

**Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 4, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Jaco Pastorius Park and Community Center**

**Voting Members Present:**

Julie Leonard, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant Utilities Services Director, Operations  
Gloria LeClaire, City of Fort Lauderdale/Controller  
Vicki Minard, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant City Attorney  
Dave Womacks, City of Oakland Park/Public Works Director  
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors/Public Services Director

**In Attendance:**

Mark Darmanin, City of Fort Lauderdale/Distribution and Collection Systems Manager  
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale/Water and Wastewater Treatment Manager  
Pat Long, City of Fort Lauderdale/GTL Wastewater Treatment Facility Manager  
Susan LeSage, City of Fort Lauderdale/Financial Administrator  
Susan Smith, City of Oakland Park/Assistant Public Works Director  
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  
Ruth Burney/Camp Dresser & McKee, City of Fort Lauderdale Wastewater Consultant

**Welcome – Julie Leonard**

Julie Leonard welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. Ms. Leonard thanked everyone for attending this annual meeting.

**Introduction of Advisory Board Members and Guests**

All attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of May 12, 2010 Minutes**

Ms. Leonard noted one change needed to be made to the May 12, 2010 minutes. On the last page of the minutes under "Tentative Date for next Quarterly Meeting" the sentence "The meeting will have to be done as a public hearing and advertised", caused some confusion and should be deleted. Vicki Minard explained the meeting, which will be advertised in the Sun-Sentinel and will be a public hearing, is the City Commission meeting at which the resolution is adopted setting the new large user wastewater rate. Miguel Arroyo made a motion to approve the minutes and Susan Smith seconded it. A vote to pass the minutes was unanimous.

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

**Construction Project Updates**

- Influent Screening Equipment  
A maintenance service agreement at approximately \$45,000/year has been implemented to keep the JWC equipment in operation while new screening equipment is investigated and installed. Three units have currently been rebuilt with more extensive stainless steel cutters. With the assistance of the Program Management Team we are currently investigating a request for proposal to conduct a pilot project that would evaluate any participating influent

screens for performance, pricing, etc. The screens would be evaluated for one year before making a choice for permanent installation.

- Plant influent channel concrete repair and an additional new 54" force main tie-in was approved at Commission in March. This project is continuing with the installation of the bypass piping in the pretreatment building. Once the piping is in place the actual repairs to the concrete wet-well and replacement of influent valves and piping will be postponed until after hurricane season.
- A contract to apply protective coatings and minor stucco repairs of all building exteriors and piping at the plant and all piping at the deepwell injection site was approved at Commission on March 2. This project began on June 19 and is progressing well. Sixty percent of the work has been completed by July 21.

#### Additional Ongoing Projects:

- Cryogenic Facility Instrumentation System Upgrades – This project has been awarded to Close Construction. Work is progressing on this project. It includes the following work:
  - PA system upgrade. In progress with conduit installation.
  - Liquid Oxygen storage tank replacements. Old tanks removed 6/25. Concrete pad removed by 7/16. Assessment of existing pilings being done by CDM.
  - Concrete repair in dewatering building. In progress.
  - Grit classifier replacement
  - Seal water system replacements
  - New hoisting equipment in pretreatment building to service influent screening area. In progress.
  - New Spare parts storage area in effluent building
  - Lime silo removal and roof repair. Silo removed 6/15. Roof replacement partially completed.

#### Capacity Issues

Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 38.6 MGD.

#### Operational Issues

Injection well permit renewal application submitted November 6, 2008. Final Mechanical Integrity testing of the five wells was completed November 12, 2009. Submitted the MIT report to regulatory authorities January 12, 2010. Some improvement in well performance was seen after high chlorination plus backflushing of the wells in November 2009. We completed an application of 70 mg/L chlorine and backflushing again in June. Data will be collected over the next six months and reanalyzed at that time to determine effectiveness of this procedure in renewing well performance.

Design schematics have been completed for the replacement of our effluent pump controls air conditioning units. Procurement is currently working on bid documents.

An Instrument Technician has resigned recently and two Operator II's have retired since our last meeting. Three new hires were approved to proceed by the City Manager. We are currently short five positions.

Polymer testing task order was completed by CDM and a final report has been issued. Procurement is putting together bid documents based on the CDM study and report.

New Broward County operating permit was issued effective July 1. New specific condition references Large Users Agreement.

### **Budgetary Issues**

Budgets were submitted in March and are currently under review.

Ms. Leonard expanded on Pat Long's statement regarding vacancies. For many months, the City of Fort Lauderdale Public Works Department has been trying to fill vacancies but for the last two years there has been a hiring freeze. Any position other than public safety has been a complex process involving various offices. In addition to the three positions Mr. Long mentioned, several other positions, including ten in Distribution and Collection, have been approved to fill.

### **Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage**

Susan LeSage presented two spreadsheets. The first spreadsheet reflects the City spending their entire budget by the end of this year at \$1.24 per thousand gallons while the City has been billing at \$1.28. However, there have been savings due to vacant positions, projects costing less than originally planned, savings in the operating budget, and maintenance being done out of the R&R account. Ms. LeSage estimates there is at least \$1 million in savings for Fiscal Year 09/10 which is typical for this fund. The second spreadsheet reflects the \$1 million savings with the rate being \$1.17 which is right in line with the year before. For Fiscal Year 08/09, the actual end of the year rate was \$1.18. Ms. LeSage stated there will be a refund but when setting the next rate for Fiscal Year 10/11 her recommendation was \$1.23. Even though it is customary for GTL to spend less than the estimated budget the board should keep in mind some of the savings taking place this year. Comparing year-to-date expenses last year to year-to-date expenses this year, the amount is about \$700,000-\$800,000 less than the prior year. Ms. LeSage said even though there are savings, it is up to the board if they want a lower rate to have more each month or keep the rate higher in order to receive a rebate. Ms. Leonard asked if the proposed rate would be \$1.23 when this year they were paying \$1.28. Ms. LeSage said \$1.23 is spending the entire budget which is not normally done.

