

**Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday August 9, 2023 – 1:30 P.M.**  
**George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

**Voting Members Present:**

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities  
Pennie Zuercher, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director  
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director  
Rhonda Montoya Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III  
Miguel Arroyo, Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager  
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Facilities Manager

**Roll Call:**

Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager  
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director, Utilities  
Carol Conol, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Finance Director  
Roberta Moore, City of Wilton Manors / Director of Community Development  
Tim O'Neil, CDM  
Jerry Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor  
Christopher Bennett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director – Engineering  
Chelsey Corneille, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II  
Daniel Rey, City of Fort Lauderdale / Land Development Manager, DSD  
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager  
Martha Romero, City of Fort Lauderdale / Finance Manager  
Shannon Barrett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator  
Christeena Sutherland, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant  
Jud Hopping, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution & Collection Systems Manager  
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

**Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam**

Mr. Abi-Karam called meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced Justin Murray who explained the Risk Management Plan (RMP) for the GTL Plant, in case of an emergency.

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 May 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Justin Murray made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Miguel Arroyo seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for May 3, 2023 were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Zuercher inquired about the meeting minutes of the July 6, 2023 meeting, which was not part of the agenda, and stated that it needed to be amended to include City of Wilton Manors City Manager's inquiries (via e-mail), with a written response. Ms. Zuercher asked

about the response which was elevated to the City Manager/Attorney office. Mr. Abi-Karam said the minutes will be amended and will be presented to the Board at the next quarterly meeting for approval.

### **Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant – Justin Murray** **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 (70%). 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 completion is delayed from March to approximately January 2024. Approximately 90% of the underground work has been completed and work on the control building has continued. The contract was extended.
- 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 VPSA passed performance testing and began 30-day acceptance testing in July 2023. Demolition of the cryogenic plant will follow.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – The NTP for this \$11.1 M project was issued July 24, 2023. Construction will begin in August 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. A task order will be issued near the end of this calendar year to begin design.
- P12529 (Effluent Pumps Standby Generator & Administrative 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 have been Owner purchased in a competitive bid in February 2023 and the design criteria package was advertised in May 2023. Proposals are due August 30, 2023.

- P12702 (GTL Sludge Holding Tank Covers and Roof) – New tank covers and a roof for the building between the tanks as well as odor control equipment will be added using the design/build method. 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 July 2024.

**Flows:**

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 44.9 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for July 2023 was 45.9 MGD compared to the permitted value of 56.6 mgd. The contribution of each large user is shown below:

Large User	Present Year Allocation* (MGD)	3-Yr ADF as of:		
		May 2023	June 2023	July 2023
Fort Lauderdale		35.1	35.2	35.3
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	5.1	5.2	5.2
Wilton Manors	1.98 / 2.46	2.36	2.39	2.39
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.290	0.285	0.307
Davie	0.10 / 0.22	0.10	0.10	0.09
<b>Total GTL Influent</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>44.7</b>

\*Monthly AADF / Max Monthly

**Operational Issues/Accomplishments**

- As expected, full compliance with monthly TSS limits was restored in May – July, but not with annual average TSS limits until late 2023.

**Budgetary Issues**

The highlights of the 2023 Renewal & Replacement Report will be discussed in the meeting. Mr. Abi-Karam asked for the R&R report to be distributed to City of Oakland Park who had requested a copy.

**Rate Calculations**

Kym Holcombe referred to the Financial handout for Fiscal Month 10-July. Ms. Holcombe stated the City is currently at an obligation of 68.1% and does anticipate spending the entire budget on maintenance, small projects being completed in house, and capital operational budgets for FY2023. Ms. Holcombe stated the projected rate for FY2024 is approximately \$2.79 per thousand gallons. The estimate of true-up rate per 1,000 gallons for FY2023 is shown at \$3.02.

Referring to the handout “Computation of Rates To Be Charged”, Ms. Zuercher questioned the Operating and Maintenance costs, and asked: 1) if the expectation is to go over the

budget; 2) regarding the expected replacement costs (the increase in FY2023), which is significantly impacting the rate.

Discussion followed on the calculation of numbers shown on the Computation of Rates and the decision to set a rate for FY2024.

Motion by Pennie Zuercher to return at a scheduled meeting next week with validated financial numbers and calculations to reach a vote on the proposed rate per thousand gallons. Seconded by Chris Lips. Motion passed. 5 Yeas / 1 Nay

Motion amended by Pennie Zuercher to schedule a meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 1:30 pm in the City of Wilton Manors. Seconded by Chris Lips. Motion passed unanimously.

An emergency meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2023 at 1:30 pm to vote on the proposed rate for FY 2024, with a public notice of 72-hours.

### **Discussion – Wastewater Capacity / I&I**

Justin Murray explained the table shown on the GTL Presentation, which shows the 3-year average flow, for each municipality over a three-month period and the allocations allowed, which is part of the Large User Agreement. He explained I&I continues to be a large problem that should be addressed with capital lining projects.

Discussion regarding the difference between maximum allocation and capacity, excessive flows in the injection wells, explanation for the allocation allotment for City of Fort Lauderdale after the agreed upon allocations based on the Large Users' agreements for each municipality, the DRC permits and projected commitments, not to exceed the permitted 56.6 MGD.

### **Next Meeting**

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm