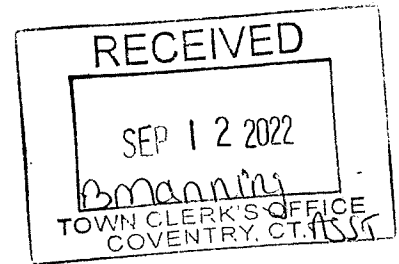


Coventry Water Pollution Control Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022



MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Twerdy, Richard Brand, Daniel Murphy, Frank Jodaitis

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator
Bill Watkins, Director of Public Works
Charlie Grossmann, Sanitation Maintainer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER: Matthew Twerdy called the September 8, 2022 WPCA Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. via Zoom Online Video Conference ID 857 8823 8406.

2. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

- a. Mr. Roland Vegiard 131 Lakewood Drive joined the meeting with three topics related to a recent sewer connection at his property. The property has a foundation but currently no house so the sewer pipe was run up into the foundation and capped off for future use.
 - i. Staff had previously spoken to Mr. Vegiard and at his request gave an introduction and background information; when a contractor applies for a sewer connection permit town staff provide them with As-Built plans showing the location of the sewer lateral. In this case the lateral location on the plans was incorrect and Mr. Vegiard's contractor wasted a day digging in the wrong place. WPCA staff helped the contractor find the correct location of the lateral. The contractor charged Mr. Vegiard \$1,800 for the extra day and Mr. Vegiard requested that the WPCA pay since the plans provided by staff were incorrect. The WPCA asked staff if we have any recourse with the engineering firm who performed site inspections and drew the as-built plans. No, we had a 1 year warranty and it was 19 years ago. The WPCA asked if this has happened at other properties. Staff estimate that 10% of the as-built lateral locations were incorrect and that we have never paid for extra contractor time. In the construction industry it is well known that as-built plans are often incorrect. The WPCA agreed that this was very unfortunate but we cannot pay for the additional time spent digging. Staff informed Mr. Vegiard that he can pursue a claim against the Town and we can provide information on how to proceed if he wishes to.
 - ii. Mr. Vegiard stated that the sewer main that runs across part of his property was closer to his house than he agreed to. Staff explained that the Town

obtained easements from owners where sewers were installed in private property. Staff believe the sewer main is inside the easement but explained that if Mr. Vegiard is correct we could correct the easement. If Mr. Vegiard wishes to proceed staff will send him the easement maps and deeds and he can have an attorney or surveyor confirm his claim that the sewer is outside of the easement he deeded to the Town. If he demonstrates this we will have our attorney and surveyor draft a corrected easement and Mr. Vegiard can request compensation before agreeing to the corrections.

- iii. Mr. Vegiard requested that the WPCA hold off on sewer use billing until he builds a house on the property. The WPCA agreed that since there is no house Mr. Vegiard should not be billed for sewer use and instructed staff to cancel the sewer use bill and begin billing when a house is constructed. They suggested using the WPCA Uninhabitable Structure policy as a mechanism to trigger billing. Staff will look into this and try to figure out a way to cancel sewer use billing for now while also ensuring that billing is started when a house is built.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2022 WPCA Regular Meeting:

MOTION 2022-9-8-1: To approve August 11, 2022 WPCA Regular Meeting Minutes.

By: Brand Seconded: Murphy

The Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Brand, Murphy, Jodaitis, Twerdy

Against: None

Abstain: None

- b. Request for Sewer Extension 1684 South Street: The owner of 1684 South Street asked if it would be possible to extend sewers to his property. The septic system failed inspection and installing a new system is unfeasible due to lot size and soil conditions. Sewers are about 300 feet away on South Street at the end of Judd Road. A sewer extension would pass two other houses on South St. We are not sure if gravity sewers would work or if it would need to be a pumped system. Staff will research sewer assessment requirements and contact the other two property owners to see if they are interested or opposed to extending sewers.
- c. Sewer Pump Repairs 89 Standish Road: A landscaper working at 89 Standish Road hit an electrical conduit for the Town-owned sewer pump with a rototiller. The landscaper did not submit a Call-Before-You-Dig ticket but the conduit was also not installed to code and was only 3 inches deep instead of the required 18 inches deep. The landscaper paid his electrician to temporarily repair the broken wires and test the pump operation.

Staff are getting quotes to have an electrician repair the conduit and wires and bring the broken section of about 5-10 feet up to code. The property owner asked if we could verify if the entire 100 foot + conduit is up to code and if not bring it to code. Lowering the entire conduit and replacing every wire would be an enormous expense to the Town, there is no access to get machines onto the property due to retaining walls and slope, and excavation now would tear out tree roots and kill nearby trees which would impact the neighbors. The WPCA will obtain quotes to repair and bring the broken section up to code. If the owner is performing any future groundwork/excavation on the property they should submit a Call-Before-You-Dig ticket and the WPCA will locate the electrical conduit so it can be avoided.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Sewer system capacity was discussed. Flows are very low due to drought conditions. As always developers should come to the WPCA with sewer connection/expansion requests.
- b. The 2022 Facilities Plan was discussed. The scope and fees were submitted to CT DEEP to confirm eligibility for a 55% grant. DEEP expects a 4 week turn-around.
- c. The Western Route 44 Sewer Planning Area was discussed.
 - i. Staff compiled a list of pros and cons of joining the BLRWPCA vs becoming a customer, along with many questions. The Town Attorney reviewed the lists and provided feedback on bond repayment obligations. We will ask the Town Manager to send the questions to the BLRWPCA.
 - ii. The Creative Living Center of CT (CLCC) at 2645 Boston Tpke inquired if they would be able to connect to the proposed sewer system on Route 44. They are a non-profit organization proposing to construct housing and greenhouses for agricultural uses. They have an approved septic design so we know the property can support the proposed development without the use of sewers which is good. A challenge is that this property was not included with our proposed sewer service area when we completed the CEPA environmental review process. Staff will inquire with DEEP on how we would proceed if the CLCC wishes to pursue a sewer connection instead of multiple septic systems.
 - iii. We applied for a FEMA grant for this project but learned that FEMA wasn't administering grants, just pointing us towards grant from other sources. We are not eligible for any of the grants FEMA suggested. We are still on track with the \$1.2 million EPA STAG grant.
- d. The current year WPCA budget was reviewed. We just started a new fiscal year and will have final figures on FY 2022 after the audit is complete in the fall.

5. WPCA STAFF REPORT:

- a. The Treatment Plant Operator Report for August 2022 was reviewed.
- b. The Collection System Report for August 2022 was reviewed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

- a. The draft FY 2022 Annual Report was reviewed. Staff will submit.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Matthew Twerdy adjourned the August 11, 2022 WPCA Regular Meeting at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

 9/12/22

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator

**These minutes are not official until approved by the WPCA at the next regular WPCA meeting.*