:** D. Wilson shared that they have started working on the solar project again.. Earlier in the week he meet with R. Alexe and Jeff Zullo to discuss the topography of the current site at the plant. He does not want it to look like the one at the High School, and feels that the developer should level the site out better. His concerns will be brought to the attention of the architect and Verogy. C. Bratina asked if the breaker issue had been resolved. D. Wilson said “yes” At the recent meeting the electrical engineer from Woodard & Curran shared why the 1,000 amp breaker was set at 80%. The plant As-built showed that the cables between the transformer and the building are only rated for 840 Amps. D. Wilson said it was good catch, which the solar company missed. So we never had 1,000 Amp service for the treatment plant to begin with. He also mentioned that Towne & Aurrell was hired only to remove the stumps, which is proceeding nicely. C. Bratina asked if there is a schedule for completion. D. Wilson said “no” but that is an excellent idea and we should insist on it. This will enable us to measure if the array will be completed by January of 2024- as this is when we lowered our rate for electricity in our FY 24 Budget. T. Donoghue shared that the rate we will pay off the solar array will be \$0.117 per kW.
- 5) **NPDES Permit Update:** T. Donoghue said he had no update, but he is trying to communicate with Suez about the UV intensity sensor and the actual way it generates it’s valves. T. Donoghue had two email blocked that he sent to Suze, but did leave a voicemail message with the field technician –who works out of New Jersey. C. Bratina offered that if Ted has issues reaching people he may be able to help, as he has numerous contacts with Suez.
- 6) **WPCA Tax Collector:** D. Wilson shared that we have signed the contract with Quality or “Q” as it is known by. R. Alexe asked if they know how to use it. D. Wilson answer yes as it is what they use for the property tax collections. The next big step is to convert QuickBooks to Munis. D. Wilson spoke with D. Rapp about H. Bunnell being an elected town official, and that she cannot be a contracted employee for the WPCA- even though it is a separate entity. D. Wilson shared that they can bill us for her services, just like the Finance Department has done for years. As a result of the process QuickBook has not being converted yet, and there was no revenue report to share with the Commission tonight.
- 7) **Commissioner’s Request:** C. Bratina asked to address the long standing concerns with Arethusa- which have been connected to our sewer system since 2011. He reported that Ted’s testing over the years has demonstrated that the Arethusa Dairy’s discharge has consistently been in non-compliance with our Sewer Use Ordinance for BOD<sub>5</sub>, Suspended Solids, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, FOG, and pH, which increases our cost to treat the sewage and has resulted in several effluent non-compliances. We have been billing them for their flow and their excess BOD in the amount of roughly \$19,000 per year, but should also be billing them for their Suspended Solids, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, FOB, and pH in a total amount of roughly \$39,000. We want to work with Arethusa, and it is up to them as to whether they want to provide more pretreatment or pay a surcharge. C. Bratina had provided the board members with his analysis of their discharge and our cost to treat it, and a draft pretreatment permit with them. DEEP has delegated to the local WWTPs the responsibility of handling commercial and industrial pretreatment. He advised that if the board concurs, we should meet with Arethusa to review the issues and our draft pretreatment permit. He is open to the billing being annually or quarterly. Following this, we should meet with DEEP as they are reviewing a new discharge permit for them, which should reference our pretreatment permit. We would then finalize the pretreatment permit and issue it to them. It would be up to Arethusa to pay for their sampling and laboratory testing, with reports provided to Ted monthly.

C. Bratina reported that T. Donoghue’s testing of the Litchfield Distillery’s discharge in June and July indicates that their effluent is even higher than Arethusa’s. As a result, their surcharge could be

as much as \$95,000 per year. Their discharge has also caused plant effluent non-compliances. D. Wilson, T. Donoghue, and C. Bratina met with the owners, advised of our issues, and reviewed their treatment process. C. Bratina noted that the initial sample location does not include the drain valves for all of the tanks, as a proper sample location should. The owners were to review their options, which could include hauling all of their discharge off-site, and provide a plan to move forward within a month. T. Donoghue prepared a letter to Litchfield Distillery to summarize the meeting and their need to provide a plan. D. Wilson asked him to include that a surcharge could be in the amount of \$95,000.

**Motion:** D. Wilson put forth a motion to meet with Arethusa to discuss a draft discharge permit. J. Koser seconded and there was no discussion. All members voted “aye” and the motion passed.

