

**Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday JULY 6, 2023 – 1:30 P.M.  
Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, Fort Lauderdale, 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  
Albert Carbon, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Director  
Rhonda Montoya Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III  
Miguel Arroyo, Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager

**Roll Call:**

Pennie Zuercher, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director  
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director, Utilities  
Keith Bellissimo, City of Wilton Manors / Technician III  
Paul Rolli, City of Wilton Manors / City Commissioner  
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager  
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director  
Tim O'Neil, CDM  
Christopher Bennett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director – Engineering  
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  
Igor Vassiliev, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II  
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Facilities Manager  
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  
Colin Leslie, City of Fort Lauderdale / Process Control Engineer  
Todd Hiteshew, City of Fort Lauderdale / Environmental Manager  
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 1:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced Colin Leslie who played the video recording about the Risk Management Plan (RMP) for the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked everyone to introduce themselves, and verified there was a quorum, even though there was no voting today. Today's meeting will be discussing the capacity issues and Inflow and Infiltration (I&I).

Mr. Archacki mentioned that the idea was to have an impromptu meeting to talk about what each city is doing for I&I and capacity, and what are the plans in moving forward to gain capacity. Mr. Abi-Karam said that the best approach would be to have a Board meeting structure for transparency for all members of the Large Users.

Discussion followed regarding:

- 1) Capacity Allocation – Refer to the Large User Agreement, Section 3.4 which is specific to each municipality. The allocation tables for each municipality will be distributed to all municipalities (forwarded on July 10, 2023).
- 2) Tracking the allocated capacity process - The Large Users capacity are not being tracked by City of Fort Lauderdale. Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) explained the process before signing a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) for a municipality. For City of Fort Lauderdale projects going through the Development and Review Committee (DRC) process, a water/sewer capacity analysis is completed for each request. Discussion followed regarding and wanting to gain capacity system-wide, obtaining the flows from other municipalities monthly, municipalities tracking the flows and allocations currently and with new projects, overflows, lack of capacity in the system, pressure data at the lift stations, data for wet/dry weather flow at each basin/pump station, DSD coordination and review of the modeling simulations, analysis, and study, specifically for Wilton Manors and Oakland Park as far as entry.
- 3) Each municipality will submit their average monthly flows / allocations to City of Fort Lauderdale to DSD staff. An email will be provided at a later date.
- 4) Updating models - each basin per pump station
- 5) Discussing the actual monthly flows at the quarterly meetings and having the data to support the discussion.
- 6) GTL rating and capacity – initially, the Broward County (BC) license was 48 MGD based on annual average daily flow and after recent discussions, the BC permit reflects 56.6 MGD three months average daily flow.
- 7) I&I program – City of Fort Lauderdale spent \$25M over the last five years and will be spending approximately \$120M over the next five years and is moving forward very aggressively. Public Works Engineering/DSD staff to provide an updated presentation on the City of Fort Lauderdale’s I&I program at a Large Users Quarterly meeting. Staff is currently working on a RFQ to get a consultant on board to develop a program from planning to execution of oversight of contracts such as evaluating the system and making recommendations, etc., and will reach out to the Large Users.
- 8) Surcharge methodology: Please refer to Sections 3.6 and 5.1 of the Large User’s Agreement. Discussion followed regarding the calculation of the surcharge for each municipality, which is the same all municipalities; whether City of Fort Lauderdale will be also be charged for overflows; the difference between the wastewater program and the central regional plant, with the municipalities being a part of the regional plant; and what happens to dollars being paid by the municipalities for surcharge, which will be invested back into the regional system. .

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm