

Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday JULY 31, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.
Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, 949 NW 38 Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Voting Members Present:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director
Albert Carbon, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Director
Rhonda Montoya Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Assistant City Attorney
Miguel Arroyo, Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager
Jud Hopping, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution and Collection Systems Manager
Christopher Bennett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Engineering

Roll Call:

Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director
Roberta Moore, City of Wilton Manors / Community Development Director
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director, Utilities
Paul Rolli, City of Wilton Manors / City Commission
Jeremy Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Facilities Manager
Daniel Rey, City of Fort Lauderdale / Land Development Manager, DSD
Roberto Betancourt, City of Fort Lauderdale / Program Manager
Martha Romero, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Shannon Barrett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator
Miriam Barahona, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant
Carolyn Walton, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone at the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant facility is governed by the Risk Management Plan (RMP) and is required to complete a presentation about Risk Management, initiated by Miguel Arroyo.

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

Mr. Abi-Karam 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 discussion on wastewater in the regional system, and the votes are based on volume and contribution to the central large users' wastewater system. According to section (c) Sec. 28-29 of the ordinance, representatives/votes from City of Fort Lauderdale are: the Director or his designee, a member of the City Commission; a member of City's attorney's office; a member of the Distribution and Collections division, a member of the Treatment division, and a member of the Finance Department. He stated that sec (b) of the ordinance discussed how the votes are allocated – City of Oakland Park has one vote, City of Wilton Manors has one vote, and City of Fort Lauderdale has five votes.

Approval of April 17, 2024 Meeting minutes. Motion made by Miguel Arroyo to approve meeting minutes. David Archacki seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

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

- 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 (90%). Evaluation is ongoing to determine what additional funding will be needed.
- 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 was scheduled for February 2024. Approximately 95% of the underground work has been completed and work on the control building has continued. The project has been delayed and is scheduled to be completed by end of August 2024.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – The NTP for this \$11.1 million project was issued July 24, 2023. This project will reroute the treated effluent in order to demolish the chlorine flash mix basin and provide space for future generators. Construction has started with an anticipated Substantial Completion in August 2024. The project is on schedule and under budget.
- P12876 (GTL Reactor Rehabilitation) – The repair of concrete and application of protective coatings is needed in 3 of the remaining 4 treatment reactors along with new mechanical mixers on the reactor roofs. A task order for design services was executed and 30% engineering design is expected to be submitted in October 2024.
- P12529 (Effluent Pumps Standby Generator & Administrative Building Improvements) – This project is mandated by the FDEP amended consent order (2020) to provide standby power generators and ensure that all effluent pumps can run without FP&L power. A total of \$28 million is funded through the Community Investment Plan. The project is required to be completed by August 2025. The generators have been Owner-purchased via competitive bid and are expected to be delivered by June 2025. A design criteria package (DCP) was advertised May – August 2023; however, only one bid proposal was received which exceeded the project budget. The consultant completed 100% design of the generator switchgear in May 2024. Bidding is concluding this week July 2024 and scheduled to be awarded in September 2024.

- P12169/12702/12252 (GTL Odor Control & Sludge Holding Tank Covers and Roof) – New odor control equipment for the Pretreatment Building and Sludge Holding tanks, upgrade of the electrical unit substations in the Pretreatment Building and other needed infrastructure was advertised in a design/build criteria package December 2023 – May 2024. Only one proposal was received from AECOM. Ongoing negotiations are taking place between Procurement Department and AECOM to reduce the scope and fee from the initial proposal of \$26M to a level that can be funded. Award of the Contract is anticipated in August 2024.

Flows:

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 44.9 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for June 2024 was 42.5 MGD compared to the permitted value of 61.58 mgd. The contribution of each Large User is shown below:

Table 1. Large User Current Flows

Large User	Present Year Allocation* (MGD)	3-Yr ADF as of:		
		Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Fort Lauderdale		36.8	37.0	37.3
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	5.1	5.1	5.1
Wilton Manors	1.98 / 2.46	2.36	2.34	2.34
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.296	0.299	0.303
Davie	0.10 / 0.22	0.12	0.12	0.12

***AADF / Max Monthly**

Mr. Fisher mentioned he would like to review/discuss the numbers in the table.

Operational Issues/Accomplishments

- The VPSA is not functional but within the warranty period. The manufacturer and general contractor are challenging the warranty coverage, claiming negligence by the City. The City is contesting the allegation and will be issuing a letter declaring the Contractor in default. In the meantime, daily liquid oxygen deliveries are imposing an operational cost of \$160,000 per month. *The cost is slightly offset by a reduction in electrical usage.*
- The old cryogenic compressor room has been repurposed as a new mechanic shop.
- Two (2) clarifiers have been preventatively maintained prior to the rainy season to ensure top performance.
- Multiple electrical room flooring projects have been completed.

- A PLC in the Dewatering Building was recently replaced, and a 2nd one in the generator building is in the process of replacement.
- A 100-hp RAS Motor was replaced in July 2024.

