

**Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday August 22, 2018 – 1:30 P.M.  
City of Fort Lauderdale, Fiveash Training Room**

**Voting Members Present:**

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director-Utilities  
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager  
Steve Roberts, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution & Collections Systems Manager  
Tania Amar, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney II  
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Utilities Manager  
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Public Services Director

**In Attendance:**

Susan LeSage, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager  
Brian London, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor  
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac / Maintenance Supervisor  
Bob Mays, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director  
Carol Conol, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Finance Director  
Ignacio Lizama, CDM Smith  
Marie Burbano, CDM Smith  
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administration  
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Regional Wastewater Facilities Manager  
Melissa Coningsby, City of Fort Lauderdale / Commission Assistant IV  
Alicia Sheffield, City of Fort Lauderdale / Accountant II  
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Administrative Assistant I  
Erin Saey, City of Fort Lauderdale / Administrative Assistant I

**Welcome – Mr. Talal Abi-Karam**

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order to 1:34 p.m., and asked everyone to introduce themselves, and verified there was a quorum. Mr. Abi-Karam stated the business of the Large Users Advisory Board is structured in accordance with the City Ordinance, and has representations from various municipalities and members within City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Arroyo discussed the general requirements of the Risk Management Plan (RMP) in light of new members being present.

**Approval of May 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced a motion to approve the May 9, 2018 meeting minutes. Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for May 9, 2018. Steve Roberts seconded. The meeting minutes for the May 9, 2018 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

**Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant – Justin Murray**

**Construction Project Updates**

- P11773 (Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe PCCP Replacement – Stage 1) – The project was completed early and within budget. Stage 2 contract documents are being prepared for bid during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2018. Construction should begin in early 2019 at an estimated cost around \$4.7 million.

- P12171 (Butler Building Restoration at the Deepwell Site) – Engineering staff is working with a consultant to prepare a design/build criteria package to demolish the existing building and erect a new facility in its place. Operational staff along with engineering staff met with Consultant to inspect the site, and discuss scope, logistics, and constraints. Operation staff expressed concerns for the effect of any demolition activity on the nearby deepwell site underground piping.
- P12172 (Electrical Testing of GTL) – The testing and repair recommendations have been completed for this project and the report was received March 27, 2018. The City and consultant are working to prepare an updated single line diagram of the plant revised to include the work completed under P11710 Electrical Upgrades.
- The chlorine piping system, chlorinators, and evaporators in the Chlorine Building were replaced during the second quarter of 2018. The system is in operation and performing well.

### **Capacity Issues**

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 40.7 MGD.

### **Operational Issues**

- Two new effluent pump rotating mechanisms and check valves were installed in February 2018. A third rotating mechanism is in the process of installation this week. Two additional pumps will be replaced in the next fiscal year (FY2019) to ensure all treated effluent pumps will be less than two years old.
- The City is in the process of procuring new motors for two of the effluent pumps at a total cost of \$379,000. These will have an improved enclosure rating better suited for salty air. Future purchases of two additional motors will take place in next fiscal year (FY2019).
- An onsite training seminar for the cryogenic liquid oxygen plant was held in August, 2018 by an industry expert. This was the first job-specific training of its kind at GTL in many years, and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were obtained for all operators, Chief Operators, and the Plant Manager. All operators remarked they learned extensively about the capabilities and operations of the cryogenic plant through the classroom and hands-on sessions.

### **Budgetary Issues**

- A number of new capital improvement projects (CIP) will need to be added to the City's plan for the next five (5) fiscal years. These include:
  - The replacement of 15 motor control centers (MCC)
  - The replacement of the existing cryogenic plant (over 30 years old) with newer technology vacuum pressure swing absorption (VPSA) plant
  - Rehabilitation of the chlorine contact basin,
  - Replacement of the power/control wiring for the control valves on each of the five (5) deepwells, and several smaller projects.

- The City is also recommending the replacement of the addition of hydrogen peroxide with a new corrosion inhibitor at the wastewater collection system (re-pumps). This initiative is estimated to add \$2.4 million annually. This chemical will protect the regional force mains, as well as, it is expected to reduce hydrogen sulfide levels.
- The remaining two stages of the PCCP replacement project (P11773) cost will be significant due to required bypass pumping.
  - Estimated cost for Phase II = \$4.72 Million.
  - Estimated cost for Phase III = \$3.70 Million.

