

APPROVED

7/5/22

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM
155 JOHN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot; Electric Division General Manager Tony Buccheri, Electric Division Business Office Manager Marianne Dill; WED Energy Conservation and Efficiency Specialist Don Mauritz; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake; and Recording Secretary Bernadette Sorbo.

Absent – None

Members of the public – None

Mr. Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., and the pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider and approve Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2022

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Made by: Mr. Birney

Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold

Votes: 3 ayes

3. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

42 **4. Discussion and Action: Approval of Director's Report for the Month of May,**
43 **2022**
44

45 Mr. Rinebold questioned Mr. Hendershot about the conversation with the First Selectman of East
46 Haddam?

47
48 Mr. Hendershot stated Mrs. Haines was very interested and appreciative of Mr. Hendershot's
49 time. Mr. Hendershot has not heard back since that discussion.

50
51 Mr. Rinebold praised and thanked the Electric Division for harvesting and reusing the
52 transformers rather than scrapping them.

53
54 Mr. Rinebold questioned how far off were the bids for the Turnpike Road Sewer Main project?
55 What is the flexibility for timing?

56
57 Mr. Amwake stated that there is flexibility for timing. The project was put out into the market
58 and the bids that came in were high. As a fiduciary of the rate payer's money, this was not a
59 good use of the ratepayer's monies. The systems currently work and this project is a betterment.

60
61 There was a discussion in regards to the hiring process and the timing of getting the vacancies
62 filled.

63
64 Mr. Birney requested an update regarding the Allnex PV and battery?

65
66 Mr. Hendershot stated that the concept is advancing June 22, 2022. Mr. Hendershot, Mr.
67 Buccheri and the Electric Division Chief Engineer will have a phone conference with John Coyle
68 of Duncan Allen to review the term sheet. Mr. Hendershot will provide an update, if any.

69
70 Mr. Birney requested more information in regards to the dam inspections.

71
72 Mr. Amwake stated that there is a regulatory dam inspection every two years for the Class C
73 dams. Class C dams are the highest rated dams in Connecticut. Wallingford's Class C dams are
74 Mackenzie, Ulbrich and Pistapaug reservoir dams. These dams are rated the highest because if
75 they suddenly collapse, there may be loss of life and structure damage. The Water Division has
76 bid this out for the next two cycles. The current bid is for calendar year 2022 as well as calendar
77 year 2024. There are also quarterly inspections done on the dams from in-house staff. The staff
78 is looking for animal borroughs, new seepage and trees/shrubs within 25 feet of the embankment.

79
80 Mr. Birney questioned what is the purpose of the monthly smart charge data?

81
82 Mr. Hendershot stated that he met with Mr. Mauritz, WED's Energy Conservation and
83 Efficiency Specialist to speak about the program. The vendor that WED contracted to procure
84 the devices and develop the data is getting out of the business and transferring to another service
85 provider. Mr. Mauritz has a list of items to go over with the two firms to ensure the transfer is
86 seamless. The charging patterns are showing that the customers who own these vehicles are

87 level and spread throughout the day. Mr. Hendershot referenced Item No. 4-22 and pointed out
88 that the highest times of charging are from 8:30 PM to early mornings.

89

90 **Motion to Approve the Director's Report for the month of May, 2022**

91

92 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

93 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

94 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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98 **Public Question and Answer Period**

99

100 No members of the public present

101

102 **Public Question and Answer Period Closed**

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5. Discussion: WPCF Upgrades Project

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108 Mr. Amwake updated the Commission on the construction of the WPCF Upgrades Project.

109

110 The Anaerobic Basin, optimization of the flow pattern through the AB continues.

111

112 At the Intermediate Pump Station, the IPS pumps are operating on the former control logic. The
113 next step is to incorporate the permanent pump control logic into the SCADA software.

114

115 At the Secondary Settling Tanks, demolition and installation of new scum skimmers in
116 Secondary Settling Tanks 3 and 4 (SST 3&4) is complete. Demolition and installation of new
117 scum skimmers in Secondary Settling Tanks 1 and 2 (SST 1&2) is ongoing. Installation of the
118 effluent launders for all six SSTs is complete. Return activated sludge (RAS) Phase 2 pump and
119 piping work is complete for SSTs 3 and 4. The Contractor is currently performing Phase 3 of the
120 RAS pump and piping work for SSTs 1 and 2.

121

122 At the Secondary Pump Station, optimization of the pump on/off cycling in response to the
123 influent flowrate to the SPS continues.

124

125 At the Tertiary Phosphorous Building, the Kruger Actiflo tertiary phosphorus treatment system is
126 online and operational. Optimization of the individual equipment and chemical dosages
127 associated with the tertiary phosphorus treatment process continues, along with optimization of
128 each treatment train as a complete unit, continues, particularly focusing on the polymer pump
129 flowrate and dosage.

130

131 At the UV Disinfection/Post Aeration Building, the UV disinfection system is operational and
132 staff continues to monitor and adjust the system settings per experienced flowrates.

133
134 For Site Work, the Contractor has completed installation of the exterior light foundations and
135 light poles. The Contractor has completed installation of roadway top course of pavement
136 throughout the site. Curbing has been installed. Installation of permanent perimeter fencing is
137 complete. Topsoil and seed, or stone has been placed in the areas around and adjacent to the AB,
138 SSTs, SPS and UV/PA.

139
140 Construction Contract Payment Applications – C. H. Nickerson
141 Original Contract Sum \$45,507,000.00
142 Net Change by Change Orders \$179,590.33 (No Change this Month)
143 Contract Sum to Date \$45,686,590.33 As of May 15, 2022

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145
146 Construction Contract Schedule
147 Original Completion Date February 10, 2022
148 Net Change Schedule Days 193 (No Change this Month)
149 Contract Completion Date August 22, 2022 As of May 15, 2022

150
151 Mr. Birney requested more information in regards to the change order that has not hit C.H.
152 Nickerson's invoice.

153
154 Mr. Amwake stated that the invoice was sent over to DEEP to review and had a value of
155 \$90,377. The changer order tracking spreadsheet is showing around approximately 0.75%of
156 original contract value for change orders approved or in process.

157
158 Mr. Birney stated that the PUC toured the WPCF on June 21, 2022 and is impressed with the
159 way it has been completed since the last inspection in December 2021. Mr. Birney thanked Mr.
160 Amwake for keeping the PUC apprised. Mr. Birney encouraged Mr. Amwake to invite the Town
161 Council to tour the WPCF if he hasn't done so already.

162
163 Mr. Amwake stated that the Town Council tours the facility semi-annually in January and July.
164 The PUC tours the facility the last month of the quarter.

165
166 Mr. Beaumont thanked Mr. Amwake for the tour.

167
168 **6. Discussion: PCA Adjustment**

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170 Mr. Buccheri referenced the memo dated June 15, 2022 from WED Business Office Manager
171 Marianne Dill to WED GM Tony Buccheri discussing the PCA and the WED's Rate 12 Power
172 Adjustment Clause. The WED reviews this every six months by taking a look at the PCA's
173 previous periods and determining if there are any over or under collection from Wallingford's
174 customers. This is then incorporated into the PCA's calculation. Mr. Buccheri noted that there
175 is a slight increase in the PCA. The impact of this increase of the PCA will result in an
176 additional \$1.43 per month in the cost of electricity for the typical Residential customer using
177 750/kWh per month. As this change is less than \$0.005/kWh (less than one-half cent per kWh),
178 the PUC may not alter this new value. The memos are for informational purposes.

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No Action Taken

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Bid Waiver Request- FY 2022-2023 – TRC Companies, Inc.

Mr. Buccheri stated that WED used a company in the past called Clear Results Consulting. Clear Results Consulting was a vendor on the WED’s bid waiver list and they supported all of the lighting programs for light bulbs within local retailers. In 2022, Clear Results Consulting was procured by Lockheed Martin. Mr. Buccheri suggested pulling Clear Results Consulting off of the list as the WED was not receiving any calls back or support. Lockheed Martin has sold off this portion of the business to TRC Companies, Inc. TRC Companies, Inc. is now the leader in the area that provide these services. This will allow the WED to better spend the money they are collecting on these programs. Mr. Buccheri is requesting the PUC make a motion to endorse this request.

Motion to Approve the Bid Waiver Request for reasons noted in memo dated June 16, 2022, and for the reasons stated on record

Made by: Mr. Birney
Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold
Votes: 3 ayes

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget Amendment – Purchased Power Cost

Mr. Hendershot referenced the memo dated June 15, 2022, from WED Business Office Manager Marianne Dill to WED General Manager Tony Buccheri regarding the Budget Amendment. In this memo, Ms. Dill describes the need for a transfer of funds, in the amount of \$3,600,000, from the WED’s retained earnings into WED Account 555, Other Power Supply Expenses, Purchased Power. In her memo, Ms. Dill notes two primary reasons for this needed transfer.

- Increased payments to ISO-NE for wholesale electric products associated with Nucor CT Steel (Nucor)
- Higher than budgeted costs for the unhedged portion of the WED’s monthly power supply requirements

All Nucor costs are reimbursed to the WED via regular monthly billing, but these payments are booked as revenue and do not directly replenish funds allocated to Account 555. Also, all WED wholesale energy costs are reimbursed to the Division via regular monthly payments from customers, but again, retail revenues associated with wholesale power expenses flow into the Division’s revenue accounts, and not into Account 555. For these reasons, the Division requires that the amount budgeted in Account 555 be increased so that the Division can adequately pay its anticipated June ISO-NE Settlement charges.

225 Ms. Dill stated that the WED's minimum cash requirement is \$23,000,000.00 and the WED
226 currently has about \$29,000,000.00. This gave the WED an excess of about \$5,500,000.00 as of
227 March 31, 2022.

228
229 Mr. Birney questioned what does the WED have in security for Nucor?
230

231 Mr. Hendershot stated that WED has a surety bond of \$835,984.00 which is calculated off of the
232 three highest consecutive months at the time.

233
234 Mr. Birney questioned what the lag time is from when WED invoices to when WED gets paid?
235

236 Ms. Dill stated WED invoices every 30 days and Nucor typically pays within 21-24 days. They
237 have never received a penalty in the past four years.

238
239 **Motion to Amend the Budget**

240 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

241 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

242 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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246 **Correspondence/Committee Reports**

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248 Mr. Birney stated that the march for the WED at the parade was very enjoyable. Mr. Birney
249 thanked everyone who attended the parade for the WED.

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253 **9. Executive Session pursuant to State of Connecticut General Statutes §1-**
254 **200(6)(A), §1-210(b)(2), and §1-225(f) to discuss the evaluation and performance**
255 **of the Director of Public Utilities.**

256

257 **Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. pursuant to State of**
258 **Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6)(A), §1-210(b)(2), and §1-225(f) to discuss the**
259 **evaluation and performance of the Director of Public Utilities.**

260

261 **Made by: Mr. Birney**

262 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**

263 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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265 **Attendance at Executive Session:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick
266 Birney and Joel Rinebold; Director Richard Hendershot

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268 Time of Executive Session: 7:50 p.m. – 8:08 p.m.

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271 **10. Discussion and Action: Waive Article I, Section I – Evaluation and Performance**
272 **of the Director of Public Utilities**

273
274 **Motion to Waive Article I, Section I and add the above referenced endorsement to the**
275 **agenda**

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277 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
278 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
279 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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283 **11. Discussion and Action: Evaluation and Performance of the Director of Public**
284 **Utilities**

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286 **Motion to Approve Updated Employment Agreement for the Director of Public Utilities**

287
288 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
289 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
290 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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292 **ADJOURNMENT**

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294 **Motion to Adjourn**

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296 **Made by: Mr. Birney**
297 **Seconded by: Mr. Rinebold**
298 **Votes: 3 ayes**

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300 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:17 p.m.

301
302 Respectfully submitted,

303 *Michelle Brascale for*

304
305 Bernadette Sorbo

306
307 Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Rinebold /mb

Joel Rinebold

Secretary