



# Water Pollution Control Authority

## PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 18, 2025

### MINUTES

#### PUBLIC HEARING

**Members Present:** Dan Parisi (Chairman), Shawn Koehler, Paul Gilbert, Tom Walker

**Members Absent:** Aaron Foster

**Others Present:** Tom Modzelewski (WPCA Admin), Phil Kidney (WPCA Crew Chief), Marshall Gaston (F&O), Kevin Flood (F&O), 19 Town Residents

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman, Dan Parisi called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00p.m. and read the attached legal notice and hearing guidelines into record.

#### 2. Public Hearing

The following residents made comments, and discussion was had explaining the proposed code revisions and sewer user fees to begin for the October 2025 billing.

##### **In Person:**

- Irene Lagasse, 14 Pinney St. Unit 21
- Mike Vengruskas, 14 Green St.
- James Whitesell, 30 Aborn Rd.
- Joe Burns, 228 Windsorville Rd. & 8 East Shore Dr.
- Yolanda Armelin, 20 Aborn Rd.
- Jerin Russell, 19 Sandy Beach Rd.
- Nancy Franklin, 19 Sandy Beach Rd.
- Henry Karas, 23 Aborn Rd.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR 15 MINUTES.**

Further comments were heard from:

- Robert Burns, 8 East Shore Dr.
- Duane VanDeventer, 9 Azalea Ln.
- Mary Coltori, 3 Crystal Ridge Dr.

**Via Zoom:** None

#### 3. Close the Public Hearing

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE CODE REVISION AND SEWER USER FEE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:50 PM.**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ELLINGTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
CODE REVISION  
AND  
PROPOSED SEWER USER CHARGE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 7:255, that the Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a Public Hearing on June 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, located at 55 Street, Ellington, Connecticut for the purpose of hearing comments by property owners concerning the sewer code revision and proposed sewer user charges to be assessed upon owners permitted to connect to the sewer system. At the hearing, the owner of each property against which charges are to be levied shall have the opportunity to be heard. All charges shall be in accordance with the Sewer Use Charge System Code.

**Hockanum Sewer System**

Hockanum annual fixed fees (all users)	\$268.00
Hockanum annual variable fees (well users)	\$422.00
Hockanum price per 1000 gallons of water (CT Water Users)	\$8.4385

**Crystal Lake Sewer System**

Crystal Lake annual fixed fees (all users)	\$276.00
Crystal Lake annual variable fees (full-year users)	\$802.00
Crystal Lake annual variable fees (seasonal users)	\$535.00

Said charges will be effective October 1, 2025.

Tom Modzelewski, Administrator  
Water Pollution Control Authority

### **Suggested Rules for Public Participation**

- The public hearing will be limited to 30 minutes unless voted to extend by the Ellington Board of WPCA.
- This is an opportunity for public comment. This is not intended to be a question-and-answer session.
- Address the issue, do not address specific people.
- Refrain from personal attacks.
- Approach microphone state name and address.
- We will allow all room participants to speak first and then allow ZOOM participants to speak.
- Comments will be limited to 3 mins per person.
- If you wish to speak again, you will be recognized after all others have had their first opportunity.
- Be respectful of other speakers.

Thank you for coming out tonight and participating.



## Water Pollution Control Authority

### PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 18, 2025

MINUTES

#### REGULAR MEETING

**Members Present:** Dan Parisi (Chairman), Shawn Koehler, Paul Gilbert, Tom Walker

**Members Absent:** Aaron Foster

**Others Present:** Tom Modzelewski (WPCA Admin), Phil Kidney (WPCA Crew Chief), Marshall Gaston (F&O), Kevin Flood (F&O), Robert Urso & Brad Wainman (UW Realty VII, LLC), Dave Ziaks (F.A. Hesketh & Associated, Inc.), Rob Grasis (Vernon WPCA)

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman, Dan Parisi called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m.

#### 2. Citizen's Forum (non-agenda items)

None

#### 3. Approval of May 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2025, REGULAR MEETING.**

#### 4. Old Business

##### 1. Cider Mill – Single Family

Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) updated that this property began work to connect to the sanitary sewer system today (6/18/2025) and work should be completed by 6/19/2025.

##### 2. Development of parcel 046-003-0002

No updates.

##### 3. 7 Hilltop Dr. Extension Easement

No updates.

#### 5. New Business

##### 1. Approval of Code Revisions

Paul (Member) asked Tom M. (WPCA Admin) if the reference to the 1998 Facilities Plan in section 330-4 G should be updated to reference the newer sewershed flow allocation tool as it was developed to update the **1998 plan**.

