

Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 28 2009 – 1:30 p.m.
Collins Community Center, Oakland Park

Voting Members Present:

Julie Leonard, City of Fort Lauderdale, Assistant Utilities Services Director, Operations
Marguerite Rosenberg, City of Fort Lauderdale, Controller
Victoria Minard, City of Fort Lauderdale, Assistant City Attorney
Dave Womacks, City of Oakland Park, Public Works Director
Bob Mays, City of Wilton Manors, Assistant Finance Director

In Attendance:

Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale, Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager
Mark Darmanin, City of Fort Lauderdale, Distribution and Collection Systems Manager
Robert Nielsen, City of Fort Lauderdale, Administrative and Technical Services Manager
Pat Long, City of Fort Lauderdale, Wastewater Treatment Facility Manager, GTL
Susan Smith, City of Oakland Park, Assistant Public Works Director
Susan LeSage, City of Fort Lauderdale, Utilities Finance
Virginia Garcia, City of Fort Lauderdale, Utilities Administrative Assistant II
Brian London, City of Tamarac, Wastewater Supervisor
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac, Utilities Maintenance Supervisor
Neil Buckeridge, Town of Davie, Superintendent of Operations
Tim O'Neil, Camp Dresser & McKee, City of Fort Lauderdale Wastewater Consultant
Shani Bryce, Camp Dresser & McKee, City of Fort Lauderdale Wastewater Consultant
Ruth Burney, Camp Dresser & McKee, City of Fort Lauderdale Wastewater Consultant

Welcome – Julie Leonard

Julie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. by thanking everyone for attending the meeting.

Introduction of Advisory Board Members and Guests

All attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of August 6, 2008 Minutes

Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the minutes and Dave Womacks seconded it. A vote to pass the minutes was unanimous.

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

Construction Project Updates

- Impellor, seals, and bearings were replaced on the #4 large effluent pump. One pump, #2, is left to be reconditioned.
- Influent Screening Equipment
We still have issues with the new system; equipment has failed on a fairly consistent and premature basis. All revisions and retrofitting of augers and controls have been completed in November. Negotiations and option are in progress. A final punch list is being worked on.

- Influent channel concrete repair and an additional new 54" force main tie-in logistical procedures are being reviewed by CDM.

Additional Ongoing Projects:

- Cryogenic Facility Instrumentation System Upgrades – Have received a quote of \$1.6M for work estimated for FY 2009-2010. This work is being included in the below project for bid by a general contractor.
- These projects will be let for bid within the next quarter:
 - PA system upgrade
 - Liquid Oxygen storage tank replacements
 - Concrete repair in dewatering building
 - Grit classifier replacement
 - Seal water system replacements
 - New hoisting equipment in pretreatment building to service influent screening area
 - New spare parts storage area in effluent building
 - Lime silo removal and roof repair

Capacity Issues

CDM issued a Reuse Feasibility Study in November. The plan is under review as the benefits would be limited at a cost of approximately \$147M, +50/-30%.

Operational Issues

An injection well permit renewal application was submitted November 6, 2008. When this permit is issued, there will be a stipulation to conduct mechanical integrity testing of the wells, which would cost an estimated \$425,000. This testing would most likely be performed in late 2009 and early 2010.

Investigation has been made concerning AC units that cool the effluent pump VFD rooms. We are in the process of replacing the condenser coils and relocating the units, through a variance process, to the originally designed location.

CDM is working on a project to update the plant Operation and Maintenance Manual that was last updated in 1989. This document is required by FDEP and information from the most current revision is often asked for during permit renewal processes.

Budgetary Issues

FPL has dropped their fuel rate adjustment of 12% that was to take place on January 1 and instead is dropping the rate 1–3%. They are going to request a rate increase of 1–3% that will be effective beginning in 2010.

Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage

Susan distributed three spreadsheets for the Advisory Board's review. She first drew the attention of the Board to the Computation of Rates to be Charged spreadsheet. She explained that Central Accounting has completed the year-end audit and these financials are final. The actual rate for 07/08 is \$1.046 per 1,000 gallons resulting in refunds for each large user. Susan referred the Board to the Refund Spreadsheet, which detailed their rebates.

Susan then discussed the final spreadsheet, which detailed the expenses for Central Region through the first quarter of the current year (2008/2009). At this point, the year-to-date costs are under-budget, only 16% spent and we are 25% through the year. She also explained that she went back and reviewed the costs that were spent at this same time last budget year and we had spent 14% of the budget.

Re-Use – Miguel Arroyo

Miguel advised that we did a very comprehensive city-wide study pertaining to re-use. CDM prepared the study with input from the City on a regular basis. Various options were explored both from an export of the product to another city and another county to users within the City in various locations. The area where we felt we could process the greatest amount of wastewater converted to reuse-quality water is on the southwest section of town where we have the old compost facility. We discussed putting a 12 MGD re-use which would be comprised of both an MBR and ultraviolet disinfection followed by reverse osmosis. One of the uses that was seriously looked at was rehydration of the Pond Apple Slough in coordination with Broward County. The technical issues were easily solved. The one area that is controversial is the cost – it would be extremely expensive to have an MBR followed by ultraviolet and then reverse osmosis. The estimate came to about \$150M, +50/-30%. The main reason the cost is so high is the reverse osmosis. Broward County has very strict guidelines/regulations regarding the water quality that can be placed on surface receiving bodies for nitrogen, phosphorus, etc. We have been reviewing this report looking for alternatives that perhaps don't have as big an impact on the volume of water being treated and has a significantly smaller cost impact to all of the parties.

Another item Miguel mentioned is not directly related to wastewater but does apply to re-use. The City has been working with CDM on a Stormwater Master Plan which has the potential to allow for recharge which is one of the elements that we were trying to achieve with the Re-Use Study because it will compensate both sides of the coin – one side the wastewater and the other side the consumptive use permit by recharge.

Utility Rate Study

At present, we are in the process of working to get support from our City Manager prior to going to the Commission with the draft study done by our rate consultant. We have not implemented any of the recommendations at this point. Julie will have a follow-up meeting with the City Manager on February 6 to review the presentation. Dave Womacks asked if the year-round conservation rule finalization by SFWMD will have any impact on what we will do with the rates. Julie said that is incorporated into the study since it is anticipated that SFWMD will impose some type of year-round outdoor water restrictions. And what they incorporated into the new recommended rates is that we include the drought surcharge that is in place in Phases I and II. Our initial rates would include those two and then Phases III and IV would be additional. Bob Nielsen advised it will also change the drought ordinance. Dave Womacks requested a copy of the rate study when it becomes finalized and would like to have as much advance notice as possible if we will be raising our rates.

Water Conservation

Miguel advised that area cities and SEFLUC are challenging the SFWMD rule on year-round water irrigation. By irrigating two days a week, we are effectively in Phase II year-round. At present, the district is allowing 18 hours of watering a day for two days. We have suggested increasing the number of days and having fewer hours per day which would make enforcement easier. There is a meeting of the Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team on Friday which will consist of one-on-one sessions with Fort Lauderdale and a few other cities to review the comments/challenges recommended.

Old/New Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, **May 20, 2009 at 1:30 p.m at Island City Park Preserve, 823 NE 28th Street, Wilton Manors.**

Bob Mays made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Miguel Arroyo seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

MGray

2/6/09

S/Shared Cabinet/Departmental/Administration/WW Large Users