

Wastewater Large Users Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday JANUARY 17, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.
George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Voting Members Present:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director
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 / Assistant City Attorney III
Miguel Arroyo, Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager

Roll Call:

Albert Carbon, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Director
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager
Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors / City Manager
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
Tim O’Neil, CDM / Consultant
Chris Woolweaver, City of Fort Lauderdale / Distribution & Collection Systems Supervisor
Christopher Bennett, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant Public Works Director – Engineering
Daniel Rey, City of Fort Lauderdale / Land Development Manager, DSD
Roberto Betancourt, City of Fort Lauderdale / Program Manager
Martha Romero, City of Fort Lauderdale / Acting Business Manager
Maria Santiago, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator
Robert Harris, City of Fort Lauderdale / Operations Supervisor
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

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

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced Robert Harris who explained the Risk Management Plan (RMP) for the GTL Plant, in case of an emergency.

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 wastewater discussion only, and the votes are based on volume and contribution to the central large users’ wastewater system.

Approval of the Rescheduled Meeting from November 15, 2023 to January 17, 2024 (due to inclement weather-rain). Motion made by Miguel Arroyo to approve the rescheduled date. Mr. Archacki inquired about the postings of the public notice for the Large Users meeting, which is usually posted on the City’s website (Calendar of Events) and shown on City TV located at the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD). Seconded by David Archacki. Approval of the rescheduled meeting date was approved. Vote was unanimous.

Approval of July 6, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes: Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. David Archacki seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Approval of August 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Chris Lips seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Approval of August 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes: David Archacki made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Chris Lips seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved. Vote was unanimous.

Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer 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 (70%). 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 is scheduled for February 2024. Approximately 90% of the underground work has been completed and work on the control building has continued.
- P11781/P11917 (GTL Cryogenic Plant/MCC Electrical 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 began construction in February 2022. The contractor was awarded substantial completion in November 2023 and final completion 2 months early in December 2023.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – The NTP for this \$11.1 million project was issued July 24, 2023. Utility locations began in August 2023 and submittals are currently under review for all underground work.
- 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 is expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2024.

- P12529 (Effluent Pumps Standby Generator & Administrative Building Improvements) – This project is mandated by the FDEP amended consent order 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 and upcoming 2024 bond. 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 proposal was received which exceeded the project budget. The consultant is completing 100% design of the generator switchgear. Bidding is expected to begin in March 2024 and 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 is currently advertised in a design/build criteria package. The approved funding of approximately \$9M for multiple projects was combined to accelerate the needed replacements with one contractor.

Flows:

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 46.4 MGD. The rolling 3-month average for December 2023 was 51.0 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 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023
Fort Lauderdale		35.1	35.1	35.5
Oakland Park	2.93 / 3.93	5.1	5.2	5.3
Wilton Manors	1.98 / 2.46	2.35	2.35	2.36
Tamarac	0.226 / 0.260	0.279	0.263	0.306
Davie	0.10 / 0.22	0.09	0.11	0.12
Total GTL Influent		42.7	42.5	42.8

***AADF / Max Monthly**

Operational Issues/Accomplishments

- As expected, full compliance with annual average TSS limits in our FDEP permit was restored as of August 2023.
- The dewatering facility odor control system was demolished to reclaim necessary space for construction during the Chlorine Flash Mix Basin.
- The four (4) 18-inch sludge underflow valves for battery two (2) were replaced, which required taking four (4) of the 11 clarifiers out of service.
- Three of the four clarifiers in battery 3 have been cleaned of rags in the center column, requiring staff to cut access ports and reweld them after rag removal is completed. The fourth will be completed by first Quarter 2024. This minimizes the potential of a restriction and facilitates more capacity for this group of clarifiers.
- A new clarifier drive was installed on Clarifier #6 in January 2024.

Permitted Capacity Issues

- CDM Smith and GTL operational staff worked together closely to submit a request on October 4, 2023 to FDEP in the City’s behalf for rerating of GTL to increase permitted treatment limits from 56.6 MGD to 61.58 MGD three-month average daily flow (TMADF), based on historical operational performance. FDEP has approved the request.

Budgetary Issues

Work has begun on the 2024 Renewal & Replacement Report in order to provide rate information earlier in the fiscal year. The DRAFT report has been reviewed and comments returned.

The following table shows forgiven surcharges since April 2023 that will **not** be assessed while the City finalizes accounting procedures. Surcharges are expected to be assessed beginning **January 2024**.

Table 2. Forgiven Surcharges in 2023

Large User	Surcharge #1 Peak Flows	Surcharge #2 Excess Flow
Oakland Park	Apr, Jun, Jul, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec	Apr - Oct
Wilton Manors	Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec	Apr - Oct
Tamarac	Apr, Nov	Apr - Oct
Davie	May-Dec	--

Also presented is a separate table showing the forgiven surcharges in dollars based on the Large User Agreement and monthly invoices.

