

**Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday July 20, 2022 – 1:30 P.M.
Hagen Park Community Center, Wilton Manors**

Voting Members Present:

David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Director, EM/Utilities
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager
Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities
Rhonda Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager

Roll Call:

Jud Hopping, City of Fort Lauderdale / Utilities D&C Systems Manager
Justin Murray, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Facilities Manager
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager
Kenya Baker, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Tim O'Neil, CDM Smith
Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Office Manager, EM/Utilities
Pennie Zuercher, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director
Jerry Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Brian Maloney, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Serviceworker III
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. He stated that this is the (third) quarterly meeting of the Large Users Advisory Board, and the business of the 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.

Mr. Abi-Karam thanked City of Wilton Manors for hosting the meeting, welcomed everyone, asked everyone to introduce themselves, and verified there was a quorum.

Approval of May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes. David Archacki made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Miguel Arroyo seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for May 11, 2022, were approved. Vote was unanimous.

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

Construction Projects

- 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 temporary electrical design is being finalized by the design/build team. The project

is currently behind schedule while the prerequisite P12530 Deepwell Electrical is constructed (50%).

- P12530 (Deepwell Electrical Power & Instrumentation) – This project will supply 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 against hurricane damage. The \$2.9 million project began construction January 25, 2022 and is scheduled for completion in March 2023. Approximately 60% of the underground work has been completed and work on the control building 40% completed.
- 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 has begun construction as of February 2022. The final completion is scheduled for November 2023 and the project is currently 35% complete. Several slabs and columns have been poured, and storage tanks have been received. The primary process equipment is being properly stored offsite out of the elements.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – Design documents are 90% complete by the consultant AECOM. Construction cost estimates ranging from \$5.1M to \$6.1M at a Class IV level (-15% to +50%) 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 \$2.7 million and the difference will be requested in the next CIP cycle. This project may need to be fast-tracked so that space will be available for future generators under P12529.
- P12252 (GTL Interior Painting) – GTL staff negotiated a task order with a consultant to prepare design documents to repair concrete and apply protective coatings in the 2nd of the 4 treatment reactors. It is currently in the approval process. This approval is on hold until the structural engineer Contract with the City is fully processed and approved.
- P12529 (Effluent Pumps Standby Generator & Admin Building Improvements) – This project was mandated by the FDEP amended consent order in 2020, to provide standby power and ensure all effluent pumps can run without FP&L power. The kickoff meeting with the consultant (Smith Engineering) was held on May 6, 2022. The next step is to prepare the design criteria package for the design/build portion of the project. \$28 million is funded through the Community Investment Plan and upcoming 2023 bond, and the project is required to be completed by February 2024.
- P12702 (GTL Sludge Holding Tank Covers and Roof) – GTL staff have begun negotiations for a task order 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 and plant improvements described below. The consultants are inspecting the tank interiors this week.

Flows:

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 43.2 MGD.

Operational Issues

- The ongoing maintenance of traffic and electrical coordination for the new VPSA facility requires significant management time. In addition, lead times for equipment continue to be very long due to supply chain issues. This is mitigated by maintaining spare parts whenever feasible. The City continues to hire Operator Trainees and mentor them towards licensure, since licensed operators are difficult to retain as inflation rises.

Budgetary Issues

- The annual operating budget and the Repair and Replacement Plan (R&R) are anticipated to require increases to account for chemical, materials, fuel, electricity, and other supply chain constraints.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated that the GTL operating permit was renewed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Broward County earlier this year for another five years; and the permit for the deep injection wells was also renewed. He said the capital improvements are on-going at GTL, such as the VPSA project, which is becoming critical due to material and chemical shortages. Mr. Abi-Karam stated being under the Consent Order, there has been a lot of scrutiny in terms of capacity and inflow and infiltration.

Rate Calculations – Kym Holcombe

Ms. Holcombe referenced the Central Regional Fund financial handout, indicating the expenditures are below target for the third quarter at 56.91%. Ms. Holcombe mentioned that the City is currently working on implementing a new financial system, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), which is currently in the testing mode and will be going live on October 1, 2022. Ms. Holcombe stated the billing rate for FY 2021 voted and ratified was \$2.48 per thousand gallons. She stated that the FY 2021 audit report was completed last week, which resulted in \$2.35 per thousand gallons, and a rebate should be forthcoming later in the year. For FY 2022, \$2.68 per thousand gallons was voted and ratified. Ms. Holcombe said the assumed rate in the FY 2023 proposed budget is to remain at the current rate at \$2.68 per thousand gallons, but the rate can be entertained between the range of \$2.35 and \$2.68 per thousand gallons, with the consideration of increased costs of goods, services, and construction.

Discussion followed as to the current rate, which is \$2.68 per thousand gallons, the market increase which is approximately 10-15%, the audit report issued at year end, municipalities getting a rebate versus lower water bill for the residents, versus municipalities paying back at the end of the year; current rising prices for contracts, chemicals, materials, etc.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked for a motion for the proposed rate for FY 2023. Mr. Archacki made a motion to set the new rate at \$2.55 per thousand gallons for FY 2023. Mr. Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.