

Town of Redding
Minutes of the WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION (WPCC)
Regular Meeting via ZOOM only
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:30pm

Commissioners Present: Amy Atamian, Chair; Dave Pattee; Kirby Klump; Vanessa McPherson; Chuck Cilo; Dave Faulker.

Also, Present: Jeremy Nixon of Veolia; Nancy Portolese, WPCC Administrator; Janet August, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Amy Atamian called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Ms. Atamian noted that Peter Bonfanti has stepped down from WPCC and thanked him for his service.

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2023, MEETING

Ms. Atamian asked for any corrections to the previous meeting minutes reviewed. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted.

ITEM 2: REPORT FROM VEOLIA WATER PLANT MANAGERS

HEALTH & SAFETY –

- No injuries or illnesses were reported during this period
- Monthly Safety Inspection (eyewash/showers/fire extinguishers/first aid kit) completed 10/2/23
- All PPE and First Aid Stations are in full supply and in good working order

OPERATIONS –

- October Monthly Reports to USEPA and CTDEEP submitted to the Redding WPCC Chair on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Full Permit compliance was achieved in all categories.
- 1.34 MG of wastewater influent was received, and 1.05 MG of wastewater was processed
- Removed 98.9% of influent BOD and 99.1% of influent TSS
- Wasted 47,864 gal to the GBT
- HI Stone removed 1x load (6,500 gal) waste sludge
- One (1) siphon chamber inspection were conducted in October- no issues reported
- Brief power interruption Sat, Oct 21st - influent pump fault
- UV and PAC systems shutdown Tuesday, Oct 31st

MAINTENANCE –

- 27 of 27 preventive maintenance work orders were completed in October
- One (1) corrective work order - drum screen spray water hose replacement
- Addison Electric installed disconnects to existing compressor system Friday, Oct. 6th
- Organic chemically enhanced backwash completed Monday, Oct. 9th
- Eastern Pump pulled influent pump and cleared blockage Thursday, Oct. 26th
- Maher Corp troubleshoot UV sensor issues Thursday, Oct. 26th

TRAINING -

- Scott attended NEWEA conference Wed, Oct. 25th

ADMINISTRATION / MANAGEMENT –

- One (1) CBYD locate request: 65 Redding Rd - no mark out required at
- No odor, noise or other complaints were received
- Visitors: Addison Electric- 10/6, Kaeser - Matt Margolis 10/16, Carlsen Systems- Zach Lamoureux 10/26, Maher Corp - Mike Gazard 10/26 Eastern Water - 10/26.

Jeremy Nixon of Veolia presented the October Veolia report. He noted that October was a busy month operationally. The UV system was closed for the end of season. While closed, Veolia will continue to troubleshoot the reason for the UV sensor malfunction.

On October 21st, there was a brief power interruption, and the influent pump would not restart remotely. Veolia needed to go to the plant to reset. A few days later, the backup influent pump would not operate due to clogging with grit. The plant was designed to have three influent pumps. Given the issues experienced, and the criticality of this equipment, Veolia recommended purchasing and installing the third pump. Mr. Nixon notes that the commission has previously discussed purchasing and installing a third influent pump. Ms. Atamian asked about the other systems, such as RAS, that requires similar pumps. Mr. Nixon stated that the system requires three RAS pumps and only two of the three are functioning. They encountered problems with the installation of the third RAS pump, which needs an electric contactor that requires full plant shutdown to replace. Ms. McPherson asked about the impact on the pumps when operating them at lower flow volume (our current volumes) than they were designed for. She queried whether replacing the non-functioning pump with a smaller one to match the lower volumes we have now and upgrading it when our flow volume increases in the future would be an option.

Commissioners discussed the impact of the pumps when operating them at lower volumes than designed. Mr. Pattee expressed concern that the plant does not have mechanisms for removing grit before it gets to the plant.

Ms. McPherson asked why plant operators needed to do a manual reboot at the plant. A discussion of whether the UPS had been installed at the time of the power failure. Mr. Nixon was not sure of the exact installation date and will check. The UPS would have conceivably prevented the need for a manual reset.

Ms. Atamian asks commissioners if the new pump, as specified and quoted, should be approved.

MOTION: Mr. Pattee moved to purchase the influent pump at the quoted price of \$8,985. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilo and the motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Atamian asked if we had an installation date for the new membranes. Mr. Nixon stated they are still looking at the week of December 11th. Ms. Atamian asked Mr. Nixon his opinion of Layne’s scoping for the performance test. Mr. Nixon stated that testing the membranes at high flow for an hour or two would not provide as much information as would testing for several days. Ms. Atamian stated that we need to have the testing methodology evaluated and asked Mr. Nixon if Veolia’s T&P unit could review it. Mr. Nixon stated he would inquire with them. Mr. Pattee noted that with the current membranes, the Layne testing had problems. Ms. McPherson noted that grit removal is key. Mr. Nixon agreed and stated that the current grit will be removed prior to the new membranes being installed. Mr. Klump asked how the grit is removed and Mr. Cilo referred to Mr. Pattee’s earlier comment on grit removal mechanisms. Mr. Nixon stated a heavy-duty vac truck is used. He adds that the system Mr. Pattee was talking about is typical in much larger plants. For the current plant, about twelve to eighteen inches of grit has accumulated since 2007. The commissioners discussed other parts of the system needed to prepare for the membrane installation including the level indicator and pressure transmitter.

Mr. Nixon stated that the additional quote in the packet from The Hartford Electric Supply Company is for spare PLC modules to have on the shelf (in inventory). While these parts are critical, they are not immediate. Commissioners decided to hold off on this purchase now.

Ms. Atamian noted that we are entering the “budget season” and commented that we are again several months behind in reimbursable billing. Ms. Atamian asked Mr. Nixon to get Veolia billing up to date on invoicing, or at least provide a table of anticipated reimbursable charges.

Ms. Atamian states that a draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was included in the meeting packet and requests that all commissioners read and review it. The commissioners discussed what level of specs would be needed for the RFQ. Ms. McPherson stated that very granular details would not be necessary, but rather details on the scale and size of the plant would be useful. Mr. Klump asked why respondents would put costs in a separate sealed envelope. Ms. McPherson stated that is a US EPA procedure and ensures that the decision on finalists is based on those best qualified. Further, she states it is in our best interest to follow the EPA requirements for future funding requests per the Clean Water Act. The commissioners discussed further details of the RFQ and bill processes. Ms. Atamian stated that we will update and finalize the RFQ at the next meeting.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF 2024 MEETING DATES

Ms. Atamian presented the proposed 2024 meeting dates (as listed below).

January 17, 2024

February 21, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 17, 2024

May 15, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

The June meeting date is on the new Federal holiday of Juneteenth. The holiday has not been adopted by all employers yet, and this date could be changed if needed.

MOTION: Mr. Pattee moved to accept the 2024 meeting dates as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilo and the motion was carried unanimously.

Jeremy Nixon of Veolia left the meeting at 8:34pm.

ITEM 4: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON INVOICES AND FINANCIAL STATUS

BILLS TO BE PAID- November 2023

Vendor	Invoice Date	Inv NO	Date Rec'd	Amt Due	Account
Airgas	10/31/2023	5502954258	11/9/2023	\$ 51.96	92-5540
Aquarion	10/19/2023	200280747	10/25/2023	\$ 208.44	92-5601
Eversource	11/2/2023	51524634029	11/13/2023	\$ 4,515.95	92-5350
Frontier	11/9/2023	100302-2	11/14/2023	\$ 351.78	92-5260
J Mulvaney Plumbing & Heating	11/2/2023	562136-2	11/9/2023	\$ 1,159.50	92-5480
Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling	11/1/2023	2490288	11/9/2023	\$ 155.09	92-5240
Veolia Monthly- October 2023	10/1/2023	9000118342	10/12/2023	\$ 31,384.32	92-5220

\$ 37,827.04

Ms. Atamian reviewed the bills to be paid. She noted that after all bills are paid, the account balance would be approximately \$121,000. Mr. Klump asked why there is no bill for Veolia Reimbursibles. Ms. Atamian explained that Veolia Reimbursibles for August, September, and October of 2023 still have not been received. The commissioners discussed the ongoing problem with Veolia submitting their reimbursibles to us in a timely manner. The “Veolia Monthly” is the contractual monthly fee we pay to Veolia for operating the plant. The “Veolia Reimbursibles” is for other items, e.g., outside vendor fees, parts. Ms. Atamian notes that Veolia’s billing system has been problematic for quite a while.

MOTION: Mr. Klump moved to approve the list of invoices and bills to be paid totaling \$37,827.04. The motion was seconded by Ms. McPherson and the motion was carried unanimously.

Item 5: COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Pattee asks for a discussion on the WestCOG scope for the sewer study. Ms. Atamian discussed the scope and questions including sewer demand in Georgetown and the proposed Branchville needs and volumes. Mr. Pattee noted that the capacity needed for the Gilbert and Bennett mill site is incorrectly listed as 135,000 gallons per day instead of the correct 170,000. Mr. Pattee raised concerns that the document states that only WestCOG receive the proposals, and not the two towns (Ridgefield and Redding). Ms. Atamian stated that we will see copies of the proposals and discussed the selection committee, and how they will be posted. Regarding expansion at the current plant, Mr. Pattee notes that expansion would be difficult given the current size of the plant location. Mr. Cilo inquired about the routing path for pipe from Branchville to the plant. Ms. Atamian noted she was able to add into the scope the effect of the Branchville development on potential flooding in Georgetown. The new proposed Federal flood maps show much of the mill in the floodway. Mr. Cilo proposes that Ms. Atamian send the scope to all commissioners and table these issues until the next meeting.

Item 6: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Item 7: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Cilo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. McPherson and the motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

Submitted by
Janet August, Recording Secretary