

**Central Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday December 9, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.**

VIRTUAL – <https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/WLUAB> - ZOOM Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager
Steve Roberts Jr. City of Fort Lauderdale / Utilities Distribution & Collection Systems Manager
Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director – Utilities

Roll Call:

Andres Hernandez, City Moderator
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Regional Wastewater Facilities Manager
Rhonda Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III
Laura Garcia, City of Fort Lauderdale / Controller
Melissa Coningsby, City of Fort Lauderdale / Commission Assistant II (District I)
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager
Kenya Baker, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Reina Gonzalez, City of Fort Lauderdale / Administrative Supervisor
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac / Maintenance Supervisor
Jerry Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Claude Nesbitt, Port Everglades for John Foglesong
Pennie Zuercher, City of Wilton Manors / Finance
Alicia Sheffield, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant
Aneisha Daniel, City of Fort Lauderdale / Deputy Director
John McCreary, Town of Davie / Chief Operator
Anthony Pantin, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator
Tim O'Neil, CDM Smith
Ignacio Lizama, CDM Smith
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Mr. Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Mr. Abi-Karam welcomed everyone and verified there was a quorum. Mr. Abi-Karam stated this meeting is being conducted via Zoom platform due to COVID 19, with the assistance of Information Technology (IT) and City Clerk staff, it is a publicly noticed meeting subject to the Florida Sunshine Laws, and participation of the general public who will be able to provide input after Item 4 on the agenda. Mr. Abi-Karam thanked the municipalities and workers for their collaboration and coordination during the rainstorms, to include Tropical Storm Eta. He pointed out during the months of October and November, according to the information shared by Dr. Jurado, an unprecedented amount of 32-inches of rain was received, which equated to about 60% of annual rainfall in this area. Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations issued by CDC, which mentioned that workers in the water and wastewater business are designated as essential/critical workers, and are slated into Phase 1-B for the vaccination (Page 12 of the Interim Playbook issued on October 29, 2020).

Approval of July 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced a motion to approve the July 29, 2020 meeting minutes. Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, with a correction on Pages 4 and 5, referring to “30-year R&R plan”, should read “20-year R&R plan”. Justin Murray seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for the July 29, 2020 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Construction Project Updates

- P11773 (Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Replacement – Sequence B) – Sequence B was awarded in September 2019 for \$4.0 million (\$700,000 under budget) and a notice to proceed (NTP) was issued in December 2019. The bypass pumping of 50% of the wastewater flow for over a month was successful while the carbon reinforced fiber liner was added to the inside of the PCCP from 48 to 66-inch diameter. The bypass system has been decommissioned and removed. Only small diameter pipe replacement remains in the scope. Construction is under budget and on schedule to complete in 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 temporary electrical design is being finalized by the design/build team. The project is currently behind schedule while P12530 Deepwell Electrical is partially constructed.
- P12172 (Electrical Testing of GTL) – The electrical arflash testing and labelling plant-wide for all motors that were not previously tested was completed in September 2020.
- P12469 (GTL Mechanical Integrity Testing) – The mechanical integrity testing of the five (5) deepwells along with well brushing was completed under budget in February 2020. All regulatory deadlines for the testing were met. FDEP responded to the report with higher allowable pressure limits in the deepwells.
- P12176 (Motor Control Center Replacement - Stage 1) – The replacement of four (4) large motor control centers and electrical duct banks began in August 2020 at a contract cost of \$5.0 million. Currently, excavation and new duct banks are in the process of installation. Project duration is approximately 15 months.
- P11781/P11917 (GTL Cryogenic Plant/MCC Elec Upgrades) – The replacement of the Cryogenic Plant with a new Vacuum Pressure Swing Adsorption (VPSA) process in a new building was awarded in July 2020 and a contract executed at a cost of \$17.4 Million to PCL Construction. This is the same team that is completing a VPSA for Miami-Dade. The project duration is estimated at 2 years and the kickoff meeting is planned for next week.
- P12530 (Deepwell Electrical Power & Instrumentation) – Staff has reviewed the 100% design plans for new power and instrumentation wiring and duct banks at the Deepwell Facility from the control building to each of the five (5) underground injection wells. The existing wiring has exceeded its useful life and is severely corroded. The small control building where the valve controls are located will also be hardened against hurricane damage. Construction is estimated at \$2.2 Million. The project should be advertised in early 2021.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – Preparation of design documents will begin in early 2021 for a rehabilitation of the severely corroded chlorine flash mix basin. Construction is estimated to be approximately \$2.7 Million. The scope includes concrete repair and control gate replacement.

