



**Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority Board Meeting  
Monday, September 20, 2021**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Meeting held via teleconference**

**Full Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Ed Kelly	Chairman, WPCA Board Member
Mark McGrath	WPCA Board Member/ Director of Operations
Sandra Dennies	WPCA Board Member / Director of Administration
Monica DiConstanzo	WPCA Board Member/Board of Reps
David Mannis	WPCA Board Member/Board of Finance
Merritt Nesin	WPCA Board Member / Tech Committee Chair
Robert Barocas	WPCA Board Member / Finance Committee Chair
Adam Perlaky	WPCA Board Member
Steven Bagwin	WPCA Board Member
William Brink	Executive Director, WPCA
Rhudean Bull	Administration Manager, WPCA
Ann Brown	Supervising Engineer, WPCA
Mark Turndahl	Accountant, WPCA
Robert Pudelka	Plant Supervisor
Steve Pietrzyk	Collection System Supervisor
Crystal Blair	Administrative Account Assistant, WPCA
John Mastracchio	Collection Attorney (Ackerly & Ward)
Lynda Roca	CompUtil

**Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call**

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

**Public Participation**

No members from the public were present except those for the Connection Charge Program.

**Minutes Approval of the Full Board Meeting of August 23, 2021**

E. Kelly made a motion to approve the August 23, 2021 minutes; seconded by A. Perlaky. There was no further discussion. **Vote: 7-0-0.**

**NOTE:**

At 5:32p Board Member D. Mannis entered into the virtual meeting. There were eight (8) Board Members present.

**Safety Report**

R. Pudelka reported that from July 1, 2021 thru September 1, 2021 the cost for injury claims is \$1,500 for one (1) claim and that during the same period the previous year, the cost was \$47,000 for five (5) claims. The Board had no questions; the Chairman moved to the next agenda item.

**Administrative/Budget Report**

R. Bull reported the following:

- Planned staffing hiring
- Detailed staffing vacancies and upcoming vacancies
- Planned testing to fill vacancies
- Workers' Comp open claims for the WPCA
- Other Admin topics
- Vehicle accidents

- On site safety inspections
- WPCA's current budget financial position
- Darien current payment status

For the Covid-19 update, R. Bull reported on the number of WPCA vaccinated employees and explained the Mayor's testing mandate for non-vaccinated employees.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **Finance Committee**

R. Barocas provided the report for the Finance Committee. He stated that the Finance Committee was held before the Board meeting and that there was a full quorum for the meeting. He reported that the minutes were approved; that the receivables and assessment collection are ahead of budget and; that the WPCA is doing very well fiscally. He further reported that M. Turndahl and D. Yanik are working diligently to get through a strong audit.

#### **Technical Committee**

M. Nesin reported the committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, and touched on the following:

- He went on a Plant tour the day before and the Plant seems to be running well
- Construction is on-going; hopefully, it will be wrapping up soon
- Force main repairs—pipe lining is still ongoing

#### **Workforce Development Committee**

E. Kelly reported there was a committee meeting held Wednesday, July 15, 2021 and R. Bull had reported on the Workforce Development agenda items within her report; no further discussion needed.

### **Financial Update**

#### **CompUtil Report**

L. Roca provided an update to the Board reporting that the WPCA is in good shape. She stated that back billing will be done prior to the October billing and that Chelsea Piers was back billed for the prior three years for a total of \$196,000; they paid the balance in full. She stated that the April bill is at 96.8%; 835 liens are being placed; 715 accounts with liens and the City of Stamford is being back billed for a number of properties totaling \$26,000. She went on to say that Stamford is still being inundated with closings.

