

**Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday January 11, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.
Island City Park Preserve, Wilton Manors**

Voting Members Present:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director-Utilities
Rick Johnson, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution & Collections Systems Manager
Cole Copertino, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III
Hank Breitenkam, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors, Public Services Director

In Attendance:

Bob Mays, City of Wilton Manors, Finance Director
Tim O'Neil, CDM Smith, Inc.
Michel (Mike) Gagnon, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Treatment Acting Facilities
Manager
Susan LeSage, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administration
Alicia Sheffield, City of Fort Lauderdale / Accountant II
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Administrative Assistant I

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order to 1:35 p.m. Mr. Abi-Karam welcomed everyone and thanked City of Wilton Manors for hosting the meeting.

Introduction of Advisory Board Members and Guests

All attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of August 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Rick Johnson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 3, 2016. David Archacki seconded. The meeting minutes for the August 3, 2016 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant – Michele Gagnon

Construction Project Updates

- P11710 - The contractor (Florida Design Contractors, Inc. (FDC)) applied for a DSD building permit on October 31, 2016. FDC will be providing long lead equipment submittals while the permit is in review. It is anticipated that it will take 1 to 2 months to obtain the permit. As DSD continues to review the permit application, staff and the City's consultant will work to respond to permit comments immediately. Construction activities are anticipated to begin in January 2017, NTP will follow.
- P11773 - The bid opening was held on December 2, 2016. The City received three bids on the project. Engineering staff is currently reviewing the bids to determine the lowest and most responsive bidder. It is anticipated that the award recommendation will be going to commission for approval during the February 21, 2017 Commission meeting.

- FDEP has issued GTL's Operating Permit as of May 4th, 2016. Additionally, the Capacity Analysis Report and Renewal and Replacement report have been updated and provided to FDEP for acceptance.
- Project P12107 bid specs are being created by Public Works Engineering staff. This project will replace sludge truck scales in the dewatering building. The estimated cost of this project is \$188,000. Plans are being finalized to include H-20 grating in the areas where the approach and exit ramps, which were not included in the original design.

Mr. Gagnon added that one of the ramps will have to be redesigned and the scales have been selected. Mr. Abi-Karam added that the plans for the truck scales project were submitted to the Building Department the first week of January, with the anticipation of going out to bid at the end of January, the bid opening at the end of February, and a couple months of construction.

- The City is upgrading the Generator at GTL and the Diesel Pumps at Fiveash for compliance with RICE/NESHAP standards. This work will install Catalytic converters on all the Diesel engines mentioned. This is an EPA and FPL initiative. Total cost is \$387,000. Work has commenced with the CCV and the manufacturing of the new exhaust parts.

Mr. Gagnon said the part was received and is waiting to be installed.

- P12171 Butler Building at the Deepwell Site: Engineering staff is working on drafting a task order for a Structural Consultant to perform the structural inspections. Codes should be verified as the building was built prior to Hurricane Andrews, and it might not be enough replacing the damaged parts. It is anticipated that the task order for a structural consultant will be finalized by the end of February, 2017.
- Main Air Compressor A at the Cryogenic Plant is nearing bid. Budgeted cost of project is \$355,000. Bid specs have been submitted. Work to be performed in FY 16-17. Bids have been received and the CAM is in the approval cycle.

Capacity Issues

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 41.06 MGD.

Operational Issues

- Cesar Alza is now the Regional Water Facilities Manager.
- GTL plant staffing has been negatively affected by the local job competition. Applications are continuing to be accepted.

Mr. Gagnon stated the advertising for the Operator Trainee was just finalized and the position will be advertised soon. He added that GTL may lose 1 trainee in near future, and three Operator 1's recently took the State "B" license exam, one of which could be promoted to an Operator II after he acquires the time needed to receive the license.

- Operator 1 shortages are soon to be resolved as two new licensed Operator I's were hired over the summer.

- Currently, the staffing is short
 - 1 of 2 Chief Operators (an Operator II is an Acting Chief Operator)
 - 5 of 7 Operator IIs
 - Have 2 A level current
 - Have 3 B level current
 - A permanent Plant Manager
 - Current Acting Regional Wastewater Facilities Manager left the City on December 30, 2016.

Mr. Abi-Karam added that the candidate selection was sent to the Public Works Director, Human Resources Director and the City Manager for approval.

Budgetary Issues

- Stormwater Improvement project, P12106 was initiated in December 2014 as an ESMS target program. It will re-establish a conveyance system for GTL stormwater which was disrupted during the construction of the 17th Street causeway. Construction is under way.

Mr. Abi-Karam added that the construction started approximately three weeks ago, with approximately a three-month duration. He also stated that this project came about as a result of the ISO 14001 and ESMS certification.

- A main air compressor (MAC) for the cryogenic plant has been bid. The award documents have been drafted and are being routed for inclusion in the City Commission meeting.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated that this item will be presented for award at the next Commission meeting on January 18, 2017.

Mr. Abi-Karam explained the efforts of the recruitment process and in trying to fill the positions at GTL.

Discussion followed as to the different avenues and strategies in recruiting for open Operators' positions, such as advertising open positions continuously on the job postings, targeting high school students, setting up a booth at national conferences, etc.

Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage

Ms. LeSage stated that savings were anticipated in the last budget, which was mentioned at the meeting of August 3, 2016. The City was billing at \$1.80 per thousand gallons and the estimate was \$1.72 or \$1.74 per thousand gallons. Ms. LeSage referred to a handout which showed the estimated rebates for each City. Mr. Mays asked about the final rate. Ms. LeSage/Ms. Sheffield both agreed that the final rate will be finalized around March/April, 2017. Ms. LeSage referred to the second handout which was a snapshot of the budget, showing 25% of the fiscal year. Ms. LeSage said the City is well within the budget at this time, at 18%.

Old/New Business

No new business.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Fiveash Training Room.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 p.m.