Flows:

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 41.8 MGD. This includes the rainfall and resulting influent from Tropical Storm Eta.

Operational Issues

- The scheduled shutdown and “turnaround” maintenance of the Cryogenic Plant was awarded in May 2020 for \$383,100 and the work was completed in September 2020 on time and on-budget. This shutdown is expected to be the last biennial maintenance needed since the Cryogenic Plant is scheduled to be replaced within the next 2 years with the new VPSA process equipment.
- Several operational projects have been completed since the last meeting. This includes the removal of over 3,000 cubic yards of sand that had accumulated within Reactor 1, complicated installation of replacement air compressors, replacement of cooling tower pumps, LED lighting upgrades, door replacements, plumbing repairs, and polymer pump replacements.

Budgetary Issues

- FDEP included a requirement in the amended consent order to require a standby generator to be installed at the east end of the treatment plant to power one (1) effluent pump within 9 months of October 12, 2020. A used generator of necessary size will be procured in December 2020. A task order was executed in August 2020 with Smith Engineering to design the installation of this standby generator. FDEP is also requiring all five (5) effluent pumps to operate during a power outage within 40 months of October 2020. A separate task order was also executed in August 2020 with CDM Smith Engineering to prepare options to meet this requirement. Currently, \$15.0 Million has been adopted in the project P12529 for this new facility, but the first draft of the options feasibility memo identified more funding is needed. Additional funding will be added when detailed cost estimates of the selected alternative are prepared. Funding has also been requested through a Florida Department of Economic Opportunity grant.

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. In addition, FDEP is considering rulemaking for extreme I&I. Provisions to enforce this should be included.

Mr. Abi-Karam said due to the heavy rain, there were two abnormal events at GTL which were reported to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): 1) a discharge to the intracoastal; and 2) loss of FPL power for approximately five minutes. He said in general, the regional system had no major issues and the system performed very well, with the exception of Wilton Manors having no access to the flow in the wastewater system due to high pressures. Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned there are a lot of on-going internal maintenance projects both at GTL and the B-repump. Approximately 1.5 miles of the newly, completed 48-inch transmission main line went into service (redundant line project); and by summer 2021, the entire line from B-repump to GTL will be operational.

Rate Calculations – Kym Holcombe

Ms. Holcombe said the current rate is \$2.58 per thousand gallons, as adopted by Commission on September 14, 2020 and Commission approved \$15.6M budget. Referring to the Financial handout, Ms. Holcombe stated that approximately 8.33% was spent and well below the target of 18%. She stated \$5.2M was obligated at the beginning of the fiscal year. Expenditure to date is 8.33% and it is early in the fiscal year to identify a position.

Old/New Business

Mr. Abi-Karam said City of Fort Lauderdale team is working on the agreement renewals, with the assistance with Ms. Rhonda Hasan, City Attorney III. Operational staff have met and identified operational issues that were experienced collectively over the last 10-15 years, and have been proceeding with meetings on the agenda every other week. The goal is to have a Draft agreement by the second quarter of 2021 to circulate with all participating municipalities.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked if there was anyone from the general public signed up to speak. An attendee, Rodney Simms who stated that he is a representative from City of Tamarac and had no questions. Motion to close public comment made by Miguel Arroyo. Steve Roberts seconded the motion. Public comment closed.

David Archacki said thank you to City of Fort Lauderdale and Oakland Park for their assistance during the storms with equipment and personnel. Mr. Archacki thanked Steve Roberts and Jud Hopping for their assistance. Mr. Abi-Karam said there was a discussion about an alternate way to connect to the system, the need to have a regional hydraulic model to address heavy storms, and to have a better understanding of the behavior of the system in its entirety. Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the rulemaking on the I&I which will affect everyone, and said one of the issues is having backup power for every pump station. He recommended the municipalities to be engaged in the conversation and have a unified response to the rulemaking.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., which will be on the Zoom platform.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.