Permitted Capacity Issues

Ms. Moore asked about the status of the independent consultant. Mr. Abi-Karam said Mr. Carbon is working with the Public Works Director on this item. Discussion followed as to how long it would take to get a consultant on board, and an update should be available by the next scheduled Large Users Meeting.

Budgetary Issues

- Surcharges have been assessed per the Large User Agreement since January 2024. Future invoices will include a 2nd page with backup materials to help clarify which surcharge(s) are assessed and the reason.

Old and New Business

None

Mr. Murray mentioned the Mechanical Integrity Test (MIT) for the injection wells in which the contractor has completed 4 out of the 5 wells, and the project will be completed by the deadline of September 5, 2024.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned that samples are taken from the casings of the build-up and sent to two independent labs to find out about the deposits on the casings, any restrictions, and volume/velocity being used. Mr. Abi-Karam said that the results should be available in a couple of months.

Progress Update

Regional Force mains and Repump Stations Projects (CIP)

No update from City of Fort Lauderdale on capital projects.

Mr. Archacki said Wilton Manors started the 20-inch force main project, starting from the master lift station and is currently working on the MOT permit. He mentioned that the substantial completion is December 2024.

Mr. Carbon stated that he needed an update from the City of Fort Lauderdale Design-Build project team that started phases of a project in December 2023. Mr. Carbon mentioned that public participation meeting has been scheduled for August 22nd on one phase of said project - NE 38 Street, from Dixie Highway to US 1, and needed to know the status of phases that has been completed and are still in progress, since it is part of the regional system. It was confirmed that this project is part of the City of Fort Lauderdale Consent Order. Mr. Archacki confirmed that the force main project is also part of (Wilton Manors) Consent Order. Mr. Fisher confirmed that Wilton Manors' Commissioners recently approved \$950,000 worth of lining, which will be completed by the end of this year.

Financial Position

Martha Romero said that, based on the financial handout “Computation of Rates to be Charged”, the estimate for this upcoming year FY2025 is \$2.858 per 1,000 gallons. Ms. Romero stated that estimation for FY2025 was based on the project projections from the Second Quarter, and the main part of the report when calculating is the flows and figures reported in the I&I report. Martha Romero reviewed the operational costs and revenues on the financial handout.

Mr. Abi-Karam questioned Character 30 (materials and services) on the financial handout, asking about FY2025 numbers showing lower than FY2024, when the market is indicating an upward trend and price increase across the board. Ms. Romero said she can provide a more detailed report, if needed.

Mr. Carbon questioned items on the financial handout - the significant increase between FY2024 and FY2025 in Character 10, and the expenditures/projections on Replacement Reserve Funding line.

Discussion followed regarding the financial handout, costs of the liquid oxygen at GTL, having the Large Users vote meeting closer to Quarter 3 in the future to get a better handle on the budgeting process/financials vs. Quarter 2, restrictions on timeframe for meeting to vote given the deadline for Commission meetings before beginning of new fiscal year, October 1st.

Mr. Abi-Karam said \$2.82 per 1,000 gallons was voted and adopted for FY2024 and asked for a motion for FY2025.

Mr. Carbon confirmed FY2024 projection is showing \$2.67 per 1,000 gallons, based on Quarter 2 (handout) and is currently paying \$2.82 per 1,000 gallons. Discussion followed regarding the expenditure of liquid oxygen and repairs on the VPSA.

Miguel Arroyo made a motion to set the new rate at \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons for FY2025. There was no second to this motion. Mr. Abi-Karam asked for a new proposed rate.

Albert Carbon, City of Oakland Park, made a motion to set the new/current rate at \$2.82 per 1,000 gallons for FY2025. David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors, seconded the motion.

Yeas: City of Wilton Manors (David Archacki), City of Oakland Park (Albert Carbon)

Nays: City of Fort Lauderdale – Finance (Chris Bennett), City Attorney (Rhonda Hasan), Distribution & Collections (Jud Hopping), Treatment (Miguel Arroyo), Director (Talal Abi-Karam). Motion failed.

Jud Hopping, Distribution & Collection Systems Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale made a motion to set the new rate at \$2.85 per 1,000 gallons for FY2025. David Archacki seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Archacki mentioned it is hard to decide on a projected number (at Quarter 2) for the new fiscal year wastewater rate.

Old/New Business

Wastewater Capacity / I&I

Chris lips asked about lining projects within the City of Fort Lauderdale. Chris Bennett said there are currently a couple of task orders (approximately \$4M-\$6M) for lining projects and is in the \$100M/5-years program/planning phase, which will take approximately one year to analyze the entire City's basins, and then issue a CIP plan for the entire city, based on the annual budget.

Discussion followed as to the lining contract, contractors being used and how work is being issued to Contractor, and other cities piggybacking on contracts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Wilton Manors, Island City Park Preserve (ICPP), 823 NE 28 Street, Wilton Manors, FL 33334.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.