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Tom M. stated that he included the language “or most recent addition” making it so the code did not need to be updated every time a new edition was made.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE ELLINGTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY REVISION OF THE SEWER CODE, CHAPTERS 143, 305, 320, 325, AND 330, AS PRESENTED IN THE REDLINED DOCUMENT.**

## **2. User Fees Hockanum**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR HOCKANUM SEWER USER FEES, STARTING ON THE OCTOBER 1ST 2025 BILLING AS: ANNUAL FIXED FEES (ALL USERS) \$268.00, ANNUAL VARIABLE FEES (WELL USERS) \$422.00, PRICE PER 1,000 GALLONS (CT WATER USERS) \$8.4385.**

## **3. User Fees Crystal Lake**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR CRYSTAL LAKE SEWER USER FEES, STARTING ON THE OCTOBER 1ST 2025 BILLING AS: ANNUAL FIXED FEES (ALL USERS) \$276.00, ANNUAL VARIABLE FEES (FULL YEAR USERS) \$802.00, ANNUAL VARIABLE FEES (SEASONAL USERS) \$535.00.**

## **4. 79 Windermere Ave. & 14 Village St. Parcels**

David Ziaks, F.A. Hesketh & Associates Inc., presented plans to merge the properties of 79 Windemere & 14 Village St. Parcels. The Barn Yard is planning to build an 11,000 sqft building and the rest of the site will be open storage. There is currently no allocation for 79 Windermere Ave. property. They are requesting 1,164.2 GPD. 14 Village Ave. has a current allocation of 64 GPD.

Tom M. informed that in the approved sewer expansion that includes Oakridge Dairy has an allocation of 25,000+ GPD and Oakridge has not decided to hook up to sanitary sewer. Leaving some room to allocate some of these 25,000+ gallons elsewhere if needed.

Paul (Member) would like to have a discussion at the next meeting regarding what is left for capacity.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE 1,100 GAL/DAY FOR 79 WINDERMERE AVE. UPON COMBINATION OF 79 WINDERMERE AVE. AND 14 VILLAGE ST. 64 GPD WILL BE ADDED FOR A TOTAL OF 1,164 GPD.**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SANITARY SEWER CONNECTION AS PROVIDED IN THE DRAWINGS DATED MAY 15, 2025, CONTINGENT ON FUSS & O'NEILL COMMENT AND APPROVAL.**

## **5. 100 West Rd. Unit 3 Refund**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) presented a refund form provided by the Tax & Revenue Collectors office. Overpayment of \$150.00 was received.

**MOVED (GILBERT) SCONEDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE A REFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150.00 DUE TO AN OVERPAYMENT FOR 100 WEST RD. UNIT 3.**

## **6. Proposed Changes to the Vernon/Ellington Intermunicipal Agreement**

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Tom M. (WPCA Admin) presented comment from the Town Attorney regarding the proposed changes to the Agreement. The new agreement would change how Vernon currently bills Ellington. Currently we are billed based off of CT Water meter readings, the proposed agreement will move to bill based off of metered flow from the pump station to the treatment plant. Rob Grasis (Vernon WPCA) was present to answer any questions.

The agreement with Tom's and the Town Attorney's comments will be sent to Vernon for their Attorney's review.

Paul (Member) made comment that he feels Ellington should have a seat on Vernon's WPCA Board, Rob commented that it would require a Town Charter revision.

## **7. 53 Wappingwood Rd. Sewer Expansion**

Brad Wainman, UW Realty VII, LLC., presented a plan for developing the parcel to a 55+ active adult condominium community. They are requesting that the Ellington sewer district be expanded to encompass this area and to receive a flow allocation of 22,800 GPD.

It was stated that the pump station and infrastructure would be privately maintained.

Due to the need for expansion and large allocation, the Board has asked Fuss & O'Neill to review. This item will remain on the agenda for July.

## **8. Task 16**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) presented the proposed task from F&O. This task is for data transcription services to take the 1998 Facility plan that is currently only available in print and digitalize approximately 32 sewershed data sheets making the data more easily accessible and provide ability to update.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE FUSS & O'NEILL TASK 16 FOR DATA TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,650.00.**

## **6. Administrative**

### **1. Fuss & O'Neill project updates**

- i. Vernon Pump Station**
  - a) Pay Requisition 19**

Kevin (F&O) reviewed the work that was completed.

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT FOR THE VERNON PUMP STATION UPGRADE TO THE ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR APPLICATION #19, INVOICE 23105-15 FOR WORK COMPLETED THROUGH APRIL 30, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,518.31, CONTINGENT ON FUSS & O'NEILL RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF THE MISSING CERTIFIED PAYROLLS.**

### **b) Schedule**

Kevin (F&O) reviewed the remaining punch list item. Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) noted that a fair amount of cleaning took place today (6/18/2025) and that site restoration still needs completing. Paul (Member) would like the item he made comments during the site visit regarding missing conduit fittings to be added to the punch list.

Kevin mentioned that the paving has been completed but the compaction rating was specified to be 95% and it is only receiving a rating between 92% and 94%. Tom M. (WPCA Admin) has requested that F&O get a statement from the engineer approving this percentage.

Phil mentioned the need for some spare parts. While no one thinks a spare pump is necessary the Board has agreed that spare relays are important. It was decided to see if there are any remaining funds at the end of the project before ordering. Phil to complete a list of items needed with pricing.

