

Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday JULY 30, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.
City of Wilton Manors, 2020 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Voting Members Present:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Director – Public Works
Alan Dodd, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director
Albert Carbon, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Director
Shaun Amarani, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager
Jud Hopping, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution and Collection Systems Manager
Jason Snifeld, City of Fort Lauderdale / Division Manager,

Roll Call:

Steve Hillberg, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Project Manager
Carol Conol, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director
Azita Behmardi, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant City Manager
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director-Public Works
Gerald Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Earl Henry, City of Tamarac / Superintendent
Tim O’Neil, CDM
Julio Teieda, South Florida Water Management District
Gabrielle Bork, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Project Manager
Igor Vassiliev, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II (left at 2:00 pm)
Robert Harris, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Operations Supervisor
Shannon Barrett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Miriam Barahona, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant
Christeena Sutherland, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator
Barbara Smith, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Timekka Horton, Senior Administrative Assistant
Hector Gomez, Ardurra
Alejandra Suarez, DMSI
Ryan Kaltz, DMSI
Jose Quiroz, WSP
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:34 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 publicly notice meeting and strictly related to wastewater in the regional system.

Approval of April 23, 2025 Meeting minutes.

Motion made by Miguel Arroyo to approve meeting minutes. Alan Dodd 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

- 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. The contractor is working on the punch list items with anticipated resolution in the third quarter 2025.
- 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. The flow has been successfully rerouted around the dewatering building, and demolition of the chlorine flash mix basin has been completed. The contractor is currently installing the vaults and duct-bank for the Standby Generator project. Completion is expected by the end of the second quarter 2025.
- P12800 (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 60% engineering design was submitted in December 2024 for City review. A field meeting was conducted with PW Engineering on site to discuss status on April 9, 2025. The 90% design submittal was received on April 11, 2025. 100% submittal being reviewed by staff. PW Engineering to prepare bid documents for the construction of Phase 1 – Reactor Trains B and C, which are expected to be awarded by August 2025. Phase 2 construction will be awarded with the allocation of FY 2026 CIP funds scheduled for October 2025.
- P12876 (GTL Clarifier Rehabilitation) – The repair and selected replacement of components of most of the 11 clarifiers was analyzed by the consultant. A technical memorandum is expected. PW Engineering is evaluating the required funding.
- 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. An extension was approved by FDEP to move the completion of the project from August 2025 to May 2, 2026. The generators have been owner-

purchased via competitive bid and are on schedule to be delivered by June 2025. The project was awarded in September 2024, but the award was cancelled due to the contractor’s inability to obtain a performance bond. The contract will be rebid in June 2025.

- 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 the Procurement Department and AECOM to optimize the scope and fee from the initial proposal of \$26M to \$21M. Award of the Contract was anticipated by the end of 2024, but the effort has been delayed multiple times due to problems on other projects performed by AECOM. On Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the Agreement (209) was passed by the City Commission of Fort Lauderdale.
- P12387 (GTL WWTP Redundant Effluent FM) This project will install a redundant effluent force main to all 5 GTL Injection Wells.

Flows:

- Annual average flow for the last twelve months is currently 42.76 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for June 2025 was 39.15 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 2025	MAY 2025	JUN 2025
Fort Lauderdale		37.76	37.80	37.74
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	4.94	4.93	4.89
Wilton Manors	**2.15 / 2.46	2.26	2.27	2.29
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.34	0.35	0.35
Davie	0.10 / 0.22	0.12	0.12	0.12

*AADF / Max Monthly

**Correction made due to communication on April 25, 2024 from City of Fort Lauderdale City Manager to City of Wilton Manors, to increase wastewater capacity by 0.1742 MGD, and not through modification of Large User’s agreement.

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. Mediation and analysis ongoing.

Permitted Capacity Issues

Budgetary Issues

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

Old and New Business

None

Mr. Dodd requested a copy of the technical memorandum for the GTL Reactor Rehabilitation.

Mr. Dodd said that the flows are incorrect for Wilton Manors, which is showing 10% higher when compared to City of Wilton Manors' three-year average, based on the billing from the meters. Mr. Dodd said for future months, he would like to see the three-year history of how the average is being calculated.

