

## Sharon Standing Building Committee

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

### SSBC Members – DPW GWTP Selection Committee

Gordon Gladstone -present	Mike B. Martin -present	Rick Rice-present
Matt Grosshandler, Chair -present	Marty Richards -present	Colleen Tuck -present
Matt Baldassari-present	Roger Thibault-present	Sara Winthrop -present
Deb Benjamin, Vice Chair -absent	Eric Hooper – DPW rep. -present	

The SSBC members and Eric Hooper as DPW representative make up the SSBC Selection Committee for the GWTP project.

Tim Chouinard – DPW attended as well.

### Open the meeting

The Chair noted that the meeting was being held remotely consistent with MA laws. There will be no public comment this evening. The meeting opened at 6:41 PM.

### DPW -- PFAS Treatment Project

Meeting held to conduct interviews for the GWTP OPMs. Three candidates included: Tighe & Bond; Weston and Sampson, and Wright-Pierce. All members were present for discussion on process for conducting these interviews during the October 17, 2023, SSBC meeting.

### Tighe & Bond Interview:

Presenting: Ben Levesque, PE Chris Grillo, PE senior project manager, Tom Mahanna, PE, Technical Director

Reviewed project team. NE based firm with full-service capabilities. Mr. Leveck is PM for Easton PFAS plant.

Currently completing startup in Littleton 1.8M gallon per day facility. Project evolved with addition of PFAS treatment need and it was one of the first facilities in MA providing iron, manganese and PFAS treatment. They said currently designing two plants in town of Webster and one in Westfield.

Tighe Bond was successful getting SRF funding for some of these projects.

Staff had great connection with Jim McGloughlin, DEP. Projects trigger Chapter 149 process, Tighe & Bond familiar with process.

Just over 500 people through 15 offices. Response to Question # 3 specific to design phase and may change for construction phase.

Mr. Grillo reviewed Town of Bridgewater treatment plan project for the committee members.

Regarding technical review process, they would want to start with an internal constructability review, using their in-house services to support the effort. At 90% milestone review they would see themselves

making sure anything major was addressed before going out to bid.

Key things they looked at were construction sequencing and trimming schedule. They were seeing long lead items on every project. Filter vessels have had a 40- to 50-week lead time from approval. Even though design consulting was not primary role they would reinforce things as needed.

Presenters explained that they resolved a water treatment plant problem for E coli contamination in Littleton by utilizing an existing transmission main that initially just transmitted water to pump contact time for disinfection requirements. They worked with DEP to make this happen. This gave the town use of the well for one year while the second was being completed.

### **7:21PM – Q/A Summary Tighe & Bond**

Mr. Grillo's last project as OPM was a few years ago. A lot of his work was design, like PFAS project in Foxboro. Will see Ben 60 % of the time and then field personnel or tech expertise. Weekly commitment anticipated by Mr. Grillo is an 8- hour week at most for construction phase. If there is conflict resolution that they are involved could be more hours.

Regarding prequal, the general contractor would own all the filter equipment and process piping for this project.

Regarding time commitment of key staff outlined on slide #8 role to define what each person's role is. There was a scope of services for this but not contract negotiations, they would want to talk to the SSBC about whether a role for full-time observation is useful or redundant. They have done it both ways. Mr. Levesque offered details of support staff function at 15% for Steve Rafferty, Derek Belanger, etc.

Mr. Grillo would be onsite or office 60% commitment to the project. Office primarily Mr. Grillo said. Mr. Gladstone asked for clarification on who does what and when. Who is team in construction? Mr. Grillo is overall PM. David Press could be onsite in role of Construction Observer and how many hours was something to discuss.

Mr. Hooper, Superintendent of DPW, asked how would you address PFAS and nitrate polishing down to nothing with the current design engineer? Mr. Mahanna said they would have a design workshop, and they would bring in additional treatment experts to talk through approaches and issues to see what would make the most sense for the town moving forward so you do not have to redo it, redo it in design where it is at now. This would be a key time for Mr. Mahanna to hear back from your consultant about how that could be incorporated and what the expected results would be. Look at the cost/benefit and finished water quality.

### **7:35 PM – Tighe and Bond Concluded**

### **7:46 PM -- Weston & Sampson Interview**

Presenting: Leah Stanton, PE principal-in-charge for the project; Margaret McCarthy, PE Project Director and Allie Goldberg, PE Project Manager; Joe Rocarro Schematic Design/Design Development; Jeffrey Hutton, PE, Senior Construction Manager for this project.

Weston & Sampson is an east coast firm with three companies: have 500 engineers; Construction, Maintenance, and Repair about another 100 staff; and Services Division that includes licensed operators that do systems operations. Use this experience to make better projects for their clients

Ms. Stanton was involved in a cataloging of records for Town of Sharon in 2010. They were building a lot of iron and manganese removal followed by PFAS right now. OPM experience in the Transportation realm and wastewater OPM experience, regarding PFAS have two projects currently (Woburn and Concord).

Ms. Hutton shared multiple projects Weston & Sampson had done to get communities into compliance.

Pride themselves on collaborative relationship with state and local regulators, understanding paperwork, communication, and being agile.

They are agile with procurement. Will look at bid alternates, pre-purchasing for long procurement items. Working with the cost estimator they can watch changes in the market as well.

Discussed procurement of construction contracts, they noted that many projects like this were out to bid, so may be more difficult to find a contractor. They have found benefits working with outside cost assessors.

Once under construction the Resident Representation is the liaison between owner, contractor, designer, and abutters and provides site observation and conflict resolution.

Challenges were listed including lead time of equipment, number of bidders, regulatory environment and EPA coming down with their final rules, residuals management, follow up after starting up, understanding potential future contaminants and addressing that, SRF review and technical review and how all the permitting will play into overall schedule.

## **8:17 PM -- Q/A Summary Weston & Sampson**

Resident Rep. and Resident Inspector were the same and inhouse rep James Coolen listed as 52% of team commitment. Cost estimation Kevel Associates used as out-sourced cost estimators. The vessels, generator depending on size, and instrumentation stuff could be procurement issues and consideration of pre-purchase needed. Ms. Stanton said Ms. Goldberg and she were based out of Reading, Mr. Hutton out of Rocky Hill CT and Ms. McCarthy was out of Portsmouth. Several people out of the Foxboro office were listed for this project as well.

Weston & Sampson CMR has bonded capacity up to \$30M, but they do not build or bid on projects the designers design. For design build they look a little different in their mind.

Knowing where drawings are now, Mr. Hutton said first step is hard review of drawings to try to push the design forward and with more detailed drawing set can raise more questions and comments. Then development and specifications become rule book looking forward. Ms. Stanton added that it was at

critical point to get a lot of eyes on project now.

Knowing that temporary emergency response currently used was working well, what are steps? Looking at 18 -- more likely 24 -- month timeline. Resin being used gives a little bit of luxury knowing that it does not need to be handled in an emergency fashion. If we have a little bit of lead time, Ms. Stanton recommended to package as much together into a GC bid as possible. Pull things out and it can get messy fast, especially with treatment and procurement. Can use ARPA funding for water mains since they needed to be used first.

Mr. Hooper said Town may be flexible with where ARPA funding goes.

RH White, Dapress, WBS, Winston Builders, Waterline, Methuen Constructors, Robert B. Hour, CH Nickerson were some potential bidders on list. Daniel O'Connor was on potable so much. A lot of these companies, if they land a big plant like this, do not have capacity for another one.

Mr. Coolen is currently working in Marion on WWTP. Most are full-time resident engineer with combo of utility and WWTP. Similar project started three months ago in Woburn, W&S came on when design was at 60%, which had challenges, and level of effort from Ms. Stanton and Ms. McCarthy is a few hours a week from their experience. Ms. Stanton clarified that Mr. Hutton is project manager for Woburn and Ms. Goldberg is potential project manager for Sharon project.

**8:31PM -- Weston & Sampson concluded**

**7:41 PM -- Wright-Pierce Interview**

Presenters: Rob Williamson, PE, Senior Project Manager; Tara Hourihan, PE, Project Manager; and Jim Cray, PE, PFAS Project Engineer joined starting up two PFAS facilities right now. He is a technical resource for Mr. Williamson and Ms. Hourihan.

Bid a lot of MA work per Mr. Williamson, so firm is familiar with bidding process. He would like to sit down and find out what town would like his role to be. They offer in-house technical support capabilities. All they do is water and wastewater municipal work and 85 to 90% of workload is repeat work, have pride in relationships.

Experience with WTP design, have 26 facilities online and 16 are Greensand Plus media pressure filters. They completed three treatment plants in Acton and are now in process of adding PFAS treatment to two of those. Involved in projects in Devens and Medway as well. Mr. Cray walked committee through Devens WTP project. Project involved bring two new and one upgraded system online with challenge of always keeping two sources online during construction. Burlington asked to bring PFAS to surface water treatment plant in 18 months. They designed project, piloted, and got DEP approval in 4 months. The only way they made Burlington project time framework was prepurchase of long lead time equipment. The project came in underbudget and went online this summer.

OPM Experience included Peabody MA and Middleborough MA. They came into Peabody after piloting of the system was completed. They served as OPM for elevated storage tank replacement project and a groundwater treatment project.

They have done more plants than most of the medium sized firms out there. Project out of Marlboro office, but Ms. Hourihan lives within 30 minutes. They have pride in offering creative solutions, not canned.

#### **9:05 PM -- Q/A Summary Wright-Pierce**

Ms. Hourihan has been with Wright Pierce just over a year. She held OPM role in Middleboro project, but she has been involved with construction of other treatment related projects. Resident engineer included on org chart but cannot pin them down not knowing when the project will start. When time came to put someone on the project W-P would bring 3-4 resumes of who is available for Town to choose.

Mr. Williamson said construction-wise looking at least two years with lead time of equipment. Electrical is tough to procure these days. They were having to provide longer times than they normally would with treatment plants. In old days, it took 15 -18 months. Mr. Cray said construction time may be two years but may have a period where they were not mobilizing because of long lead time items.

