

**Central Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday July 31, 2019 – 1:30 P.M.  
Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, City of Fort Lauderdale**

**Voting Members Present:**

Steve Roberts, City of Fort Lauderdale / Utilities Distribution & Collection Systems Manager  
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager  
Rhonda Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III  
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager  
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Public Services Director

**In Attendance:**

Heather Moraitis, City Commissioner, District 1  
Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director – Utilities  
Aneisha Daniel, City of Fort Lauderdale / Deputy Director – Public Works  
Alicia Sheffield, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant  
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Operations Manager  
Kenya Baker, City of Fort Lauderdale / Interim Senior Financial Administrator  
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Regional Wastewater Facilities Manager  
Bob Mays, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director  
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Office Manager  
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac / Maintenance Supervisor  
Jerry Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor  
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director  
Tim O'Neil, CDM Smith  
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Administrative Assistant I

**Welcome – Mr. Talal Abi-Karam**

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. Mr. Abi-Karam explained that the Plant is certified as an ISO 14001:2015 facility and is governed by a Risk Management Plan. He introduced Miguel Arroyo, Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager, who explained the safety rules and regulations of the Plant in the case of an emergency

Mr. Abi-Karam welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ms. Moraitis, City Commissioner, District 1. Mr. Abi-Karam then asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Abi-Karam stated the business of the Large Users Advisory Board is structured in accordance with the City Ordinance and delegated strictly for wastewater. Mr. Abi-Karam verified there was a quorum.

**Approval of May 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced a motion to approve the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes. Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. David Archacki seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for the May 15, 2019 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

**Construction Project Updates**

- P11773 (Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Replacement – Stage 2) - Stage 2 contract documents were advertised with a bid due date of June 11, 2019. The bid was opened on June 18 and a recommendation for award will be presented at the September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Commission meeting for \$4.0 million, approximately \$700,000 under budget. Construction should begin in late 2019.

- P12171 (Pre-Engineered Metal Building Replacement at the Deepwell Site) - The design/build bid package is currently being advertised and proposals are due July 31, 2019. Design will begin autumn 2019. Emphasis has been placed on careful demolition of existing structure to avoid damage to the deepwells.
- P12172 (Electrical Testing of GTL) – Engineering has negotiated a new task order for electrical arclash testing and labelling plant-wide for all motors that were not previously tested and are not scheduled for replacement within the next year.
- P12469 (GTL Mechanical Integrity Testing) - The mechanical integrity of the five (5) deepwells along with well brushing is currently underway (on schedule and under budget) and expected to be completed by October 19, 2019. FDEP has witnessed the first of the 5 deepwell pressure tests.
- The chlorine building roof will be replaced in the fourth quarter of 2019 at a cost of approximately \$282,000.
- P12176 (Motor Control Center Replacement - Stage 1) – The 100% plans and specifications were prepared, and the permitting process is complete. The bid will be advertised autumn of 2019 and construction should begin in late 2019 or early 2020 at an estimated cost of \$5.0 million.
- P12438 (Freight Elevator Replacement) – A task order for engineering design and construction services for the modernization of the existing freight elevator in the Dewatering Building was executed and design is underway. Design is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019.
- P11781/P11917 (GTL Cryogenic Plant/MCC Elec Upgrades) - 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 (over 30 years old) with newer technology vacuum pressure swing absorption (VPSA). The latest cost estimate by the consultant for the VPSA was revised from \$10-15 million to \$8.9 million, plus/minus 30%. A pre-advertisement informational meeting was held July 19, 2019 with potential Design/Build teams and several attended. Bid advertisement will begin in August 2019.

### **Capacity Issues**

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 36.2 MGD.

### **Operational Issues**

- The last two new effluent pump rotating mechanisms arrived at GTL and are on schedule to be installed in summer of 2019. All treated effluent pumps will be less than two (2) years old when completed. One pump will be changed out at a time. The check valves for each pump will also be inspected to determine remaining lifespan.

- The new revised City policy for P-cards has slowed the purchase of needed materials. While City staff continues to adapt to using purchase orders for necessary purchases, the plant's maintenance is continuing at the best pace possible in accordance with policy and procedures.
- On July 18, 2019 at the start of the regularly scheduled monthly preventive maintenance run of the 2,250-kW generator, the generator failed to produce voltage. On the same day, staff worked with the contract vendor for rental equipment and achieved delivery of the needed temporary generator, transformer, and cables and completed installation to ensure GTL remains in compliance with all regulatory requirements. Staff is currently evaluating options for repair or replacement.

### **Budgetary Issues**

- New capital improvement projects (CIP) will be added to the City's plan for the next five (5) fiscal years. The need for standby electrical power for the entire plant and deepwells during Hurricane Irma has given priority to a standby generator project in the estimated costs of \$15-16 Million. The condition of the deepwell injection site has given priority to an upgrade of the power and communication systems for all five (5) deepwells in the estimated range of \$2.5 Million. These projects need to begin design in the next fiscal year.

### **Old and New Business**

- City staff negotiated a task order with consultants (\$138,000) to evaluate the two odor control units in GTL and prepare a technical memorandum outlining remaining useful life and recommendations for retrofit/replacement.
- The 40-year concrete structural repairs on a variety of buildings at GTL will be bid in the fourth quarter of 2019 at an approximate cost of \$600,000.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the ESMS 14001 external audit was recently completed and certification was renewed; also, the ISO 9001 which was completed in January 2019.

### **Rate Calculations – Kym Holcombe**

Ms. Holcombe referred to Page 1 of the handout, Computation of Rates. Ms. Holcombe said the cost for FY 2019 is estimated to come in at \$2.82/\$2.83 per thousand gallons, based on the flows for the first nine months and estimates for the remainder three months and also, based on spending all of operating budgets. Ms. Holcombe said that the flows are low as compared to FY 2016. Ms. Holcombe's stated that next year's draft estimate will be \$2.58 per thousand gallons.

Mr. Bob Mays stated that he his pleased with the FY2020 proposed financials. Mr. Mays mentioned, as in prior years, the wide fluctuation from year to year in the expected replacement costs. He said comparing FY 2018 and FY 2019, the total raw cost went up approximately \$100 Million and this seems unusual. He stated that the net effect to the annual financials was almost \$5 Million added to the FY 2019 financial statements. He said stated that even though this is spread out over 20 years, the wide fluctuations due have a serious impact on the cost of providing service, and hopes that City of Fort Lauderdale would look closely at the methodology that is being used and try to smooth out the numbers over time.

Mr. Mays made a motion to set the new rate at \$2.58 per thousand gallons for FY2020. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Abi-Karam thanked Ms. Holcombe and staff for the hard work and due diligence put forth in getting the financials ready for meeting.

**Old/New Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the Jaco Pastorious Park, City of Oakland Park, 1098 NE 40 Court, Oakland Park, FL 33334

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.