Ms. Leonard asked for a motion to accept the rate of \$1.23 or if it should be discussed further. David Archacki said he was not going to accept \$1.23 since there has been a trend of \$1.18 or \$1.17. Mr. Archacki said he would like to see the rate more on the \$1.20 mark based on the spreadsheets which would be an 8 cents reduction from this year.

Mr. Arroyo brought to the group's attention how the City arrives at the numbers. When the five positions currently not staffed are filled, out of the \$1 million in savings, \$175,000 will be impacted. The reason is because the highest single month average for the current year starting in October 2009 until now was almost 45 million gallons. Five years ago the highest single month average on a daily basis was almost 52 million gallons. Based on a three month average, the highest since October 2009 until now is almost 42 mgd. Five years ago, the highest was a little bit over 46 mgd. The numbers for this year look good because there has not been a lot of precipitation. When the budget is done, a particular time period in question is not targeted. A lot of electricity at GTL is used because liquid oxygen is generated and is very energy intense. A lot of electricity is also used to pump all the water back into the ground over 3,000 feet deep. While Mr. Arroyo thinks it is great these savings have been realized, and everyone is getting a check back, he personally thinks \$1.20 is a little low considering the numbers seen over the last eight to ten months versus what it has been over the last five years. There have not really been any storms for a while and when those hit, the cost impact on chemicals and electricity, is huge.

Mr. Archacki asked if the City factored in the amount of I&I Oakland Park is doing. They recently considered \$5 million in I&I work in lines and cut out a lot, but feel it is not going to be returned when the rain comes. Mark Darmanin pointed out the flow is metered. Mr. Darmanin said the City of Fort Lauderdale has done a lot of I&I work over the past five years. While it has made a difference, Mr. Darmanin does not know if the City can quantify the amount yet. In another example, in Oakland Park one particular meter is the recipient of odor reducing chemicals which lower the volume the meter reads when the reduction in volume of that meter is identified, the meter gets cleaned, and the reads return to normal. Mr. Darmanin does not think Oakland Park is seeing as big of progress against I&I they would have expected upfront. Fort Lauderdale did not flow meter as well as it should have in many locations where I&I work was done. It is easier to overestimate and give a check back as opposed to asking the board members to request more money from their respective Commissions. Mr. Darmanin said although it is conservative, going from \$1.28 to the proposed \$1.23 is still a 5 cent per 1,000 gallon reduction. As an example, Mr. Arroyo said Mr. Long and the plant used software to track one of the last main rain events taken place in July. At 4 a.m. the flow at the plant was at 25/26 mgd when it started to rain and reached almost 75 mgd; 50 mgd was dealt within 2 hours. Mr. Arroyo pointed out \$1.23 is realistic because it is still a 5 cent per 1,000 gallon reduction. Dave Womacks said requesting a check is a nightmare and Ms. LeSage said it has not been done since 2005. Mr. Darmanin said the gap is being narrowed. Last year's rate was \$1.28 even though it ended up being \$1.18. Fort Lauderdale's costs are going to rise slightly even if minimal and reducing or narrowing the expected budget would narrow the 10% down now. Mr. Womacks said they are used to building a little bit of a contingency. He said over the past eight months there has not been a big rain period and asked Ms. Smith if there has been a significant rainfall since she has been graphing it. Ms. Smith said she's been looking at the past 2½ years and is not sure about just this year. Mr. Darmanin stated the last big rain was December when 6-8 inches were expected during one storm but the area did not get it bad as compared to areas south of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Leonard asked if there was a motion for \$1.21. Mr. Womacks made the motion and Mr. Archacki seconded it. A vote to pass the new rate of \$1.21 was unanimous.

Mr. Archacki asked if the R&R fund includes capital costs. Ms. LeSage confirmed it does. On the spreadsheets provided, Ms. LeSage pointed out under "Replacement Reserve Funding" \$69 million was in the current year and down to \$67 million in the next. That number is divided by 20 years to arrive at the funding requirement for the proposed year. Ms. LeSage said Mr. Long has tried very hard to get a more realistic budget. He has unencumbered funds and did not go down to the very minimum but has tried to bring it into to a more realistic budget. This is the reason why Fort Lauderdale is as close to the proposed rate versus the actual.

### **Old/New Business**

Ms. Leonard informed the board the City Manager's contract expired July 30, 2010. Allyson Love, Assistant City Manager, is the new Acting City Manager effective August 1, 2010.

The City will go through the process of sending out the rate change letters and bring to the Commission as a resolution to set the rate. Ms. Minard will advertise the rate change resolution for the second Commission meeting in September.

Mr. Darmanin reminded the board the large repump is still under construction and to contact him on his cell phone in case of emergency.

### **Next Meeting**

Ms. LeSage recommended the next meeting be scheduled for the end of January in order to allow the board to have three months of budget to review. Ms. Minard said the Code requires the Board to meet quarterly. Ms. Leonard asked if January 12, 2011 would be sufficient for Ms. LeSage to collect enough data. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. The location is to be determined.

Ms. Leonard asked for a motion for adjournment. Mr. Arroyo made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Womacks seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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