Mr. Carbon requested to include the CIP dollar amount allocated for each project in CIP program. He also requested the City of Oakland Park and City of Tamarac receive a copy of the spreadsheet showing the three-year history and how the average is being calculated.

Mr. Carbon asked about the stand-by generator project. Mr. Abi-Karam said the project was rebid, awarded and is currently in the Notice to Proceed phase. He said that the generators have been delivered and are being stored at the Prospect Wellfield.

Mr. Arroyo mentioned other projects being done at GTL such as redundant effluent line and rehabilitation of the freight elevators, etc.

Progress Update – Regional Forcemains and Repump Stations Projects (CIP)

Ms. Bork introduced Ryan Kaltz and Alejandra Suarez from DMSI, and Jose Quiroz, Construction Inspector, WSP. Mr. Kaltz said installations are completed from Re-pump B to Federal Highway and are ready to turn west onto NW 38 Street. Mr. Kaltz said overall project completion should be around early next year. Ms. Bork said the date was pushed out due to supplier shortages, providing the necessary materials and some design changes recently approved by City Commission for the work at the Repump B station.

Financial Position

Shannon Barrett said that according to financial report handout, the revenues are currently at approximately 66.48% threshold as of June 2025, and the total expenditures including commitments and encumbrances are currently at 79.98% for FY25.

Mr. Dodd said the revenues should be more than the expenditure by the end of year.

Ms. Conol questioned the revenue figures for the annual budget. Mr. Snifeld said he will double-check the amounts.

Mr. Snifeld said that the Finance Department has calculated the recommended rate, which is at \$3.22 per thousand gallons. Mr. Carbon asked about the current rate, which is \$2.85 per thousand gallons.

Mr. Dodd questioned the Operating and Maintenance Cost on the Computation of Rates Charged spreadsheet, which shows a 12% increase. Mr. Abi Karam mentioned the purchase of the liquid oxygen and the rebid of the Biosolid Contract which came in significantly higher.

Ms. Conol said the increase in salaries is projected at 11%. Ms. Conol advised that she would be sending an email to staff for clarification.

Discussion followed regarding the 53% increase in Reserve Fund Balance, proposed rate of \$3.22 per thousand gallons, how the flow allocations are determined.

Miguel Arroyo made a motion to set the new rate at \$3.22 per 1,000 gallons for FY2026. Jud Hopping seconded the motion.

Discussion followed regarding a rebate for FY2024, the fund balance of the operating budget, surplus from previous years, the significant increase in rate -from \$2.85 to \$3.22 per thousand gallons.

Motion made by Miguel Arroyo to set a new rate of \$3.22 per 1,000 gallons for FY2026. Jud Hopping seconded the motion. Yeas: Talal Abi-Karam, Jason Snifeld, Shaun Amarnai, Miguel Arroyo and Jud Hopping. Nays: City of Wilton Manors (Alan Dodd) and City of Oakland Park (Albert Carbon). Motion passed.

Old/New Business

Wastewater Capacity and I&I

Mr. Abi-Karam stated that Ardurra has been engaged for the City of Fort Lauderdale I&I Program. Hector Gomez, representative for Ardurra, explained that the project and numbers are being refined for the dry and wet season. While SSES (Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey) is still ongoing, preliminary numbers for criteria are just under 5,000 gpdim (gallons per day per inch diameter mile), and during the wet season, just under 12,000 gpdim. Anticipated reduction at the GTL plant average 10mgd at the moment.

Update on Fort Lauderdale Capacity Allocation Review Study

Mr. Abi-Karam said a report was received from Black and Veatch (Consultant) and subsequently disseminated to the Large Users. He noted joint feedback was submitted by City of Oakland Park and City of Wilton Manors, which included requests for additional data. Mr. Abi-Karam stated that a special meeting of the Large Users Advisory Board will be scheduled to review the contents of the report.

It was determined that the special meeting will be scheduled for August 27, 2025 at 1:30 pm, with a tentative back-up date of September 24, 2025 at 1:30 pm, in the event the report is not ready. This meeting will be hosted by City of Wilton Manors.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled during the upcoming special meeting.

Mr. Dodd asked about an update to the VPSA. Mr. Abi-Karam said that an update will be given at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.