

**Central Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday FEBRUARY 9, 2022 – 1:30 P.M.
Jaco Pastorious Park, Oakland Park**

Voting Members Present:

David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager
Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities
Rhonda Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III
Jud Hopping, City of Fort Lauderdale / Utilities D&C Systems Manager

Roll Call:

Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Facilities Manager
Melissa Coningsby, Commissioner Assistant II, District I
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager
Kenya Baker, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Todd Hiteshew, City of Fort Lauderdale / Environmental Compliance Manager
Tim O'Neil, CDM Smith
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Office Manager
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac / Maintenance Supervisor
Jeremy Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and thanked City of Oakland Park for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Abi-Karam welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves, and verified there was a quorum.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated that this is the quarterly meeting of the Large Users Advisory Board, and the business is structured in accordance with the City of Ordinance Chapter 28, Sections 28-29. He explained that this meeting is for wastewater discussion only, and the votes are based on volume and contribution to the central large users wastewater system.

Approval of November 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Abi-Karam requested a motion to approve the November 3, 2021 meeting minutes. Jud Hopping made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. David Archacki seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for November 3, 2021, were approved. Vote was unanimous.

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

Construction Projects

- 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. The final completion is scheduled for January 2023.
- P12530 (Deepwell Electrical Power & Instrumentation) – This project will supply new power and instrumentation wiring, applicable conduits, and duct banks at the Deepwell Facility from the control building to each of the five (5) underground injection wells and the three monitoring wells. The small control building where the valve controls are located will also be hardened against hurricane damage. The project was awarded for \$2.9 million in May 2021. The Notice-To-Proceed (NTP) was issued January 25, 2022, , The project is currently behind schedule and the final completion is scheduled for March 2023.
- 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. Construction was completed under budget in January 2022. Stage 2 design will begin after the design criteria package for P12529 has been completed on January 14, 2022.
- 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 at a cost of \$17.4 million, will break ground in February 2022. The project is behind schedule due to Broward County’s July 2021 adoption of new flood maps that have required significant design changes. The final completion is now scheduled for November 2023.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – Existing utility locations and preparation of design documents has begun by the consultant AECOM. Construction cost estimates ranging from \$5.1M to \$6.1M at a Class IV level (-15% to +40%) were identified in the initial planning phase and a refined cost estimate should be available in the next update. Current funding level in the project is \$2.7 million and the difference will be requested in the next CIP cycle.
- P12252 (GTL Interior Painting) – Plant staff is negotiating a task order with a consultant to prepare design documents to repair concrete and apply protective coatings in the 2nd of the 4 treatment reactors.
- P12348 (Effluent Pumps VFD Replacement) – The five effluent pump variable frequency drives (VFDs) that control the speed of the pumps are in the process of

replacement. This project is expected to conclude on time in March 2022 and under the budget of \$1.6 million.

- P12529 (Effluent Pumps Standby Generator & Admin Building Improvements) – This the project mandated by the FDEP amended consent order to provide standby power and ensure all effluent pumps can run without FP&L power. A consultant (Smith Engineering) was procured to prepare the design criteria package for the design/build portion of the project. \$28 million is funded through the Community Investment Plan and upcoming 2023 bond, and the project is required to be completed by February 2024.

Flows:

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 39.5 MGD.

Operational Issues

- COVID-19 continues to impact supply chains of many municipalities. City of Hollywood has had difficulties in procuring a liquid oxygen supplier for maintenance turnarounds. Chlorine and liquid oxygen suppliers are currently under contract with the City until September 2022. Chemical costs are expected to continue to rise substantially if they are even locally available.

Budgetary Issues

- The annual operating budget and the Repair and Replacement Pan (R&R) will require increases to account for chemical, materials, fuel, electricity, and other supply chain constraints.

Old and New Business

- The large user agreements expired December 31, 2021. Amendments were executed for extension of 90 days, until March 30, 2022. The first draft of the agreement was completed and forwarded to all entities in the Large Users system. Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) will be a key issue of enforcement due to regulatory and operational pressure.
- I/I concerns have been raised by Broward County and FDEP in their respective operating permit renewal correspondences.
- FDEP has hinted at the possibility during ongoing permit renewal discussions that the city may be required to build one more underground injection well due to peak hourly flows exceeding well velocity limits during storm events. One additional injection well and pipeline has been estimated by consultants and plant staff to cost in excess of \$80 million due to land acquisition needs, major additions to GTL treatment process

that would simultaneously be required due to new regulations, and no simple solutions since GTL is surrounded by Port Everglades, Broward County Convention Center, and commercial properties.

- The GTL Wastewater Treatment Plant was designed to accommodate future growth. However, Inflow/Infiltration (I&I) has increased due to sea level rise, king tides and aged infrastructure. In order to address concerns by regulatory agencies, conducting an aggressive I&I Reduction Program is paramount.
- The new Draft Large Users' Agreements have been designed to address disposal system capacity and increased I&I. To that end, the surcharge provisions have been simplified and significantly increased from existing Large User agreements to encourage immediate investment in I/I reduction by all stakeholders. Surcharge totals may be reported as separately in the quarterly financials provided at the meetings; however, collected funds will be included in the Central Regional revenues and included in the year-end rate/expenditures true-up, NOT separated from the annual price/1,000-gallon rate calculation, and will NOT be held in the central holding account in case disposal capacity projects are required by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned about the longer delivery time in equipment/items being encountered for operational needs due to COVID-19, along with the increase in prices, so everyone should increase their operational budget to cover the additional costs. He said the final draft of the Large User Agreement was distributed in October 2021 and comments were coming through from the different municipalities, which were being addressed by staff and City Attorney. Mr. Abi-Karam said a placeholder was reserved on March 15, 2022, Commission agenda for this item. He said the Board had voted on a 90-day extension at the last Board meeting, which will be expired on March 31, 2022. He mentioned the demand table approach for future flow projections was done by reviewing the 10-year water supply and master plans for the various entities, and the projection tables were used, which are based on population growth.

Discussion followed regarding the difference in the Wilton Manors flow projections - the Baxter Whitman plan versus the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Abi-Karam said one of the questions that arose, as part of the Agreement review process, was for the City of Fort Lauderdale to add language in the agreement regarding the proposed rates for new fiscal year, which is voted in July/August timeframe each year. He said his approach is to have four (4) meetings per year, so that the municipalities will be informed on the financials throughout the year.

Rate Calculations – Kym Holcombe

Ms. Holcombe said the first quarter is aligned with the 25% target, referring to the handout. Ms. Holcombe said that regarding the rate projection for future years, staff considers an

average of three complete fiscal years for the average flow, which has been the status-quo for the past 30 years.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., at City of Fort Lauderdale's Central Maintenance Shop (CMS), 4250 NW 10 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, 33309.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:12p.m.