

**Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Special Workshop Meeting
Wednesday JANUARY 14, 2026 – 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 – Utility Services
Alan Dodd, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director
Julie Leonard, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Director
Shaun Amarnani, 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:

Albert Carbon, City of Fort Lauderdale / Director – Utility Services
Paul Rolli, City of Wilton Manors / City Commissioner
Anita Behmardi, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant City Manager
Bert Fisher, City of Wilton Manors / Assistant Director-Public Works
Carol Conol, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director
Gerald Robinson, City of Tamarac / Wastewater Supervisor
Earl Henry, City of Tamarac / Assistant Director Utilities
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager
Chris Lips, City of Oakland Park / Assistant Public Works Director
Gabrielle Bork, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Project Manager
Jessica Boland, City of Fort Lauderdale / Program Manager
Miriam Barahona, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant
Christeena Sutherland, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator
Ruby Summa , City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator
Robert Harris, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Operations Supervisor
Steve Hillberg, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Project Manager
Alberto Morales, Black & Veatch (*via Zoom*)
Emeliz Torres, Black & Veatch / Project Manager
Jorge Villalobos, Black & Veatch / Consultant (*Via Zoom*)
Prabha Kumar, Black & Veatch – Managing Director (*via Zoom*)
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 the business of this Board is strictly related to the regional wastewater system, as defined in the City's Ordinance Sec. 28-29.

Update on Fort Lauderdale Capacity Allocation Review Study

Mr. Abi-Karam stated that Black & Veatch (Consultant) would proceed with their presentation. He further stated that a workshop was completed, a draft report was distributed on November 17, 2025, and the document was revised, with the version dated January 9, 2026 representing the latest version. Emeliz Torres then introduced the Black & Veatch team participating via Zoom: Prabha Kumar, Alberto Morales, and Jorge Villalobos.

Mr. Morales stated that the primary question concerned the Large Users' capacity allocation and the amount of capacity available. He explained that the presentation would address how much capacity remains available in the system based on what is listed in the Large Users' agreements, noting that the requested capacity is slightly higher than what is identified in the agreements, and that a consistent methodology should be applied across all Large Users. *Mr. Arroyo noted that the method was based on the submitted water supply plans.*

Discussion followed regarding explanations of some of the tables in the report after City of Fort Lauderdale provided flow projections; Sections 3.4 and 6.3.1 of the Large Users' agreements refers to establishing changes related to per capita consumption and population growth; the recommendations listed by B&V in Table 6.1 (report dated 11-17-2025) is being reviewed and discussed; Table 2-11 (Three Year ADFPW) and Table 2.5 (Monthly AADF WW Allocations...) of the final report (dated 01-09-2026), projection numbers should be recalculated and adjust capacity allocations using the same methodology, calibrating the agreements every five (5) years, surcharge being used as dedicated funds to reduce I&I for each municipality (Table 3.4), submitting the Water Supply Plan every five (5) years to City of Fort Lauderdale, recommendations will be made to the City Manager and cost recovery will be reviewed.

Mr. Dodd confirmed with B&V that the analysis regarding the October 31, 2025 population and flow projections was just for City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Dodd requested B&V provide the established methodology used for the flow projections for Fort Lauderdale, so this methodology may be applied in requests for changes to flow allocations in the agreements.

Mr. Abi-Karam referred to Sections 3.4 and 6.3.1, which state that each participant has the opportunity to submit projections regarding future changes. He explained that two key factors considered in these projections are population growth and per capita consumption. Mr. Abi-Karam further noted that, pursuant to Section 6.3.1 of the Large Users' Agreements, any data provided will be analyzed at five (5) years' intervals.

Mr. Dodd acknowledged the quality of work completed by Black and Veatch.

Mr. Lips inquired about the next steps. Mr. Abi-Karam responded that the City of Fort Lauderdale is currently reviewing all recommendations provided by B&V and is in discussions with the City Manager's Office.

Mr. Arroyo explained the numbers for the agreements were obtained (in 2021-2022) via the Water Supply Plan submitted by each municipality and were reviewed and agreed upon by each municipality. Mr. Dodd stated the numbers should be recalculated using the same methodology and the capacity allocations should be adjusted. Mr. Carbon said the agreements will be recalibrated every five years based on the required increase in capacity.

