

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
WORKSHOP MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

**Members Present:** John Konrad, Chair  
Bruce Allen  
Jim Williams

**Members Absent:** Todd Rolland  
Bob Maynard  
Michael Longenbarker, Alternate

**Others Present:** Linda Farmer, Director of Planning & Community Development  
Matt Jermine, Fuss & O'Neill  
Jason Hofmann, Water Planet

1. **Call to Order.** There was a snowstorm this evening and John Konrad noted that those who were able to make it out were not enough to constitute a quorum. Ms. Farmer suggested they could consider this gathering as a workshop instead; however, they would not be able to make any motions or vote on them this evening.

John Konrad shared that he met with Ms. Farmer and Town Manager Steve Werbner shortly after the last meeting, and they discussed several items including the monies that the WPCA returns to the Town on a monthly basis. He said the initial intent of those amounts were to cover the administrative costs for the WPCA which amount to \$5,500. It was agreed that the Town would limit their charge to the WPCA to \$5,500 annually, which would be billed on a quarterly basis.

Another item discussed in that meeting was the deferred assessments that some original residents chose to go by when the sewer pipe went by their properties. They chose not to take the assessments until they are actually connected, and those assessments will be based on an index.

John Konrad said Steve Werbner felt there was a need for the WPCA to provide greater communications with various Boards and administrative staff about their activities so everyone is aware of where they are going. He said Steve Werbner suggested holding a workshop with other Boards and Commissions as well as the Town Council to bring them up to speed. This would include where they stand in their pump-out ordinance discussions. On this same note, Ms. Farmer said she has sent a memo to the seven or eight Boards and Commissions served by the Development Group that spells out the realities of a reduced staff and the demands placed on them. Ms. Farmer acknowledged that the level of support may need to drop off somewhat, but said they will do their best to provide assistance in a timely fashion. She asked that Boards and Commissions can assist the Development Group by prioritizing their needs. She provided a copy of the letter to WPCA members.

John Konrad said he talked with a representative from the pump-out association in Hebron about pump-out ordinances, and he was told that pumpers will generally give them some resistance. Pumpers tend to find the additional administrative requirements inconvenient. Jim Williams said he would expect that if the WPCA were reaching out to pumpers, that they might be more receptive. John Konrad said this does not discourage him, but rather makes him more aware that they need to talk up the requirements of a pump-out ordinance, be transparent about the process, and do what they can to minimize the burden. He said he would not expect companies such as Skips Septic to have much of a problem with it, but possibly a smaller outfit might. Ms. Farmer agreed that licensing pumpers and education should not be burdensome.

2. **Public Comment:** None.

3. **Public Hearing:** None

Note: The monthly report from Water Planet was taken out of order to allow Jason Hofmann to be able to leave directly after due to the storm.

#### 4. **Activities and Updates**

4.1 Monthly Report from Water Planet – Jason Hofmann said that because of the urgency of the matter and the discussion from last month’s meeting, he had scheduled the flush and camera work for Thursday morning at the high school. He asked if he would need to reschedule this. Jim Williams said they might need to check the legalities, but believed that due to the urgency of the situation John Konrad could authorize the go-ahead as Chair of the WPCA.

Jason Hofmann said he would be meeting with the Principal of the high school and with John Carroll in maintenance tomorrow morning. On Thursday they will have Connecticut Water on site to run the hydrant to fill the trucks. Skips Septic will be there to flush the line. He said it could be put off, but they are still getting a problem. He said when the pumps went down about four months ago and they had to rebuild the pump, it flooded the wet well and water went into the top of the motor in the grinder. As a result, the bearing is gone on it. He suggests they flush the line, camera it, then pull the pumps, replace them and rebuild the grinder. The grinder could be put at the Gateway or Post Road stations as a spare.

John Konrad said it is still difficult to understand why they operated so well for three years and then went bad. Jason Hofmann agreed, saying it could be that products being used at the high school were changed and they turn more readily to pulp, or perhaps something cracked. Hopefully camera-ing the line will provide some answers. Ms. Farmer suggested it might help to do some kind of educational program at the high school, perhaps putting up signs about what should not be flushed.

Jason Hofmann said that Dave Smith had given him plans on the lines out of the high school. There are three lines that come out that all dump into one. They will be flushing the two lines that go into the main separator line. He said they will be using a jet truck to make sure they are cleaned well so they don’t lose the camera, and all manholes will be popped so they can watch to see what is going on.

Jason Hofmann also told Linda Farmer that he turned down the chemical usage at the Post Road station a couple of weeks ago, and asked her that if she gets a call from Roger (the resident who is closest where the odors start to occur), to let him know and he'll increase the chemical dosage.