### **Receivables & Arrears**

M. Turndahl reported for the month of August

- \$2.492 million received verses \$2.615 million previous year sewer use fees
- Oldest receivables by year was paid down by \$25.6k
- Receivable balance over 120 days past due \$2.601 million versus \$2.691 million pervious year
- Average collection rate is at 99.39%
- \$289K cash collection through August
- \$23.226 million sewer usage payments and \$2.577 million assessments and collection payments

### **August 2021 Financial Update**

M. Turndahl reported the following:

- \$2.6 million net income loss
- \$10.879 in Pool Cash
- \$13.689 million in Capital Reserve Account
- \$22.648 million in Construction Fund

### **A&W Collections Report & Update**

- J. Mastracchio reported the following:
- 278 Active files
- 54 accounts with balances above (\$5,000) Foreclosure Threshold
- 36 In payment plans, 2 stayed due to bankruptcy filings
- Ten (10) active foreclosures
- 3 Judgement Lien foreclosures
- 21 with payment plans below Foreclosure Threshold

- 189 with no payment plan below Foreclosure Threshold
- Twenty-three (23) referrals from CompUtil in September
- Collected \$64,475.54 for August
- Total collected for 2021—\$608,697.13
- 15 Files closed since last meeting

**NOTE:**

At 5:55p Board Member M. DiConstanzo entered into the virtual meeting. There were nine (9) Board Members present.

**Executive Director's Top Ten**

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

**FY 2021 Connection Charge Program**

**a. Vote to Adjourn for the 6:00 pm FY 2021 Connection Charge Program**

At 6:04pm, E. Kelly motioned to adjourn the regular Board meeting and open the Public Hearing for the FY 2021 Connection Charge Program; seconded by R. Barocas. There was no discussion.

**Vote: 9-0-0.**

A. Brown, Supervising Engineer, explained that there was an Advocate advertisement dated September 5, 2021, which listed all properties owner's names, addresses and assessment amounts. She stated that there were five (5) members from the public who wished to speak:

K. Bivona, 23 Overhill Rd; C. Diaz-Gonzalez, 604 Newfield Ave #C; D. Tan, 604 Newfield Ave #B; L. A. Rappaport, 604 Newfield Ave #A; A. Aguirre, 604 Newfield Ave #D

**b. Vote to Reconvene after Public Hearing**

At 6:18 pm, E. Kelly motioned to reconvene the regular board meeting; seconded by M. McGrath. There was no further discussion. **Vote: 9-0-0.**

**c. Discussion & Vote of FY 2021 Connection Charge Program**

A. Brown provided the program assessment amount totaling \$2,266,505 for the over fifty-seven (57) accounts and read the Resolution for the 2021 Connection Charge program. E. Kelly made a motion to approve the FY 2021 Connection Charge Program in the amount stated by A. Brown, including any changes or adjustments that is required; seconded by S. Bagwin. There was no further discussion.

**Vote: 9-0-0**

**Update: Impact of remnants of Hurricane Ida on plant and collection system**

S. Pietrzyk reported that there were two (2) crews of mechanics working the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> shifts to monitor the pump stations and collection system. He stated that the storm hit during shift change and that within 15 minutes eleven (11) stations experienced high levels alarms. S. Pietrzyk explained that there were much difficulty getting to the stations due to the high flood levels but that around 4/5 am things started to calm down somewhat. He explained damages experienced and discussed the number of claims as a result of sanitary sewers backups. E. Kelly inquired if there is anything to be done as a prevention for upcoming storms, S. Pietrzyk responded stating that the I&I Study should be continued; the completion of the Headworks will help; sewer pipe settlement can be removed to help as well and back flow preventers will need to be installed but that the homeowners will need to maintained.

R. Pudelka indicated that tropical storm Ida was worse than the July 9<sup>th</sup> storm. The rain was hardest from 10:00pm to 12:00am and that the WPCA rain gauge recorded 2-1/2" of rain between 10:15pm and 10:45pm. R. Pudelka indicated that the peak plant capacity is 68 MGD and the plant saw a peak flow of 77MGD which surcharged some tanks and overflowed channel walls. He stated that the mixers and blowers were shut off when flow reached about 55-60 MGD to prevent solids from leaving the plant and stated the plant performed well. He explained that there was a 10 second exceedance at UV; an over-rotation of one bar screen unit which bent two teeth on the unit; and, the arm on the Primary Clarifier No. 1 was damaged. He stated that the mixers and blowers were put back into service on 9/2 around 2:00pm when flow dropped to 60MGD. The Chairman thanked the Plant Supervisor for job well done; the Plant Supervisor stated that the Process Control staff performed superbly; that they worked very well together under extreme circumstances. He mentioned the Head Shift Foreman, Brian Carlson and Shift

Foremen Jonathan Boisfeuillet and Nelson Vargas as well as Acting Shift Foremen Andy Falzone and Conrad Gonzalez as well as the operators who worked extra shifts stating that they all did a great job.

