

**Central Wastewater Region Large Users Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday July 21, 2021 – 1:30 P.M.**  
**George T. Lohmeyer (GTL) Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Fort Lauderdale**

**Voting Members Present:**

David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors / Public Works Director  
Fernando Martinez, City of Oakland Park / Public Works Manager  
Rhonda Hasan, City of Fort Lauderdale / Assistant City Attorney III  
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale / Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager  
Steve Roberts Jr. City of Fort Lauderdale / Utilities D&C Systems Manager

**Roll Call:**

Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale / Interim Director – Public Works  
Robert Harris, City of Fort Lauderdale / Wastewater Operations Supervisor  
Melissa Coningsby, Commissioner Assistant II, District I  
Kym Holcombe, City of Fort Lauderdale / Business Manager  
Kenya Baker, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Financial Administrator  
Alicia Sheffield, City of Fort Lauderdale / Chief Accountant  
Dronix Suarez, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II  
Igor Vassiliev, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II  
Gabriel Garcia, City of Fort Lauderdale / Project Manager II  
Rafeela Persaud, City of Fort Lauderdale / Senior Administrative Assistant

**Welcome – Talal Abi-Karam**

Mr. Abi-Karam called meeting to order at 1:43 p.m. Mr. Abi-Karam explained that the Plant is governed by a Risk Management Plan, certified by ISO 9001 and Environmental and Sustainability Management Systems (ESMS). Mr. Abi-Karam introduced Robert Harris, Water Operators Supervisor who explained the significance/benefits of ESMS, and the safety rules and regulations in case of an emergency.

Mr. Abi-Karam welcomed everyone. He stated the business of the Large Users Advisory Board is structured in accordance with the City Ordinance Chapter 28, Sections 28-29. He explained 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 asked everyone to introduce themselves and verified there was a quorum.

**Approval of March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Abi-Karam requested a motion to approve the March 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Steve Roberts made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Miguel Arroyo seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for March 10, 2021, were approved. Vote was unanimous.

## 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 temporary electrical design is being finalized by the design/build team. The project is currently behind schedule while P12530 Deepwell Electrical is partially constructed.
- 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 project was awarded for \$2.9 Million in May 2021 and is in the permitting phase. There is a pre-construction meeting scheduled for July 21, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.
- P12176 (Motor Control Center Replacement - Stage 1) – The replacement of four (4) large motor control centers and electrical duct banks began in August 2020 at a contract cost of \$5.0 million. Currently, excavation and new duct banks are in the process of installation. Construction progress is at 76% completion, under budget and on schedule. The work is anticipated to be completed last quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2021. The plant staff has had to keep operations going despite multiple planned electrical shutdowns.
- 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, will break ground during the third quarter of CY 2021. This is the same team that is completing a VPSA for Miami-Dade. The project final completion is March 23, 2023. The design is 60% completed as part of a Design/Build contract.
- P12528 (GTL Chlorine Flash Mix Remodel) – Preparation of design documents have begun, AECOM the contractor, has provided a Technical Memorandum (TM) citing options ranging from \$5.1M to \$6.1M at a Class IV level (-15% to +40%) Staff is providing comments to the TM, the design and construction is estimated to be completed second quarter of CY2023.

## Flows:

- Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently 40.5 MGD.

## Operational Issues

- Over that last few months, various chemical suppliers have failed to deliver as scheduled, citing manufacturing and transportation shortages due to COVID-19 having impacted their operations. This has included availability of truck drivers.

## **Budgetary Issues**

- FDEP included requirements in the amended consent order to require standby generators to be installed to power all five (5) effluent pumps by February 2024. Preliminary cost estimates prepared by CDM Smith, who performed the feasibility study, are approximately \$27 Million. Currently, \$15.0 Million has been adopted in project P12529 for this new facility, but this coming year's CIP program will place all other Fund 451 projects on hold to allow for full funding. Mr. Harris stated there is one temporary generator that was installed for one effluent pump.

## **Old and New Business**

- The large user agreements terminate December 31, 2021. Preparation of the first draft of the agreement is underway. Infiltration/Inflow will be a key issue of enforcement.
- Infiltration/Inflow has been raised by Broward County FDEP in their respective operating permit renewal correspondence. It now appears the City may be required to build more disposal capacity or in cooperation with the large users aggressively address infiltration and inflow to reduce the incoming flow. These items are completely unrelated to population growth.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked about the foundation work for the VPSA. Mr. Harris said per contractor PCL, it should begin in August, with a completion date of March 23, 2023.

## **Rate Calculations – Kym Holcombe**

Ms. Holcombe referred to the Current Year Fiscal Month 9 (June) handout, and stated that the revenues are on point. Ms. Holcombe said Alicia Sheffield, Chief Account for the City of Fort Lauderdale, has assisted with the Calculation of Rates, and stated the estimated rate is \$2.68 per thousand gallons for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, based on the last three actual years of flows, the operating budgets, and capital appropriations from the Central Region Fund.

Ms. Holcombe confirmed that FY 21 rate is \$2.48 per thousand gallons.

Mr. Abi-Karam asked for a motion for the proposed rate for FY2022. Mr. Arroyo made a motion to set the new rate at \$2.68 per thousand gallons for FY 2022. Mr. Archacki seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Abi-Karam thanked Ms. Holcombe and staff for the hard work and due diligence put forth in getting the financials completed for the quarterly meeting.

## **Old/New Business**

Mr. Abi-Karam mentioned that there is an internal team that has been working on the wastewater agreement since early this year, and is in the final stages of producing a DRAFT agreement which will be circulated internally to upper management, and then will be transmitted to the respective municipality. Mr. Abi-Karam explained that there are concerns/issues that surfaced within the last five years with regards to the Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) into the system, as well as the capacity of the system, the ability of the system and the Plant to handle large incoming (peak) flows during a short period of time. During Storm Eta, the data at the Plant had shown an increase to a peak of 92-93 mgd from an average of incoming of 40-43 mgd. Mr. Abi-Karam said the agreement will be structured where the I&I will be focal point in the agreement, as well as handling peak flows. The GTL permit was just granted by Broward County, and we are currently working with DEP for the operating permit, where the major concern is I&I, peak flow, and the ability for the Plant to handle a large volume in short burst of time. There will be provisions in the agreement to address these issues and will engage respective municipality. Mr. Abi-Karam requested the respective municipalities move forward the agreement internally once received, since the agreement expires December 31, 2021.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., at the Island City Park Preserve in Wilton Manors.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Abi moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:17p.m.