Ms. Kumar explained the surcharge calculations are not based on allocations. Ms. Kumar explained that surcharge calculations are based on the Average Daily Flow of Potable Water (ADLPW) usage volume and the Average Daily Flow (ADF) (Table 2-9).

Discussion followed regarding the upcoming Wastewater Consent Order for Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Carbon confirmed that discussions will take place with the City Manager Office; the agreements will need to be modified, the financial aspects will need to be addressed, and a timeline for the I/I work will need to be established.

Approval of July 30, 2025 Meeting minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Miguel Arroyo and seconded by Alan Dodd. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting minutes were approved.

Approval of September 24, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Miguel Arroyo and seconded by Alan Dodd. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting minutes were approved.

Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer (GTL) Wastewater Treatment Plant – Miguel Arroyo Construction Project Updates

- 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 100% submittal was reviewed by staff in September. PW Engineering, the consultant and the city Development Services Department are currently reviewing all permit requirements to ensure plans are within specifications prior to submittal. PW Engineering to prepare bid documents for the construction of Phase 1 – Reactor Trains B and C, which are expected to be awarded by February 2026. Phase 2 construction will be awarded fourth quarter 2026.
- 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 January 2026. 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 was rebid in June 2025 and awarded to Solares Electrical Services Inc. As of January 7th 2026 - Slabs poured and duct bank installation 90% complete. Fuel tanks and generators to be set in late January and early February.

- 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. AECOM awarded the contract in April 2025. September 2025 – Demo completed for the old pretreatment scrubber system and other components included in the specifications. AECOM is coordinating with the city and other contractors on-site to ensure workflow through scheduling. Manhole rehabilitation expected to start on Monday, January 12th.
- P12387 (GTL WWTP Redundant Effluent FM) This project will install a redundant effluent force main to all 5 GTL Injection Wells. Currently in Phase 3 of the project. 60” pipe being installed at the GTL Deepwell site. PCCP installation 100% of mainline complete as of 12/09/2025.

Flows:

- Annual average flow for the last twelve months is currently 43.32 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for December 2025 was 44.64 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:		
		OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025
Fort Lauderdale		37.60	37.50	37.60
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	4.76	4.71	4.68
Wilton Manors	**2.15 / 2.46	2.08	2.07	2.05
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.19	0.19	0.19
Davie	0.10 / 0.22	0.10	0.10	0.10

*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 \$225,000 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

Update on VPSA

Mr. Carbon said the VPSA system is going through litigation/mitigation in contractor failing to perform. A parallel course is being taken to decide how best to proceed with restoring oxygen production at the plant. Currently, the tanks are being fixed, and Steve Hillberg will assist in deciding on the next course of action.

Progress Update – Regional Force mains and Repump Stations’ Projects (CIP) – Gabrielle Bork

- P12387 – GTL Redundant Effluent Force Main: Ric-Man completed the main line pipe installation at the end of year 2025. The remaining work includes connecting the main pipeline to each of the 5 injection wells and connections back at the GTL pump station. An extension for the FDEP consent order was obtained to March 22, 2027.
- P12799 – Rehabilitation/Replacement of the 48/54-inch Force Main: Lanzo has been working on CIPP operations for rehabilitation and HDD for new install pipeline. The project is on schedule for the consent order deadline of September 30, 2026.
- P12383/84 – Coral Ridge Country Club Force main: DMSI is currently working in Oakland Park, south of NE 38th Street on 13th Avenue and at the intersection of NE 38th Street and 16th Avenue. Completion of work in this area is expected by March 2026. The project is on schedule for the consent order deadline of September 30, 2026.
- Updates to FDEP are given by Ingrid Kindbom.

Financial Position

Mr. Snifeld introduced Christeena Sutherland and Ruby Summa as part of the Financial Team with Utility Services Department.

Mr. Snifeld said that currently there is \$8M in revenue with \$8M pending to post, which put

revenues closer to 30% and on track. Expenditures are approximately \$10.6M year-to-date and on track, as there is approximately \$6.8M in encumbered funds that will be spent over the remainder of the year.

Mr. Abi-Karam reinforced the spending of \$225,000 per month on liquid oxygen.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the City of Oakland Park.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.