**Old Business:**

No old business for discussion.

**New Business:**

No new business for discussion

At 6:53 pm, E. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the July meeting; seconded by S. Bagwin. There was no further discussion. **Vote: 9-0-0.**

No.	Issue	Action Description	Impact	Status	Schedule
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. 90% of staff is fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated staff to be tested weekly by City contractor.	All SWPCA staff have returned to working full time on site as of July 12, 2021.
2	42" Diameter Force Main from Raw Sewage Pumps Station to Primary Clarifiers developed a longitudinal crack and required repair.	Investigate force main condition to determine need for lining or replacement. Complete force main lining or replacement as soon as practicable.	Operations and Financial	The force main has been lined and the pipe header connecting the force main at the Raw Sewage Pump Station was completed on September 1 <sup>st</sup> . The force main was put in service at 3:00 pm just before the storm on September 1 <sup>st</sup> .	Bypass pumps and piping will be removed next week. Piping disconnected in the five (5) access pits for the lining installation will be re-connected and the access pits filled in over the next few weeks. Paving is planned for the third week in October.
3	UV System Performance and Permit Exceedances	Upgrade UV System adding 2 new UV channels for system redundancy during peak flow and replacing aged Wedeco UV equipment with Trojan.	Regulatory and Operations	Work on UV system upgrade is substantially complete and the final punch list has been submitted to Nickerson.	Complete the roof extension in Basin 2, punch list items and requested programming changes by Trojan and Aarons by end of October.
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	Remnants from Hurricane Ida dropped 2.51" of rain in 1 hr and 3.39" within 2 hrs on night of Sept 1 flooding City streets and sending record sewage flows (greater than 77 mgd) to the treatment plant that exceeded the hydraulic capacity of the plant.	Next sewer subareas on priority list have been selected for rehabilitated in FY 21-22 with CDM-Smith to provide design. Will evaluate I/I Removal Program to focus on possible inflow sources.

5	Reduce energy costs	Evaluate and implement energy conservation measures (ECM)	Operations and Financial	Received payment of Eversource cash incentive for LED lighting and UV system upgrade.	Eversource to provide \$469,695 cash incentive for energy efficiency measures used in Primary and Secondary Treatment Improvements
6	Personnel Safety	Comply with requirements for arc flash protection.	Operations		Siemens has completed electrical preventive maintenance (EPM) on electrical switchgear at treatment plant, except for the Operations Building, and four (4) pump stations.
7	Sludge dryer before explosion was 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	Have completed end use market survey and prepared weighting criteria for evaluation of the world of options for sludge treatment and disposal. Hazen presented world of options on July 6 <sup>th</sup> .	Tasks 1 and 2 of study have been completed and awaiting draft technical memorandums for review. Task 3 and 4 to be done in FY22. Expect 16 months to complete the Sludge Management Plan (summer of 2022).
8	WPCF evaluations and improvements	Study, design, and construct WPCF improvements to replace aged equipment and increase operations and energy efficiency.	Regulatory and Operations	All three (3) new mechanical screens, five (5) new raw sewage pumps and three (3) new aeration blowers are now in service.	Work is focused on removing the bypass pumps and piping, completing work in the Raw Sewage Pump Station and site restoration, with substantial completion by the end of October. Remaining work includes installing the screenings conveyor, grinder/washer/compactor, and the septage receiving station.

9	Perna Lane Area is in need of sanitary sewers due to failing septic systems.	Evaluate cost effective options for providing sanitary sewers to the Perna Lane Area that avoid deep sewers (in rock) in High Ridge Road.	Operations	Most cost effective option will include a combination of gravity and low pressure sewers.	Project is currently on hold pending receipt of petition signed by 2/3 of property owners in favor of the sewer project.
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