Old and New Business

Roberta Moore stated that FDEP has increased GTL capacity to 61.58 MGD and would like a response to their request for an increase in City of Wilton Manors capacity. Chris Bennett said that a draft response is currently being reviewed by City Manager's office and should be finalized by early next week. Mr. Bennett said from the engineering and capacity perspective, a potential response would be that more details may be needed for the projection of future capacity needs. Ms. Henderson suggested a meeting be coordinated with the City of Wilton Manors Engineers for further discussion.

Albert Carbon asked about the three-year average daily flows that shows ± 42.5 MGD (shown in Table 1), stating October, November, December 2023 were "wet" months. Mr. Betancourt explained that the numbers are based on a three-year rolling average. Mr. Carbon then requested a copy of a complete data set.

Mr. Carbon inquired as to why there isn't a present year allocation for Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Bennett stated City of Fort Lauderdale has whatever is left over. Discussion followed as to the excessive flow surcharges and how it is determined if there is no allocation of capacity for Fort Lauderdale, how the projected allocations of each municipality were collected / determined before the agreements were signed; the overall maximum capacity for each municipality, going over the maximum number of 56.6 MGD due to I&I issues overall. Mr. Bennett stated that each municipality has a large meter and that is how the flows are measured; allocations/overall capacity for Fort Lauderdale is still under review since there is no agreement with the City itself.

Mr. Carbon said that based on the letter sent out by (Fort Lauderdale) City Manager, one concern is that each municipality is being charged for surcharges given the I&I capacity issues, Fort Lauderdale should also be charged; and surcharges should go towards I&I.

Mr. Bennett stated that every single development application coming through Fort Lauderdale is tracked (through DRC, Planning, etc.), and once approved, capacity is then reserved for the development or redevelopment. Mr. Bennett stated already approved, planned projects equate to approximately 4 MGD that will be increasing capacity pending the developments in Fort Lauderdale (based on letter from City Manager).

Danniel Rey explained once the developer obtains a letter of permit through the Development and Review Committee (DRC) process, the City must reserve the capacity, same as the allocated capacity for each municipality.

Ms. Henderson explained that City of Wilton Manors is looking for future development/revitalization and asked how a developer/applicant is getting priority above the municipalities. Mr. Bennett said the City monitors all developments and different aspects throughout the years, such as: projections of population growth, changes of densifications for different properties and zones, etc., and the capacity numbers entered into the Large Users' agreements should have been developed in a much more thorough process. Ms. Henderson mentioned that the agreement does allow for changes to the capacity.

Discussion followed regarding allowance to go over the capacity as compared to the agreement; Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA), and how the projection flows were gathered in the Large User Agreement from each municipality.

Miguel Arroyo mentioned that the increase of 61.58 MGD was received yesterday (January 16, 2024), and Broward County does forward a document to all Utilities which shows the committed flows, and how it compares to the permitted capacity.

Mr. Carbon asked about the capacity for the City of Fort Lauderdale and clarified that Fort Lauderdale is a Large User.

Chris Bennett said the flows at the Plant, when calculated, include all actual used flows from each municipality and Fort Lauderdale, and Large Users I&I issues.

David Archacki asked about in-kind projects being substituted for surcharges. Rhonda Hasan said this should be a high-level discussion between City Managers/elected officials.

Ms. Henderson asked about the peak flows in rainy days/seasons, which is happening more frequently. Ms. Henderson enquired about a quantitative report, which was discussed at an earlier meeting, regarding budget, progress, and Capital Investment Projects in I&I.

Chris Bennett said the City is currently executing approximately seven million dollars (\$7M) in Task Orders for lining and will be awarding a Program Management contract which will manage the planning, inspection, repair methodology, recommendations, and construction management, for a minimum of the next five years. Mr. Carbon asked about the "hot spots". Mr. Bennett said a desktop analysis was done and will be used as a baseline.

David Archacki mentioned the bids for the share-cost force main tie-in will be in on February 6th and the project will start sometime this year. Chris Bennett mentioned the kick-off meeting that took place regarding the 38 Street/CRCC force main projects.

Rate Calculations / Financial Report

Martha Romero mentioned that all the budget line items align when comparing actual figures to the budget. However, Character 30 appears to be over-budget primarily due to encumbrances, as Character 60. The revenues seem slightly low because the miscellaneous income line item has not been posted as of date. This is related to the quarterly reporting of investment interests by Central Accounting.

Mr. Carbon requested that the surcharges be discussed between the City Managers regarding assessments to begin January 2024, as stated under the Budgetary Issues section.

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned staff are working with CDM on the R&R report and will send it out once finalized.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, at 1:30 p.m., and will be hosted by City of Wilton Manors, Island City Park Preserve, 823 NE 28 Street, Wilton Manors, FL 33334.

Adjournment

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