Mr. Williamson would want to dive into Environmental Partners design right away to check it from a technical perspective and make sure what they projected was what town expected. Getting comments addressed saves time and money on the backside.

Conflicts of interest were not a concern; there is so much work and nothing gained by being petty per Mr. Williamson.

Mr. Hooper said the three working on project from Environmental Partners were Adam Cran, Austin Pots, and Sarah Price; Lauren Underwood is doing water main work.

On Burlington project, W-P are going to the NWRA why PFAS? NWRA connection was for a long-term solution. Mill Pond Reservoir fills from a stressed basin, and they know the day is coming when they will not be able to use that source. It is a 30–50-year plan to migrate. They had 50-60 parts per trillion in the surface water supply.

Mr. Williamson discussed a Medway facility that had a process building with an admin wing and a garage for all the vehicles in the middle of a neighborhood-- houses are 100 feet away. Neighbors agreed it had to happen but were not thrilled. Wright Pierce involved them in the process. Tried to minimize impact during construction, locate generators in the back and added landscaping to buffer neighbors. Doing a storage tank replacement in Weston MA where tanks are too low, so Mr. Williamson said they outlined choices on sites for tanks with community and took them out and showed them sites, and a matrix combining feedback from community was prepared to present to their Select Board.

Mr. Hooper asked, with emergency treatment facilities in place in Sharon, how best to bid the project out? Pre-procurement still needed? Mr. Williamson said if there is a drop-dead date to have it done, work back from that date. Mr. Cray suggested need to consider funding deadlines because certain items need to be under contract on certain dates.

Ms. Hourihan's experience included one year with W-P and overall been in industry for 17 years including overseeing treatment plant construction, pump stations, chemical feed systems, sledge upgrades to a GreenSand treatment plant, backwash recovery tanks. She was the lead contact during construction on the previously listed items. She said her construction experience will make her successful in the OPM role and being the lead is very similar to OPM role.

Christine Catalini, PE with 11 years of experience at W-P is on chart with the most time allocated to her. Ms. Hourihan is Ms. Catalini's supervisor and said due to illness, Ms. Catalini is not present, but she had plenty of treatment plant experience and had worked successfully with Mr. Cray.

Mr. Williamson said the more experience the more it costs in the project, but more senior people can be part of negotiations.

Mr. Williamson looked to fold questions into experience through the presentation itself. Supply chain issues like monitoring cost trends through Covid were shared.

They do not typically outsource their estimating services. Medway project wanted it, and bro W-P brought in someone from outside (they did it independently and it was together with their numbers). W-P Engineers for each discipline do estimating themselves.

Mr. Cray had good experiences with directional drilling (horizontal drilling). One instance of having to overcome a problem: the bentonite percolated out of it, so they had to mitigate that. They thought they were deep enough. Success of directional drilling has everything to do with geotechnical work. They had probed along the route to a depth of 15 feet because it was for a water main going through swampy wetlands.

### **9:33 PM – Wright-Pearson concluded**

#### **Discussion on choosing Finalist and voting:**

Scoring -- Number one choice three points, second, two points, third gets one point. Highest score gets contract. DPW Rep, Eric Hooper, will have one vote, along with each committee member.

Member said nobody ran away with it and by the time it comes around his view could change.

Chair felt W&P did a very good job, but he was disappointed that Ms. Goldberg didn't speak more, so he would make it clear in contract negotiation that project manager needs to manage or they may need to understand how they define the role because Ms. McCarthy was more than capable and had OPM experience.

Chair asked committee for feedback or recommendations of what he would expect as a minimum from the OPM. Discussing scope of services, Mr. Rice suggested having Mr. Hooper involved in contract negotiation using clerk of works discussion as an example of where this was needed.

Chair noted Tighe and Bond front person had six years of tenure and when he looked up his resume on

linked in and he noted that the individual had a lot of short-term employment. Concern is how do they know his work? And this is a two-year project.

The question of directional drilling should have been asked of all three in retrospect. Member said Canton had bentonite percolation problem so talk to them too.

Chair ready to cast his vote if rest of committee is.

Number one gets three points, but we can choose to do it the other way. Committee agreed that scoring as previously set was confusing and moved to rate with golf scoring where top choice rated as a one and second choice as two and third choice as three. Chair repeated that number one choice would be number one and company with lowest total will be the chosen one.

Ms. Schustek filled in a matrix that reflected each committee members' selections. Weston and Sampson had the lowest score at 11, Wright-Pierce second with 21 and Tighe & Bond third with 28, so Weston and Sampson was selected.

**MOTION** by Mr. Gladstone to allow the chair to enter negotiation with Weston and Sampson for the Groundwater Treatment Plant project. Seconded by Richards. Unanimously approved 1-0-0.

Member asked if contract negotiations could be completed by October 31 meeting? They need to put together a fee schedule and a scope of services, so they should be on board as soon as possible. Mr. Rice suggested having Weston & Sampson review Environmental Partners documents subject to contract approval.

#### **A. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Chair made an omnibus motion to adjourn barring any objections. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.