John Konrad asked Jason Hofmann to email him after the work is done at the high school and he'll distribute the information to the rest of the Board. Jason Hofmann said the activity should go with minimal disruption as it will begin after the students are in school for the day and be completed before they are dismissed. He asked whether the bill should go directly to the Town or if it should be billed to his firm first, and then passed on. Jim Williams asked if the bill comes from Water Planet if it will be itemized separate from their regular maintenance bill. Jason Hofmann said it would be. It was agreed that the bill will go first to Water Planet. John Konrad said he would authorize the work as an emergency.

## **5. Action Items**

5.1 Discuss Fuss & O'Neill's edits to Facilities Plan. Matt Jermine distributed a draft of the proposed new wording for Phase II of the Facilities Plan. He reviewed the draft showing that Tier III properties were added to the priority matrix on the last page. The Tier III areas call for walkovers and Linda Farmer asked who would be doing the walkovers. Matt Jermine said they could be done by the Health Department, contracted out, or could also be done by the Town Engineer. He also noted that the language was softened for the walkovers and followup in the Tier II areas.

Matt Jermine reviewed other edits, such as considering doing a pump-out ordinance if additional resources can be obtained. He said by doing the walkovers and added monitoring in the Tier III areas, it will allow the town to document more closely if an issue is worsening and could provide a trigger to whether the town would need to bump a Tier III area up to a Project Area. He showed where paragraphs were added to the Anthony Road, Lakeview Heights, and Russell Drive areas targeting them for annual spring walkovers.

Ms. Farmer noted that Willie Circle is in the Shenipsit Lake watershed area and that because of this the Connecticut Water Company does walkovers there. She asked if the WPCA might be able to access their information for their own use. This could help simplify things for them. John Konrad said they might have some long term records that could show a pattern of findings. Matt Jermine suggested they ask what Connecticut Water Company looks for in their walkovers in case they look for different things. Linda Farmer said she will get in touch with Cindy Fazendeiro to get that information.

Matt Jermine said he did not leave out the public sewerage options on the Tier III areas, in case continued monitoring determines they may need to be bumped up to Project Areas. Bruce Allen said they may need to change the table on Page ES-5 as people will question why the Anthony Road, Lakeview Heights and Russell Drive areas are still listed as projects. He suggested they might want to either split the table in two with costs only for the Willie Circle and Apple Road areas, which are the project areas, or put the

other three areas with potential project costs in the report as an appendix. John Konrad agreed that they need to soften the impact.

John Konrad also asked Matt Jermine whether they need to add a time constraint on how long they will do the walkovers and monitoring on the Tier III areas. Matt Jermine said the DEP tends not to tell them what to do, but will throw out questions for them to consider. John Konrad said part of his discussion with Steve Werbner involved the fact that wastewater technology is always changing and whether they might even still need to have a consent order after all this time.

John Konrad said they will need to put together a workshop to show their proposals for the Facilities Plan and where they are at this point. Linda Farmer suggested inviting the Town Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Inland Wetlands. She asked if April would be too late for them as there are a number of meetings going on in March. There was consensus that April would do well. Bruce Allen said this would give them the next meeting to go over the revised draft and come to agreement. Matt Jermine will email the revisions to John Konrad and he will distribute them.

In the Implementation Schedule on Page ES-7, Matt Jermine was asked to move the Willie Circle and Apple Road areas to the top and change the schedule on the Tier III areas to give a time frame of a minimum of a five-year program. The action item entitled "Accommodate Infilling Development in Existing Sewered Areas" should refer to Phase I. The tentative schedule date for "Update Administrative Procedures" was bumped up to 2011 to 2013. There was a clarification that the "ongoing" term in the Septic Tank Pump-out Notification did not necessarily mean that they were instituting a pump-out plan right away, rather they were continuing to discuss and consider it.

John Konrad asked if there was any reference to the educational component. Matt Jermine indicated that it was in the last bullet in Section G. He was asked to add this item to the Implementation Schedule as well. John Konrad said they need to determine how they will do the educational component. Linda Farmer said they could get assistance from Rob Miller of the Health Department. John Konrad said it might not be necessary as they might be able to use some documents available from the U. S. Department of Health. The Board discussed how the information might be disseminated. Linda Farmer said the information could be put in the free quarterly newsletter that comes out of the Recreation Department and could include a fairly large article. They could also put it in the Tolland Monthly for free. Linda Farmer also said the Hartford Courant has a reporter covering the area who will put local items in the paper, and they can also utilize their e-blast notification system.

Jim Williams asked how the Inland Wetlands Commission broadcasts what they are trying to do with conservation issues. He suggested that the WPCA might hook up with them and their focus on protecting water quality, showing how the WPCA is working in conjunction with Wetlands.

## **5. Activities & Updates (continued)**

5.2 Continue discussion of Pump Out ordinance. This item was discussed at the beginning of meeting and as part of the Fuss & O'Neill edits to the Facilities Plan. Linda Farmer said

any tracking of pump-outs in town with a potential lead to a pump out ordinance would need to wait at least until another secretarial position is filled in her department.

