

**Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday OCTOBER 23, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.**  
**Island City Park Preserve, 823 NE 28 Street, Wilton Manors, FL 33334**

**Voting Members Present:**

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities  
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director  
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant 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

**Roll Call:**

Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager  
Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager  
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director, Utilities  
Paul Rolli, City of Wilton Manors / City Commission  
Jerry Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor  
Robert Harris, 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  
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 1:35 p.m., welcomed everyone, and thanked the City of Wilton Manors for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked everyone to introduce themselves, and verified there was a quorum. He mentioned that this is a public notice meeting.

Approval of July 31, 2024 Meeting minutes. Motion made by David Archacki to approve meeting minutes. Jud Hopping seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

**Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer (GTL) 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 (90%). Funding from the Central Region is being reallocated from this project and used for P12169 GTL Odor Control System and P12702 GTL Sludge Holding Tank Covers & Roof.

- 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 on January 25, 2022 and completion was scheduled for February 2024. The contractor is currently addressing the punch list items. The project has been delayed and is scheduled to be completed by end of fourth quarter 2024.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – The notice to proceed (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. The project is behind schedule but under budget. Final completion is scheduled for December 2024.
- 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 was submitted in October 2024 for City review.
- 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. The project was awarded in September 2024 but Notice to Proceed is still pending the Contractor successfully obtaining a performance bond. A risk exists that the Consent Order deadline is not met.
- 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. Negotiations were held between Procurement Department and AECOM to optimize the scope and fee from the initial proposal of \$26M to \$21M. Award of the Contract is anticipated by the end of 2024.

### **Flows:**

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 44.9 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for September 2024 was 45.6 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:		
		July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024
Fort Lauderdale		37.4	37.4	37.7
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	5.1	5.0	5.1
Wilton Manors	1.98 / 2.46	2.33	2.31	2.31
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.306	0.307	0.317
Davie	0.10 / 0.22	0.12	0.12	0.12

**\*AADF / Max Monthly**

**Operational Issues/Accomplishments**

- The VPSA failed during 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 issued contractual notice declaring the Contractor in default. In the meantime, daily liquid oxygen deliveries are imposing an operational cost of \$160,000 per month.
- Clarifier 9 was observed to have slightly less hydraulic capacity at high flows. It was dewatered, the Return Activated Sludge Line was found to be compromised; it has since been repaired.
- The old cryogenic compressor room was converted into a new mechanic shop.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned an incident that occurred at the GTL Wastewater Treatment Plant during a consent order project construction on the redundant effluent line, where a sub-contractor drilled a huge hole in the 54-inch effluent pipe. The five pumps to the effluent pump station were shut down and the flows were re-routed to the outfall at the intracoastal. A report was filed with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding the discharge of approximately 311 million gallons over a period of approximately four days. Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned that the City is working with the contractor.

**Budgetary Issues**

- Surcharges have been assessed per the Large User Agreement since January 2024.

**Progress Update** - Regional Force mains and Repump Stations Projects (CIP)

No update from City of Fort Lauderdale on capital projects.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned the City has engaged Black & Veatch to conduct the Study. The scope of work has been submitted and a full Task Order was submitted on October 17, 2024 and City is working with Black & Veatch to finalize the Task Order. Ms. Henderson asked about a schedule for the project. Mr. Abi-Karam said the Consultant will reach out to each municipality once the Task Order is finalized.

### **Financial Position**

Shannon Barrett said that the report (handout) was completed at the beginning of October and the charges of services are currently at 103.3% threshold and have exceeded the revenues for FY24. Ms. Barrett explained that the total expenditure shows a total of 83.92% and should be close to 100% once posted by end of October.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked about the audit / reimbursement to the municipalities. Ms. Barrett advised she would do some research and advice. Per Ms. Barrett, the audit / reimbursement should be completed by January, 2025.

### **Old/New Business** - Wastewater Capacity / I&I

Mr. Archacki stated Wilton Manors had a force main break in late August/September, 2024 and piggybacked on the City's annual contractor DMSI to make the repairs. He stated that City of Wilton Manors are struggling with capacity issues. He stated the new force main has been installed under the canal and is working with the contractor to complete a tie-in with Fort Lauderdale.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Wilton Manors, Island City Park Preserve, 823 NE 28 Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.