

Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday August 12 – 1:30 P.M.
Richardson Estate, City of Wilton Manors

Voting Members Present:

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant Public Works Director
David J. Archacki, City of Wilton Manors/Public Services Director
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale/Water & Wastewater Treatment Manager
Cole Copertino, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant City Attorney I
Rick Johnson, City of Fort Lauderdale/Distribution and Collection Systems Manager
Joseph Telois, (for Ken Resor), City of Oakland Park/Utilities Manager

In Attendance:

Pat Long, City of Fort Lauderdale / GTL Wastewater Treatment Facility Manager
Bob Mays, City of Wilton Manors / Finance Director
Alexander Chinnery, CDM Smith / Consultant
Susan LeSage, City of Fort Lauderdale / Financial Administrator
Alicia Sheffield, City of Fort Lauderdale / Accountant II
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Administrative Assistant I

Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam

Mr. Abi-Karam welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order to 1:36 p.m. Mr. Abi-Karam thanked the David Archacki for hosting the meeting at their facility – the Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve. Mr. Abi-Karam also thanked the sister cities for the past couple of days with the boil water notices incident over the weekend.

Introduction of Advisory Board Members and Guests

All attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of April 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Unanimous vote to pass the meeting minutes of April 15, 2015.

Update on the G.T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant Update – Pat Long

Construction Project Updates

- Task Order (TO) 6, P11710 with Camp Dresser McKee Smith (CDM Smith) was approved at July 10, 2012 commission meeting to study and design upgrades to the switch gear and electrical feeds at Florida Power & Light (FPL) service point 1 (generator building). TO cost was \$425,164. Drawings and bid specs have been finalized at 100%. Currently a consultant is providing a cost estimate before bidding can proceed.
- Task Order 23, P11773 with CDM Smith to design replacement of four sections of Pre-stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) was approved by City Commission on January 8, 2013. The 100% documents are complete with a cost estimate of \$13M. The original funded amount was \$3.5M. A consultant has been tasked with providing validity of the cost estimate. The bidding of this project must go through Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) process. This project is an Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS) target project.

- CDM Smith submitted Annual Capacity Analysis Report which was submitted to FDEP by City on April 17, 2015. Final Renewal and Replacement analysis was received from CDM Smith on June 8, 2015 (*electronically*).
- A PO was issued on May 15, 2014 to paint seven clarifier drives, clarifier center supports and effluent piping for \$23,484 with West Florida Maintenance, Inc. This work was completed on April 16, 2015.
- A project by plant staff to replace all polymer pumps and control panels is virtually complete. Seven pumps along with new PVC control panels have been installed. All piping systems have been rehabilitated and painted.
- Bid proposals for rehabilitation of grit collection chambers, associated channels, and gear drive mechanisms opened on November 7, 2014. Approval of low bidder David Mancini and Sons at a cost of \$1,267,958 was approved by City Commission on January 6, 2015. Notice to proceed for P11876 was issued by Public Works Engineering on April 27, 2015. The concrete rehabilitation, walkway replacement, and protective coatings for the south chamber were completed July 31, 2015. Work will commence on the north chamber this week (*should be completed by end of September*). This project is an ESMS target project.
- A bid to perform a biennial maintenance turnaround at the Cryogenic facility closed on February 11, 2015 and work has been approved by City Commission to the low bidder Solutionwerks on April 7, 2015 in the amount of \$543,000. This work commenced on July 28, 2015. A portion of this work is an ESMS target project.
- A bid to replace the cooling tower media, P12108, at the Cryogenic Facility closed on February 24, 2015 and the low cost bidder, Solutionwerks, was approved by City Commission on April 7, 2015 at a cost of \$82,000. The estimated cost of this project was \$111,000. This work was completed August 6, 2015.

Capacity Issues

Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 37.5 MGD (*due to drought, averaging approximately 33-35 MGD per month, over the last three to four months*)

Operational Issues

Chief Operator position has been filled by Cesar Alza via a transfer from Peele Dixie Water Plant. Two internal candidates will fill two of three Operator II open positions.

Training with Virginia Tech University (VT) to implement an ESMS leading to ISO 14001 certification has been completed. A gap audit conducted by Virginia Tech on December 12, 2014 resulted in an 80% compliance level. A Final audit was conducted by VT personnel on February 26, 2015 and GTL received a 97% compliance level. GTL passed a stage 1 audit, which was conducted by a contract auditor, on July 22, 2015. A stage 2 audit will be conducted beginning August 17, 2015.

GTL, along with all City Departments, is currently reviewing operations to conform to ISO 9001 - Quality Control Management System.

Budgetary Issues

Stormwater Improvement project P12106 was initiated in December 2014 as an ESMS target program. It will re-establish a conveyance system for GTL stormwater which was disrupted during the construction of the 17th Street causeway. Design of this project is by Craven Thompson and Assoc. which received an approved Task Order on June 16, 2015. Total estimated cost of the project is \$596,673. All storm system components have been televised and design is currently in progress. *An ESMS target project.*

A bid has closed on March 31, 2015 to upgrade the emergency generator exhaust systems at GTL and Fiveash to be compliant with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. The cost portion to GTL is \$63,631.78. This project is scheduled for approval by City Commission on August 18, 2015.

A Comprehensive Utility Strategic Master Plan is currently being completed by Reiss Engineering and the report is expected in June 2016.

City Commission approved purchase of two new grit pumps at a cost of \$40,000 to replace pumps which have reached end of life use.

City Commission approved July 7, 2015 the purchase of two new sludge transfer pumps at a cost of \$99,129. This is to replace two pumps that had been rebuilt numerous times and had a rehabilitation cost of \$100,000.

Mr. Abi-Karam inquired if there were any questions. There was none.

Rate Calculations

Ms. LeSage stated there were two spreadsheets for the Computation of Rates which were distributed for review – Computation of Rates to be Charged; Computation of Rates to be Charged showing \$2 million in savings. On the first spreadsheet, Ms. LeSage explained the operating maintenance costs as estimated in the budget process for FY15 was \$15.9M. Based on the current flows, the rate would come in at \$1.94 per thousand gallons, and the City was billing at \$1.70 per thousand gallons. The second spreadsheet shows a savings of \$2M; the flows going into the plant are low resulting in lower costs, \$1.79 per thousand gallons. Ms. LeSage stated for next year's proposed budget, the estimated rate is \$1.85 per thousand gallons. The calculation is based on an average year of flows for each Large User as reflected on the third spreadsheet, *Wastewater Regional Flows* which shows a comparison of flows for the past three years.

Miguel Arroyo mentioned the flow is approximately 17.2 inches lower than average and this kind of flow was last seen since 2010-11.

Bob Mays mentioned that Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget is 11% higher and FY 2016 budget is 7.5% higher than FY 2015. Mr. Mays asked if there are any other costs, besides payroll costs, that would be moving up faster than expected. Ms. LeSage stated that in reviewing the major increases, there was increase of \$380,000 in property and fire insurance; the service charges for IT increased by \$190,000 and the ROI also increased approximately 3.3%.

Bob Mays stated that the City of Wilton Manors is not happy about the ROI or the IT charges. He stated that the ROI is unfair to the smaller cities in taxing on assets that are already paid for, but since no suggestions were made a few years ago, it is accepted. It is concerning that the general price index increases about 1% to 1.5% annually and it needs to be looked at very carefully.

Mr. Abi-Karam stated that there was increase in the capital construction costs, mostly labor, due the market being in a structural change after the recession; and also, there was a market increase above the consumer price index.

As requested by Mr. Mays, a copy of the ROI will be forwarded to the cities.

Bob Mays made a motion to set the rate for \$1.80 for next year. Mr. Copertino seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Mr. Copertino asked Ms. LeSage is \$1.80 rate is an acceptable rate for expenses throughout the year. Ms. LeSage said yes.

Mr. Teolis expressed he would have to defer to Mr. Resor.

Roll Call to vote:

Mr. Mays, Mr. Arroyo, Mr. Copertino, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Abi-Karam voted yes, Mr. Teolis voted Nay.

Motion passed.

Old/New Business

Mr. Mays mentioned that the City of Wilton Manors has an increased number of public comments from citizens who are upset from the City of Fort Lauderdale water rates which are currently set to increase 5% annually, and the City is feeling the public pressure. Mr. Mays suggested bringing the item back to the table for review. Mr. Mays stated that a continued rate of five percent also needs to be reviewed.

Mr. Abi-Karam said the item is noted and the matter will be looked into.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Adjournment

Mr. Abi-Karam made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Copertino seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.