

Central Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday January 15, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.
George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Fort Lauderdale

Voting Members Present:

Heather Moraitis, City Commissioner, District 1
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Regional Wastewater Facilities 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:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director – Utilities
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager
Kenya Baker, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Pennie Zuercher, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director
Rick Johnson, Utilities Distribution & Collection Systems Manager
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac / Maintenance Supervisor
Gerald Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Tim O'Neil, CDM Smith
Ignacio Lizama, 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 1:33 p.m.

Mr. Abi-Karam welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2020, 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 Chapter 28, Section 28-9 and delegated strictly for wastewater. Mr. Abi-Karam verified there was a quorum.

Approval of July 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced a motion to approve the July 31, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Moraitis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Justin Murray seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for the July 31, 2019 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the break on the transmission main line (54-inch force main), from the B-repump to GTL, which occurred on December 10, 2019 and explained that it was a major event. He stated a portion of the project is part of the consent order and has been flagged in the CIP 5-year schedule. Following the incident on December 10, a project was initiated to create a redundant line from the B-repump to GTL, and an emergency contract was signed with two contractors, splitting the project north and south. Mr. Abi-Karam also mentioned the smaller breaks that occurred within the same timeframe – Victoria Park, NE 36 Street, and the Himmarshee Canal. He stated that contributions will be required from the Central Region Board for some of the costs in relation to the emergency repairs and for the redundant line, which will be forthcoming by the next quarterly meeting. He said a mid-year increase is also on the table for discussion.

Mr. Archacki said that as part of the Large Users Board, the City of Fort Lauderdale should provide notifications and have direct interactions to the Large Users' Group during events.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated communication was disseminated twice per day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) via Strategic Communications, but will have a discussion with Utilities' Operations staff.

Mr. Archacki said a detailed report for the repairs should also be distributed to the Large Users Board, in order to verify costs distribution. Ms. Zuercher asked about preliminary costs/estimates to assist the Finance Department in planning future expenditures.

Mr. Abi-Karam said that as soon as the majority of invoices have been tabulated, a range± of costs will be distributed.

Commissioner Moraitis asked if the increase to the Large Users will be solely related to the emergency repairs, and/or will include the other breaks that occurred within the same timeframe. Commission Moraitis stated that a portion for the 54-inch line is part of the consent order and already has a price, and the user rates had increased in FY20.

Mr. Abi-Karam explained that the Victoria Park and Coral Ridge Country Club repairs are not part of the Large Wastewater System. The Budget Amendment approved by the Commissioners on January 7, 2020, for the redundant line is \$65 Million – approximately \$60 million for the contract (both north and south), and \$5 million as a buffer due to the many unknowns of the project. He stated that clarity on the emergency repairs is still needed and the main transmission line (redundant line) will be cost-sharing.

Kym Holcombe explained that the majority of the money for the redundant line has already been considered in the current rate (\$53 Million) through the consent order and the CIP. The gap is in the costs leading up to the \$65 million. Ms. Holcombe said the monies for the emergency repairs were not considered in the rate.

Mr. Archacki asked about billing during this period.

Mr. Abi-Karam explained that the numbers were already reported to FDEP. The calculation was based on the average of seven days prior to the event, and the average going to GTL during the event. Mr. Abi-Karam explained that the meters will reflect the flows.

Mr. Murray thanked everyone for coming to the Wastewater Plant, stated the facility is governed by a Risk Management Plan, and explained the safety rules and regulations of the Plant in case of an emergency. Mr. Murray offered a tour to the guests, if interested.

Construction Project Updates

- P11773 (Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Replacement – Stage 2) - Stage 2 was awarded in September 2019 for \$4.0 million (\$700,000 under budget) and notice to proceed was issued in December. Preliminary submittals are being reviewed and utility locates have been completed. Construction is scheduled to last 13 months until January 2021.
- P12171 (Pre-Engineered Metal Building Replacement at the Deepwell Site) – The design/build bid package was advertised and awarded at a cost of \$1.3 million. The demolition of the existing floor slab structure was removed and hence the probability of damage to the deepwells in decreased. The project is scheduled to begin in March 2020 with a duration of 12 months.