It was also brought up that more labeling would be helpful in the panels and on some equipment within the pump station.

**c) 6/10/2025 VPS Site Visit/Progress Meeting**

Kevin (F&O) reviewed the items discussed in the progress meeting.

**d) Change Orders**

Discussion was held regarding the 2 open change orders. One is for electrical changes on the explosion proof fan. Kevin stated he is still waiting for some clarification on the wiring inside the unit, he does not believe it is explosion proof.

The second change is for the MAU unit. F&O conducted an investigation on the MAU unit which found that the unit heater is not working correctly. The analysis was done under line and generator power, and the same issues were happening.

Both Change orders are on hold until further information is available.

**e) Wet Well Wizard**

Tom M. (PCA Admin) provided that this has been installed and no matting is happening. The red air hoses that go down the wall are temporary/permanent installed. One the unit runs for a while, and it is determined it is in the best location; the hoses will be secured permanently.

**f.) Substantial Completion Notice**

Tom M. (WPCA) presented the substantial completion notice that has been issued to The Associated Construction Company on 4/21/2025 and explained that the contract states that substantial completion is reached when the Pump Station is online and functioning, regardless of if there are open punch list items, and that the engineers determine this, not the Board or Himself.

**g) Expenditure Update**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) presented an update on funds spent via ARPA versus WPCA. He also stated that due to the WPCA returning \$500,000 to ARPA, if any funds are returned from other projects, they will be given back to the Vernon Pump Station project.

Kevin (F&O) disclosed that The Associated

**ii. Task 4D I&I Phase 4**

On hold until the legal ROW is obtained and more work is scheduled.

**iii. Task 4E I&I Phase 5**

Marshall (F&O) sent a report, there is still not enough rain to change the flow. A ½” rainfall is needed. Phil to send Marshal pumping data.

**iv. Task 15 Windermere Ave. Sewer Extension**

Marshall (F&O) commented that this task is moving a bit slow and that J.R. Russo is in the process of making cold calls to be granted access into homes.

**v. Task 18 Crystal Lake Force Main Sampling**

Marshall (F&O) provided a tentative start date of 7/2/2025, both Tom M. (WPCA Admin) and Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) confirmed that the date works for them.

**7. Fuss & O'Neill Billing**

The billing for April was reviewed.

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0272511 FOR WORK FROM, APRIL 26, 2025, THROUGH MAY 23, 2025, FOR TASK 3C FOR A TOTAL OF \$16,855.90**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0272513 FOR WORK FROM, APRIL 26, 2025, THROUGH MAY 23, 2025, FOR TASK 4E FOR A TOTAL OF \$139.50**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0272525 FOR WORK FROM, APRIL 26, 2025, THROUGH MAY 23, 2025, FOR TASK 12 FOR A TOTAL OF \$330.25.**

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0272541 FOR WORK FROM, APRIL 26, 2025, THROUGH MAY 23, 2025, FOR TASK 15 FOR A TOTAL OF \$826.03**

**8. Other Administrative Topics**

**1. Budget**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) presented a quote for the new crane truck that was budgeted for in the next fiscal year 2025-2026. Considering the budget had passed after this evening's Public Hearing, he will issue a letter of intent to purchase to get the process moving forward as the truck will not be complete until the spring of 2026. He will issue a PO for this purchase post July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tom M. also provided information on a possible new billing structure he is working on for sewer user fees. He is investigating billing based on the square footage of homes rather than meter readings.

**2. User Insurance**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) stated he finally heard back from Homserve regarding concerns that they left out some initially promised items. He did not get the answers he needed and is waiting for further communication.

**3. Generator Quotes/Valve Pit Repairs**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) updated that the installation of the new generator for Ketchbrook Pump station will begin on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Tom M. also presented quotes for manual transfer switches for the generators at Meadowbrook and Route 140 Pump Stations.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO THE MAUNAL TRANSFER SWITCH DOCKING STATION TO BE INSTALLED AT THE MEADOWBROOK STATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER \) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO THE MAUNAL TRANSFER SWITCH DOCKING STATION TO BE INSTALLED AT THE ROUTE 140 PUMP STATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.**

#### **4. Asset Management Proposal**

No update.

### **9. Design, Construction & Maintenance Reports**

#### **1. Pump Station Updates**

Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) stated that there have been H<sub>2</sub>S problems at the Vernon Pump Station. He believes the problems come from Country Pure Foods and he is in contact with Evoqua to dose more chemical. He stated he has to have the LEL sensor recalibrated due to the high levels of H<sub>2</sub>S.

#### **2. Overtime Report**

Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) reported Sam Hubbard had 3 hours of double time for a grinder pump call on Memorial Day.

#### **3. Other**

Phil reported that the epoxy coating that was completed on one of the manholes on route 140 by the Stafford line is failing.

During the meeting it was researched that the work was completed in the Spring of 2023 and may not be under warranty.

### **10. Misc. Communications**

None

#### **Adjournment**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AT 8:35 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:



Carolyn Kidney, Administrative Assistant II, DPW