

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2010**

Members Present: John Konrad, Chair
Bruce Allen
Todd Rolland
Jim Williams
Bob Maynard

Others Present: Dave Smith, Town Engineer
Kurt Mailman, Fuss & O'Neill
Jason Hofmann, Water Planet

1. **Call to Order.** John Konrad called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in Conference Room C.
2. **Public Comment.** None.
3. **Public Hearing(s):** None.

Items 4.1 and 5.1 were reversed to allow Kurt Mailman a few minutes to arrive at meeting.

5. Activities and Updates

5.1 Monthly Report from Water Planet – Jason Hofmann distributed Report #28. He said things have been quiet except for at Tolland High School; however, the situation has not worsened. He will be meeting with a representative from Skips Septic tomorrow to put together an action plan. He also said he contacted the Town of Vernon and they will let them use their sewer flusher in an emergency situation.

Jason Hofmann said that Skips has a camera and flushing machine. They will do a walk through tomorrow. Flushing and camera-ing the line will tell them if there is a sag or break in the pipe. This would need to be coordinated with maintenance to be done after hours or on the weekend when there is the least amount of traffic in the parking lot.

Dave Smith asked if they have as-builts which would probably show where the pipe is. He said he will try to find those plans first thing tomorrow morning. He said if they decide to flush and camera the line, they will need to involve John Carroll in maintenance at the high school. Jason Hofmann said once he has a price from Skips, he will email that information to Dave Smith to share with the WPCA. He asked Kurt Mailman if he had the opportunity to look at the Water and Waste specifications on the pumps they recommended. Kurt Mailman said there is not a lot of information but the RPMs look good. He said the specifications show they would pass a 2.17" solid, not 3". He said otherwise they look pretty good, and while he is not personally familiar with the Tsurumi pump maker, he has heard good reports about them. Dave Smith said they gave them an

attractive price, possibly to get their foot in the door with them. Kurt Mailman asked that they put a duty point on to make sure it matches the existing one.

Jason Hofmann said it would be ideal to be able to do both the flush and camera of the line at the same time they do the pump replacement. He said the grinder must be lifted out of the way to flush and camera and Skips has the capability to do both. John Konrad asked if Skips found there was a problem with the line if it might not be necessary to replace the pump. Jason Hofmann said he does not think they will find anything wrong with the line, because as Kurt Mailman had said previously, if there were a crack in the line, they would be getting in-flow. He said he assumes the paper products and low flows are pulping up to cause the problem. He also said he did contact several other companies for prices to flush and camera and got back very high prices for just 600' of pipe. He said it is likely the mobilization costs that are high.

4. Action Items

- 4.1 Discuss Fuss & O'Neill's edits to the Facilities Plan. The Commission reviewed Amendment #3, which will create an additional tier of wastewater management. It was understood that there may need to be some adjustment to this in light of the discussion in the Special Meeting held last week on the pump out ordinance.

Kurt Mailman said the Amendment calls to recalculate the order of the projects, reducing the construction projects to two and moving three of the areas into a higher level of monitoring. He said the Facilities Plan will need to do a balancing act between putting enough teeth in the document for it to be accepted by the DEP and the community's ability to comply with it. Fuss & O'Neill is proposing \$3,200 for this amendment to the Plan.

John Konrad asked if Steve Werbner would need to sign this amendment. Dave Smith said he was required to sign the original Plan, so it would be appropriate. Kurt Mailman said the implementation portion of the Plan does not specify a date for the pump out ordinance to go into effect. Jim Williams asked if they could simply leave language in the document that says a goal of the Town is to establish a pump-out ordinance, but leave the date open. Kurt Mailman said they might say that at present they do not have the staff available to implement the ordinance. He said he read in previous minutes that the WPCA was considering establishing a subcommittee to work on the ordinance and, if so, that group might want to ask the members of other WPCA's that have already established an ordinance about what they had to commit to in staff and other resources. John Konrad agreed that this would be a good idea.

Kurt Mailman said he looked at the Google.docs that Bob Maynard had forwarded them. He asked who would be responsible to input the pump out information—the pumpers? Staff? Residents? Bob Maynard said they would have to determine that, but suggests it might only require filling out two or three fields. He said only certain people would be allowed edit capability and everyone else would have “read only” capability. Kurt Mailman said one other issue with Google.docs relates to file size, but if they don't get too fancy, they could be very useful. Todd Rolland asked if the use of Google.docs might create any privacy concerns. Bob Maynard said they would need to control and limit the information requested to basic items such as if or if not a septic has been pumped, the

date, etc. He said another nice feature is that they can attach Google maps to addresses. Jim Williams asked if there would be a problem with competitors getting each other's customer lists. Bob Maynard said this is a potential problem. He said they could send all registered pumpers in the area the list and have them fill out those addresses that they service and then that information would be combined in-house. Kurt Mailman warned that pumpers are traditionally somewhat resistant to computerized programs and additional paperwork as they are often small, family-owned operations.

Moving back to the discussion on the Facilities Plan, John Konrad asked if they need to agree on the Sections of the Plan that will need revising and how they will be revised. Bruce Allen asked Kurt Mailman if he will track the changes as revisions for them. Kurt Mailman said he would. Dave Smith said the issue has arisen as to whether it will be necessary for them to do another Executive Summary and presentation to the Town Council in light of these changes. John Konrad said he expected that they will need to go back to the Town Council as well as to make the public aware of how the Plan has changed. Dave Smith reminded the group that it is not inexpensive to do these presentations. Jim Williams suggested they put the revised plan in a link on the WPCA page of the website. Dave Smith said the current iteration is there now. He suggested when they do the informational presentation, they reach out to the Town Council, the PZC, the Economic Development Commission, Conservation Commission and any other likely players or stakeholders. Bruce Allen said he does not expect the public will be any more receptive to this revision than they were with the original Plan. Dave Smith said there comes a point, however, where they need to acknowledge that revisions cannot go on forever and a finished Plan needs to be sent on to the DEP.

