

**Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday May 9, 2018 – 1:30 P.M.  
City of Fort Lauderdale, Fiveash Training Room**

**Voting Members Present:**

Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager  
Susan LeSage, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager  
Rhonda M Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III  
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Utilities Manager  
John Pilch, City of Wilton Manors / Utilities Supervisor

**In Attendance:**

Brian London, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor  
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac / Maintenance Supervisor  
Gerald Soto, CDM Smith  
Earl Henry, City of Tamarac / Utilities Engineer  
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administration  
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Regional Wastewater Facilities Manager  
Steve Roberts, Jr., City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution & Collection Systems Manager  
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Administrative Assistant I

**Welcome – Mr. Talal Abi-Karam**

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order to 1:43 p.m., welcomed everyone, apologized for the late start, 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 and in accordance to the City Ordinance, and has representations from various municipalities and members within City of Fort Lauderdale. He explained that Steve Roberts, Jr., Distribution and Collections Manager, overseeing the sewer section, will now replace Rick Johnson on the board. Mr. Abi-Karam stated due to the incidents over the past couple of years, e.g., consent order, acquired bond, etc., there are a lot of activities on the sewer side and determined that this was a good move.

**Approval of January 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 24, 2018. Justin Murray seconded. The meeting minutes for the January 24, 2018 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

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

**Construction Project Updates**

- P11710 (Emergency Generator/Switchgear Upgrades) - The contractor (Florida Design Contractors, Inc. (FDC) completed the project on schedule and within budget in February 2018. The generator building and new equipment is fully tested, functional and available for the future connection of a portable 480V generator in case of FPL power failure. This project will not appear on the next progress meeting update.
- P11773 (Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Pipe Replacement – Stage 1) - The bypass pumping system is being dismantled after successful removal and

replacement of Stage 1 of the PCCP. The project is on schedule to be completed with small pipe replacement and site restoration by August 31, 2018.

- P12171 (Butler Building Restoration at the Deepwell Site) - Engineering staff worked with BCC Engineering to perform the structural inspections. A preliminary planning order of magnitude contractor's cost estimate would likely be more than \$300,000 to upgrade the building to meet current building codes. Engineering staff is considering recommendation options.
- P11770 (Main Air Compressor A at the Cryogenic Plant) – *(One of three compressors)* The final completion of the project was completed within the budget of \$297,653. MAC A is working very efficiently. This has enabled a second air compressor to be turned off. The preliminary monthly electrical savings have been documented at approximately \$15,000.
- P12172 (Electrical Testing of GTL) – The testing and repair recommendations have been completed for this project and the report was received March 27, 2018. Staff completed many of the recommended repairs immediately and are reviewing the remaining more complex recommendations to determine the most efficient way to complete them in a timely manner. The consultant is preparing the revised single line diagram of the plant.
- The chlorine piping system in the Chlorine Building will be replaced along with the chlorinators and evaporators in the second quarter of 2018.

### **Capacity Issues**

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 40.1 MGD.

### **Operational Issues**

- The site continues to be an active construction site despite the closure of some projects. Ensuring the plant continues to meet permit limits while under construction is of foremost concern.
- Two new effluent pump rotating mechanisms and check valves were installed in February 2018. The estimated cost for the work was \$350,000 for these proprietary items. An additional spare rotating mechanism that was being regularly maintained by plant staff will be installed by the contractor in May. This will allow the inspection and possible rebuild of the existing mechanism.
- The biennial turnaround maintenance of the Liquid Oxygen Cryogenic plant at GTL was bid and awarded for \$450,000. The project was completed early April 2018. A professional onsite training seminar with classroom and hands-on sessions for this area of the plant is scheduled before August 31.

## **Budgetary Issues**

- The City is 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**

- Public Works Engineering has been advised that an additional 15 motor control centers and associated unit substations will need to be replaced over the next five years, at an estimated cost of \$20 million. A CIP project has been proposed in the FY2019 budget and will go for commission approval.
- 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). A kickoff meeting was held with the consultant on January 29, 2018 and work has begun. The scheduled date for delivery of the DCP is July 2, 2018.

## **Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage**

Included in the packet given to the members were two handouts. Ms. LeSage stated the first handout showed FY2018 second quarter Central Region actual expenditures (as of March) which is well within the second quarter budget (50%), at approximately 44.32%. Ms. LeSage stated the second handout shows the approximate amount for the rebate for each city, which has changed slightly from what was discussed at the last meeting (January 24, 2018), however, the (external) auditors still have to audit the calculation of rates and once complete, the checks, along with a letter and the calculation of rates will be sent out.

## **Old/New Business**

Mr. Arroyo said that there was an exercise to look at the overall condition of the GTL Plant. There was a comparison of the Renewal and Replacement (R&R) and the Comprehensive Utilities Strategic Master Plan (CUSMP) done by Reiss Engineering, to make sure they match. Mr. Arroyo said there were some lessons learned from Hurricane Irma and there are other elements that are not fully addressed in the R&R, which was incorporated into the R&R, and based on preliminary data, the impact will be significant increase on the per thousand gallons rate and will affect next fiscal year. Mr. Arroyo said the current cost will be changed to a higher value.

Mr. Henry asked if the increase will be permanent. Mr. Arroyo responded yes.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated a master planning effort was started a couple of years ago with Reiss Engineering that resulted in the Comprehensive Utilities Strategic Comprehensive Master Plan (CUSMP) for the utility system, and the final report was issued in April 2017. Mr. Abi-Karam said a number of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) occurred in 2017, which resulted in a voluntary Consent Order agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), which as a result, involved the Central Region Wastewater System. He explained the Consent Order has three aspects: (1) sewer pump station; (2) aged pipeline replacement; and (3) new pipe line replacement in selected crossings. Some of the projects are within the Central Regional System. Via the Consent Order, a new Program Manager was hired to manage the program and the City has allocated staff. Some of the requirements of the Consent Order is to develop a CMOM, and review of the capacity evaluation of the entire system. He also mentioned an Asset Management is also being developed for asset mapping. A letter will be sent to the municipalities, via City Manager or Public Works Director, outlining these events, which were approved by the City Commission. This is expected to have a financial impact on the Large Users.

Mr. Abi-Karam discussed the letter sent to the municipalities about the excessive Inflow and Infiltration (I&I). The Reiss Engineering report stated a large percentage of flow to the George T. Loymener (GTL) Plant is caused by I&I. This is a regional issue and is under review. The I&I project is part of the Consent order and City will be investing more dollars on this on-going program. Mr. Abi-Karam said that the fever of activities and investment is much higher now, compared to a few years ago. The City has obtained a water and sewer bond (\$200M), and the money will be spent on a series of projects, both water and sewer related; to include projects that are part of the Central Region System.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned that deliverables on the Consent Order projects are on a strict timeline with FDEP and the City is making sure the deliverables are met.

Mr. Abi-Karam also mentioned a safety drill – a simulated chlorine leak, conducted at GTL approximately two weeks ago. There was participation from Fire Dept., EMS Dept., GTL employees, and coordination with Broward County Convention Center and the Port. These exercises are conducted as part of Risk Management Practice, ESMS certification 14001 and ISO 9001. He mentioned that the GTL Plant is both ESMS 14001 and ISO 9001 certified.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. and will be in the Fiveash Training Room, City of Fort Lauderdale.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.