

**Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday FEBRUARY 8, 2023 – 1:30 P.M.  
Island City Preserve Park, Wilton Manors, FL**

**Voting Members Present:**

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities  
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Director, EM/Utilities  
Rhonda Montoya Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III  
Justin Murray (for Miguel Arroyo), City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Facilities Manager  
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager

**Roll Call:**

Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager  
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Office Manager, EM/Utilities  
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager  
Chris Woolweaver (for Jud Hopping), City of Fort Lauderdale / D&C Supervisor  
Yanice Mercado, CDM Smith  
Gerald Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor  
Rafael Diaz, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Serviceworker III  
Martha Romero, City of Fort Lauderdale / Finance Manager  
Al Battle, City of Fort Lauderdale / Deputy Director-DSD  
Roberto Betancourt, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II  
Chelsey Corneille, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II  
Daniel Rey, City of Fort Lauderdale / Land Development Manager, DSD  
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

**Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam**

Mr. Abi-Karam called meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked everyone to introduce themselves, and verified there was a quorum. He stated the business of the Advisory Board 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 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes. David Archacki made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Justin Murray seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for November 2, 2022 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

**Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant – Miguel Arroyo  
Construction Project Updates**

- 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 project is currently behind schedule while P12530 Deepwell Electrical is partially

constructed (40%). Additional funding will be needed due to expected cost escalations and delays for multiple years.

- P12530 (Deepwell Electrical Power & Instrumentation) – This project will install 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 for hurricanes. The \$2.9 million project began construction January 25, 2022, and is scheduled for completion in March 2023. Approximately 75% of the underground work has been completed and work on the control building has continued.
- 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 began construction in February 2022. The final completion is scheduled for February 2024. The building shell is completed with the exception of doors and louvers. The VPSA is scheduled to begin testing in July 2023.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – Preparation of design documents were completed 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 \$5.5 million. Bid opening is scheduled for February 13, 2023.
- P12252 (GTL Interior Painting/Reactor Rehabilitation) – The application of protective coatings in 3 of the remaining 4 treatment reactors will be combined in one task order with new mechanical mixers on the reactor roofs for a total of \$5.0 million to be completed over the next three (3) years.
- P12529 (Effluent Pumps Standby Generator & Admin Building Improvements) – This project is mandated by the FDEP amended consent order to provide standby power generators, and ensure that all effluent pumps can run without FP&L power. \$28 million is funded through the Community Investment Plan and upcoming 2023 bond, and the project is required to be completed by February 2024. The generators will be Owner purchased in a competitive bid in February 2023 and the design criteria package will be advertised in March 2023.
- P12702 (GTL Sludge Holding Tank Covers and Roof) – This project is on hold pending new civil engineering contracts. After commission approval, a task order will be executed to replace the corroded tank covers and roof for the building between the tanks. The interior of the building has been rehabilitated with the recent MCC project. The roof and tank covers are estimated at \$3.5 million to be completed by March 2024.

## **Flows:**

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 43.1 MGD.

*Mr. Murray explained that Broward County permitted annual average capacity for GTL is 48 MGD. Based on the annual average flows of 43.1 MGD and almost 5 MGD in committed capacity to future projects, the City is close to the limit of 48 MGD. He stated that currently, there are no issues with operational capacity. Mr. Murray mentioned the State permit is 56.6 MGD, and the Deepwell is permitted for 93 MGD. He mentioned that the four inches of rainfall (on Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup>) brought it up to 79 MGD.*

## **Operational Issues**

- The plant is down one (1) clarifier due to failure of the center drive mechanism. A new drive has been ordered, and is expected in February 2023. Due to this and other reasons detailed in the attached email correspondence with FDEP, the Plant is out of compliance with effluent limitations for Total Suspended Solids (TSS). Compliance is expected to be regained this spring 2023.

## **Budgetary Issues**

The 2022 Renewal & Replacement Report started incorporating inflation into future years for the first time due to the current economic climate. This will require an increase in the Large Users rate.

## **Old and New Business**

The capacity of GTL has received recent scrutiny due to the allotments for future projects. Task orders to consultants are underway to explore options.

## **Rate Calculations – Kym Holcombe**

Ms. Holcombe referenced the Central Regional Fund financial handout, indicating the expenditures for the end of the fourth month for FY 2023 was at 33.33%. Ms. Holcombe mentioned that Category 30, Services and Materials, shows an encumbrance of 85% which is expected to be spent by end of the fiscal year.

## **Old/New Business**

### **Wastewater Capacity**

Mr. Archacki said that going forward, he would like to have the wastewater capacity/capacity letters discussion on the agenda due to all the on-going development, and particularly, because City of Wilton Manors letter was rescinded for a new development. He stated that City of Wilton Manors is diligently working on the I&I, and would like to know what the other municipalities are doing, and how they are addressing the I&I.

Daniel Rey mentioned Land Use Amendment letters were not received from the Large Users.

Discussion followed regarding the municipalities sharing information with Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) with regards to site plans, capacity analysis letters, allocations and physical; any plans to increase the capacity at the plant, difference between the permit capacity and the treatment capacity, too much rainfall reaching the capacity, tracking the data on an annual basis for each municipality to verify I&I improvements as far as lining in linear footage, placing flow meters at all pump stations and outfalls, Large Users requesting additional capacity based on the Large Users' agreement, the data and numbers being reported to the regulatory agencies need to match, the three variables that needs to be considered – rate of development, curtailing I&I, and the physical capacity of the Plant.

Mr. Abi-Karam said there are some efforts in expanding the GTL capacity with Broward County and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Regulatory Agencies are looking at the Monthly Operating Report, the data, and the Plant's permit.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., and will be hosted by City of Oakland Park, Jaco Pastorious Park.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Attachment