- P12172 (Electrical Testing of GTL) – Engineering has negotiated a new task order for electrical arcflash testing and labelling plant-wide for all motors that were not previously tested and are not scheduled for replacement within the next year. The project began in October 2019 and is due for completion in March 2020 on schedule and under budget.
- P12469 (GTL Mechanical Integrity Testing) – The mechanical integrity of the five (5) deepwells along with well brushing is still underway (behind schedule but under budget) and expected to now be completed in February 2020. The delay was caused by a need to re-brush well #5. FDEP witnessed all of the first of the 5 deepwell pressure tests.
- The chlorine building roof replacement is currently underway at a cost of approximately \$282,000. The replacement began December 26, 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in February 2020.
- P12176 (Motor Control Center Replacement - Stage 1) - The bid opening is scheduled for January 21, 2020. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2020 at an estimated cost of \$5.0 million. Project duration is approximately 15 months.
- P12438 (Freight Elevator Replacement) – Design was completed on schedule in the fourth quarter of 2019 and is currently waiting for bid advertisement at an estimated cost of \$750,000. Project duration will be approximately 9 months.
- P11781/P11917 (GTL Cryogenic Plant/MCC Elec Upgrades) – The 30% design criteria package (DCP) to replace the existing cryogenic plant (over 30 years old) with newer technology vacuum pressure swing absorption (VPSA) was advertised and bids were opened November 2019. The latest cost estimate by the consultant for the VPSA was revised from \$10-15 million to \$8.9 million, plus/minus 30%. Three quality proposals were received, and the bid prices ranged from \$16.8 – 19.1 million. An evaluation committee is determining which represents the best value for the City and large users. After a contract is executed, the project duration is 24 months.
- Approximately one-half of the sludge conveying system was overhauled in December 2019 at a cost of \$141,000. The remaining portion will be completed in the summer of 2020 at a cost of \$163,500.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the project to continue the replacement of three effluent pumps at GTL. The City Commission, at its January 7, 2020 meeting, appropriated \$2,500,000 for this project. The City has already replaced two pumps as an Operations project. This is a continuation of the maintenance program following Hurricane Irma.

Capacity Issues

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 37.7 MGD.

Operational Issues

- Maintenance staff has been working to remove the accumulated grit in the reactors over the last 7 years. The bottom 3-feet of treatment capacity is being reclaimed by routing the removed grit to its designed removal equipment in the Pretreatment Building.

- 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. Staff procured a replacement generator and a 5-year warranty for \$291,000 but the installation by the proprietary vendor was unsuccessful. The manufacturer has been rebuilding the generator and installation is scheduled for January 2020. Meanwhile, a rental generator remains onsite and the cost is being absorbed by the manufacturer.

Budgetary Issues

- The Renewal and Replacement Analysis has not historically looked at structural components of buildings and pipe. Cost estimates have been historically increased year over year using the Consumer Price Index. This year's report will include these structural items and detailed cost estimates from nearby projects will be provided; resulting in possible project price increases and budgetary issues.

Old and New Business

- The large user agreements terminate December 31, 2021. Consideration should be given to adding a provision for a mid-year rate adjustment to lessen the financial impacts of emergencies.
- The 54-inch sewer break did not negatively impact treatment operations at GTL.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned that the Wastewater Agreements will be expiring in December 2021 and staff will begin working on new agreements. He mentioned that one paragraph in the current agreement relates to foreign growth and development and the I&I flow in individual municipality, and these items will be reviewed.

Rate Calculations – Kym Holcombe

Ms. Holcombe explained that the final Rate Calculations for FY 2019 are not yet available. City's Finance is still involved in the end-of-year audit. Ms. Holcombe referred to the financial handout, and said that the net position is lower than the target, at 18.57%.

Old/New Business

None.

Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.