## **8) Public Works/Treatment Plant Report**

### **a) Easements:** No report.

- **Operations:** We processed a total of 118,120 gallons of septage during the month of July a 30% decrease over last July. YTD we are up 30%.
- For July effluent BOD removal percent was 99% and TSS removal percent was 97%. The minimal removal rates per our NPDES permit is 85%.
- The daily average of Total Nitrogen lbs. /day discharged into the Bantam River was 2.7 mg/l or 10.0 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day.
- The daily average for Total Phosphorous discharged in the Bantam River was 2.3 mg/l. or 8.1 lbs. /day. The monthly average cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l and our daily maximum cannot exceed 7.43 mg/l.
- On 7/5/23 we reported an effluent non-compliance events for exceeding the daily maximum for BOD, TSS, and E.coli due to heavy foaming that impaired flow to the secondary tanks, as one filled up with more solids than the other two.
- On 7/10/23 we reported an effluent non-compliance event for exceed the daily maximum for BOD, TSS, and E. coli due to rainfall event, as flow increased 6 fold in 1½ hours and reached 1,800 GPM. PW broke up the beaver dam at White Woods and the flows dropped 800 GPM.
- On 7/14/23 at 9:50 AM we had a power outage due to a nearby lightning strike. The power was restored by 10:45 AM. No issues to report.
- On 7/18/23 we performed preventative jetting at the Litchfield High School and the Middle School.
- On 7/24/23 we had three power outages during the day at the plant due to possible maintenance work being performed by Eversource. The power was restored at 6:00 PM. No issues to report.
- c) Collection System Work:** T. Donoghue shared that they have been doing much work utilizing the Pro- Rings and composite water tight manhole frames and covers over the last several weeks. Earlier in the week the team completed four on the White Memorial interceptor line. We still have six to finish, with at least two needing grouting work on the first section of the cones. The challenge for these two manholes is the water barrier of the beaver dam. The team will look at options to bridge it. D. Wilson asked R. Alexe if he had any aluminum scaffolding which he did

not. Operator J. Carey had shared an idea that we could use floating docks to safely bridge the 30 foot divide. We will follow up with the person who does the dock work on Bantam Lake next week. They also replaced 10 manhole covers on Meadow Street- which had 2" covers on them and they all peeked over the manhole frames. We also needed to rehabilitated two manhole frames and brick work on Westover to prepare for a large paving project on Meadow, Wolcott and Westover St. The work should be completed by us by tomorrow afternoon. T. Donoghue then went through the CMOM summary report. YTD they have a good jump on manhole inspections- as they have completed 13% of the required 20%. They have repaired 48 manhole, with six more mentioned above. We have jetted about 10% of our 20% target and T. Donoghue feels they should hit it by December. The big challenge will be hitting the required 20% of CCTV work. As it stands we are at only 5%. C. Bratina asked if he felt they would hit that target-since they are fully staffed. T. Donoghue said they should, but the issue is that the push camera only goes out 150ft at the most, so it takes opening manholes to do a 300 ft. stretch. They also have to better organize all the existing CCTV footage that they currently have on the hard drive of the camera, as well as moving it to another location in the Google Drive. Another issue is that how they label each video has evolved over the years. The best methods is to list the MH number for each video and the date. The team will keep plugging away at it. T. Donoghue did remark that even though we received over 14" of rain for July- the average plant flow was only .491 MGD, with only one day exceeding 1.0 MGD and another hitting .850 MGD. They have to collect more data but we may be seeing some return on investment on the grouting and manhole from rehab work we have been focused on this past year.

- 9) **Financial Report:** T. Donoghue reported that we are more than likely going to exceed our budget for FY 23 by \$40,000. This is due to high electricity and bio solids removal and processing costs, as well as supplies, and items he was authorized to spend on. D. Wilson asked for more specific details of what the money was spent for. T. Donoghue mentioned extra lab expenses, the grouting work- which was over \$25,000. He has detailed on each monthly report the larger and out of the ordinary expenses on the monthly workbook, but will also keep an YTD dairy of all the extra expenses paid for out of the Operation's budget. He will also provide a detail summary of spending for the Commission at the next meeting for FY 23.

10) **Old Business:** None presented.

## 12) **Adjournment:**

**Motion:** D. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. C. Brainat seconded and there was no discussion. All members voted "aye" and the motion passed.

Terrence Donoghue  
Interim Recording Secretary