John Konrad said he expects the DEP review process will be lengthy. Kurt Mailman said he cannot be certain because his concern is the funding mechanisms may create an impetus to get this reviewed quickly to reimburse the town. John Konrad said if the Plan is approved, then he expects the Town's next step would be to find funding sources—for example, to do the Apple Road area constructed solution. Dave Smith said a lot of work would need to be done before constructions and that the DEP understands that this Plan is in the planning rather than the design stage. With a community system, they would need to determine if there is land available, if it is suitable, etc.

Kurt Mailman added that they will need the Town Council's blessing on this whether they get Clean Water Funds or not. He said, for example, that when they increase vigilance in certain areas of town, the Town will need to determine who will do this work and how or if they can commit the necessary staff and other resources. He said the cost and time involved in walkovers will need to be in the budget. He said the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) made it clear they do not have available staff to participate in this effort. Dave Smith asked if he could get an idea on the costs involved in doing the 120 random walkovers that were done when putting together the Plan. Kurt Mailman said the 120 walkovers cost in the neighborhood of about \$8,000. He said this was just for consultant costs. There was no dye testing or thermographic imagery done.

Dave Smith said they would want the EHHD to inform them about any repairs that require variances. Bob Maynard said they should be required to provide this information in a quick time frame, such as within 30 days. Dave Smith said they could "cc" the town when they issue a Permit to Construct.

Todd Rolland questioned whether they would be able to meet their earmarks on walkovers given the economic and staff constraints. Dave Smith suggested walkovers be done on a rotating basis to get all of them done within 3 years. Jim Williams asked about just looking to get the Plan to be approved by the DEP, if this is the right thing to do for the Town. Kurt Mailman said this is a good question, because the DEP does not generally factor in financial burdens on a town when deciding what is the best plan of action.

The Commission reviewed the aspects of the Amendment which include the pump-out ordinance, walkovers, and notification from the Health Department about on-site wastewater system repairs. John Konrad said they need to also include the aggressive education program about septic system care, targeted especially to the three neighborhoods in the higher level of monitoring. There was some discussion about the possibility of doing an open house for education and inviting either pumpers or the association of pumpers.

Dave Smith said if they are going to present to the community again, then the WPCA needs to be on Board. Kurt Mailman asked how many presentations the WPCA was expecting him to make of the revised Plan. He said the most expensive piece of the amendment is the reproduction work and asked if he could trade off doing complete reproductions with doing inserts instead. This suggestion was amenable to the Commission.

Todd Rolland/Jim Williams motion to recommend to Town Manager Steve Werbner that he accept the proposal for Amendment #3. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Activities and Updates

5.2 Continue discussion of pump out ordinance – This was covered under the discussion on Facilities Plan edits.

5.3 Route 195 Sewer Project Update – The project was reported to be moving along on schedule. Kurt Mailman said there are some items not on the plan that will need to be added. Dave Smith said there will be a mandatory, pre-bid meeting where contractors will be able to walk the property. Kurt Mailman said there is a little slush in the schedule and they will be dictating that there will be no starts until UConn lets out students for the summer because of traffic issues. Dave Smith said this would probably mean a mid- to late-May start.

6. Other Agenda Items

John Konrad asked if the Town has gotten the grant to buy the land for the elderly housing development on Old Post Road. Dave Smith said HUD is processing paperwork for the grant to buy the land. He said money for design services is in next year's capital budget. Jim Williams asked if this development would bring the WPCA budget some income. Dave Smith said that as more flow comes on line, the WPCA can be more effective and it might help back off rate increases somewhat.

John Konrad said he did tell Jack Flynn, their Town Council liaison about their concern about decreasing the Town Council contribution and the fact that the some of their rate goes back into the general fund. He will share their concerns with the Town Council. Dave Smith noted that the Town hires the Connecticut Water Company to do the billing for water and it would be interesting to see the cost per property for water billing vs. sewer bills. John Konrad also noted that Woodlake at Tolland Health Care Center owed \$38,000 for two quarters on their sewer bill, but they have since paid that bill. He said Woodlake was surprised that their water consumption had nearly tripled.

7. **Approval of Minutes** – Approve minutes of December 15, 2009 Regular Meeting and January 13, 2010 Special

Bruce Allen/Todd Rolland motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2009 Regular Meeting. John Konrad, Bruce Allen, Todd Rolland, and Jim Williams voted to approve. Bob Maynard abstained. Motion passed.

Bruce Allen/Todd Rolland motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2010 Special Meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

8. **Topics for Next Agenda**: Facilities Plan, Pump Out Ordinance, 195 Sewer Update, Report from Water Planet, Financial Discussion. Bruce Allen said he is still troubled by the failure of the pump at the high school. He questioned whether it might be an alignment issue or if when the grinder pump was removed before if it was reinstalled incorrectly. They are hoping to have a better picture when the line is flushed and camera-d.
9. **Public Participation**: None.
10. **Adjournment**: Todd Rolland/Jim Williams motion to adjourn the meeting and pay the clerk at 8:45p.m. Motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Gentile
Clerk