### **Old and New Business**

- The GTL operational staff, in consultation with the Public Works Engineering and its wastewater consultant, executed a Task Order to prepare a 30% design criteria package (DCP) to replace the existing cryogenic plant with newer technology vacuum pressure swing absorption (VPSA).
- The consultant final deliverable (30% complete DCP) is due in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2018. The City will construct the project via the design/build delivery method. Design/build solicitation is scheduled during 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2019, with final selection and award scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2019.
- The latest concept proposed by the consultant will cost between \$10-15 million, depending if one VPSA treatment train is left to be built in the future. The building would be designed to hold two for future expansion of capacity.

Mr. Abi-Karam explained that about two critical communication letters sent to the municipalities from the City of Lauderdale's City Manager: (1) a letter sent on May 29, 2018 regarding the City of Fort Lauderdale obtaining a bond to complete the infrastructure work within the City that affect portions of the Large Users Systems, including GTL and some of the linear system; and (2), a letter dated April 25, 2018 regarding excessive flows. Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the City voluntarily entered into consent order with FDEP as of September 2017, the consent order mandated to do projects that were identified in the Reiss Master Plan completed in the first quarter in 2017, which have a direct effect on the financials that will be presented by Ms. LeSage. Mr. Abi-Karam stated that after the Hurricane Irma in 2017, the GTL plant was carefully looked at as to improving the plant's resiliency and the reliability. He mentioned there were major issues relating to the FPL power feeders, which prompted staff to look at a back-up power supply for the entire facility. Mr. Abi-Karam stated staff surveyed the Southern Regional wastewater treatment Plant in Hollywood, and the Broward County North regional wastewater treat plant on Copans Road, and both facilities have a full back up electrical power. Mr. Abi-Karam stated that the FPL feeders during Irma were not reliable, and stated that that the FPL feeders may be coming from Turkey Point rather from FPL plant at Port everglades, which affects their resilience and reliability.

## **Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage**

Included in the packet given to the members was a Computation of Rates to be charted. Ms. LeSage asked everyone to look at the FY 2018 estimate.

Ms. LeSage said there one was debt service that had to be paid and caused a change from what was presented at the last meeting. Ms. LeSage said the City was billing at \$1.92 per thousand gallons, the cost will be \$2.16 per thousand gallons. Ms. LeSage mentioned that at the last meeting, \$1.96 per thousand gallons was estimated and \$1.92 per thousand gallons was voted on.

Ms. LeSage said that with the flows calculation, the year will end at \$2.16 per thousand gallons.

Ms. LeSage stated that for next year, the ROI was lowered by \$1M which was taken out of the operating budget and the Renewal and Replacement (R&R) went up. Ms. LeSage stated that after averaging the flows for three years, it averaged out to \$2.48 per thousand gallons.

Mr. Mays asked about the R&R costs item in the financial report which went up approximately 52%. Mr. Arroyo discussed the big ticket items that had to be completed at the GTL Plant (VPSA, Flash mix basin (chlorine contact chamber), corrosion inhibitor, etc.), which adds up to approximately \$45.0 million, and then to include the projects in the consent order.

Mr. Abi-Karam said that there is approximately \$45.0M - \$46.0M increase in the R&R. He added that as a result of Reiss report, there was an allocation of \$84M from the \$200M bond received in February for central region projects. This allocation, plus the increase in the R&R, totals approximately \$130M, and that is why there is a 20-year running average of approximately 52% increase, FY 2019. Mr. Abi-Karam explained this is due to the Reiss Master Plan, the money from Bond, the consent order, and new projects into the Central Region System.

Mr. Mays asked about the outlook for the future, in five to ten years. Mr. Abi-Karam said that the deliverable for the rate study is being done by Stantec and should be completed by end of year/January 2019. He also explained that Reiss Master Plan has segregated the 0-5 years list of projects and provided the 15-20 years projection to the City's infrastructure, which includes the Central Region System.

Discussion followed about the increase in the R&R and the additional debt service.

Mr. Mays mentioned that he does not feel comfortable in making a motion at the new proposed rate of \$2.48 per thousand gallons.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked if there were motions for the proposed rate for FY2019. Mr. Steve Roberts made the motion for \$2.48 per thousand gallons. Mr. Arroyo seconded the motion.

4 Yes 1 No

Motion passed.

## **Old/New Business**

No Old/New Business.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Wilton Manors, at Island City Park Preserve.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.