5.3 Route 195 Sewer Project Update – Matt Jermine said he is not too familiar with this project himself but could talk to Kurt Mailman and have him get them an update on Thursday or Friday. Linda Farmer said she did meet with Kurt Mailman, Steve Werbner, and several other town staff members and understands they should be ready to go to bid in about three weeks. John Konrad said it sounds like they are essentially on target. Jim Williams said there is still a very competitive bidding climate out there right now so this should work to the Town's advantage.

## **6. Other Agenda Items**

6.1 Request for General Permit for discharge of swimming pool wastewater at Star Hill Athletic Center. Linda Farmer said the Star Hill Athletic Center located at the end of the cul-de-sac on Gerber Drive in the Business Park is putting up the steel for their 40,000 sq. ft. building which will house a swimming pool and they would like to be able to backwash into the sanitary sewers and occasionally drain the pool into the sewers also. They need a DEP General Permit for the discharge.

Linda Farmer said Ray Steadward, the town's Building Official, found that Star Hill will need to provide information on the PH level of the water. The discharge must also be metered with a maximum flow of 25gpm. She said Star Hill said they normally have a discharge flow of 100gpm. So right now the town is looking for structural information from Star Hill, and this is simply to let the WPCA know that the discharge request will be coming. The authority for approval lies solely with the WPCA. Linda Farmer also said the condition of the pump in the Business Park is poor, so that is a concern. Jim Williams suggested they might require Star Hill to replace the pump in the Business Park as a condition to allowing the draining of the pool.

Matt Jermine said if they drained the pool, it would place a hard hit on their capacity. He said he would expect Star Hill to submit an engineering study that Fuss & O'Neill could review. He said they would need to look at the capacity at the Business Park as well as the pump station there. Bruce Allen asked why they would want to drain their pool as it would be an expensive undertaking. Jim Williams said the pool at the Town of Manchester is only drained for repairs. Linda Farmer said she would expect it would be for the same reason.

John Konrad said it is important that Star Hill understands their requirements on the State and local level, so they can come back to the WPCA to show how they will be in compliance. He would want to know how often they planned to drain the pool and the flow. His concern is the impact it might have on the town equipment and the Vernon system. Linda Farmer said the requirements are spelled out in the General Permit for Discharge so Star Hill is aware of what is needed. She said it would also be good to know how other towns handle this situation and noted that Ellington is building a YMCA with a pool.

6.2 Sewer allocations and procedure for increases. John Konrad said he has a Questionnaire on Sewer Usage from Dennis Greci at the DEP, which was forwarded to him by Kurt

Mailman. Matt Jermine said they are hoping to get the completed survey by Friday, but understands participation is voluntary. The information is helpful to see how Tolland compares with other area towns. The WPCA reviewed some of the questions, and John Konrad said he will try to fill this form out.

7. **Approval of Minutes** – Approve minutes of January 19, 2009 Regular Meeting. This item is tabled to the March meeting.
8. **Other Items** – Linda Farmer distributed copies of the Conceptual Regulating Plan for the Tolland Village Area. She said they will need to determine at some point the allocation of sewer capacity to people in this area, determining who gets how much flow, how the amounts might be modified, and how they can bring them in line with actual flows. She said that some time ago, they worked up some ballpark flows to get a broad view of how the flow numbers might fit with the 400,000gpd maximum that they are allowed to send to Vernon. She said she learned later that these ballpark figures were quoted as actual allocations.

Linda Farmer said that Mike Taylor owns approximately 26 acres behind Papa T's and this includes approximately 12 upland acres. He is looking at developing a portion of this property for residential and thought he had a large allocation, but he might not. She said another question is how they are addressing the allocation numbers when the people in the sewer area are on water meters. She said Mike Taylor has a viable development plan and they need to figure out if the town can accommodate it.

Matt Jermine said he did talk to Kurt Mailman and that one of the steps they did in the Phase I Facilities Plan was to get water consumption data from the meters. These could be used to help figure out consumption for other parcels. Linda Farmer said another question would be how to address water conservation issues and reflect that.

Linda Farmer said David Sousa, the consultant with Clough Harbour will be coming up with sewer infrastructure needs for the whole development for her. Jim Williams asked if she knew if Vernon is even close to their capacity. Linda Farmer said she doesn't believe they are, nor is Tolland close to theirs, but they will need to know this information for planning purposes. Matt Jermine asked if he should ask Kurt Mailman to do an authorization of the on-call task operation to revise flow numbers for the Tolland Village Area. Linda Farmer asked that Matt have Kurt send her an email outlining what the cost would be.

9. Adjournment. The workshop was adjourned at 8:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Gentile  
Clerk