

Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.
Emergency Operations Center – Wilton Manors City Hall, Wilton Manors

Voting Members Present:

Julie Leonard, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant Utilities Services Director, Operations
Don Halquist, City of Fort Lauderdale/Senior Accountant
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
Brian London, City of Tamarac/Wastewater Supervisor
Susan Smith, City of Oakland Park/Assistant Public Works Director
Bob Mays, City of Wilton Manors/Assistant Finance Director
Brian London, City of Tamarac/Wastewater Supervisor
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac/Utilities Maintenance Supervisor
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 1:32 p.m. Ms. Leonard thanked everyone for attending this quarterly meeting.

Introduction of Advisory Board Members and Guests

All attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of January 12, 2011 Minutes

Mr. Womacks made a motion to approve the January 12th minutes. Mr. Archacki 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. All five units have currently been rebuilt with more extensive stainless steel cutters. Two are being held as back-ups with one channel open for excess flows. We are in the process of preparing an RFP for securing new front screening equipment.

- Change order for plant influent channel concrete repair and installation of bypass piping was approved at Commission in March 2010. Pressure testing has been completed on the bypass piping to requested levels. The closing of in-plant valves to begin diversion of flow to the bypass piping was begun the first week of January. Concrete repairs to the influent wetwell are complete. Protective coating of concrete to be completed this month. A change order to this project to replace a repaired 48" tapping sleeve and replace at least two 48" valves and flow meter was approved. Preliminary excavations have been done and piping and valves have been ordered.
- Protective coatings and minor stucco repairs of all building exteriors and piping at the plant and all piping at the deepwell injection site 99% completed by December 9, 2011. All punch list items along with painting of our LOX storage tank C was completed in late March.
- Bid documents and plans for rebuild of failing pretreatment parapet wall and other structural issues (doors, windows, building cracks, etc.) have been completed. Bids for this project were let May 4, 2011 and will be opened June 8, 2011.
- Replacement of two reuse hydrostrainers has been approved by commission on December 21, 2010. First hydrostrainer scheduled to be delivered middle of May.
- Installation of effluent pump controls air conditioning units completed March 28, 2011. All parts will carry a five year warranty.
- One spare reactor mixer was rebuilt in April. Train B biological reactor mixers were pulled May 4, 2011 and are undergoing rebuilds. A splashguard on the underneath side of these units will also be replaced.

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. **New tanks installed October 28, 2010.**
 - Concrete repair in dewatering building. **Two change order areas are left to be completed.**
 - Grit classifier replacement. **East classifier replacement in progress.**
 - Seal water system replacements. **Pretreatment system completed. Effluent system not started.**
 - New hoisting equipment in pretreatment building to service influent screening area. **In progress.**
 - New Spare parts storage area in effluent building. **Completed**
 - Lime silo removal and roof repair. **Silo removed June 15, 2010. Roof replacement completed.**
 - Instrumentation upgrades. **The City is attempting to contract with Air Products directly to complete this work.**

Capacity Issues

Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 35.6 MGD.

Operational Issues

FDEP injection well permit renewal application submitted November 6, 2008. Final Mechanical Integrity testing of the five wells was completed November 12, 2009. The MIT report was submitted to regulatory authorities January 12, 2010. Still awaiting new permit.

Still awaiting new FDEP operating permit which expired in March 2010. Application submitted September 2009.

Broward County operating permit renewed in April 2011.

A new odor control chemical spray system for the biosolids has been installed by our contract hauler in preparation of hauling the solids to a Residuals Management Facility in Clewiston.

Budgetary Issues

Polymer contract renewal in September has been approved for a 10% increase in cost.

Biosolids hauling contractor increased per ton cost of hauling 4.5% in January due to fuel costs.

Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage

Susan LeSage distributed three (3) documents for the group's review. Before reviewing the current year financial position, Ms. LeSage presented the FY09/10 Schedule of Large User Wastewater Treatment Rate Computation which indicated the user charge per 1,000 gallons treated resulted in \$1.1247 while the billing rate was \$1.28 per thousand gallons. Ms. LeSage also shared information from FAMIS which detailed the amount of each rebate the Large Users could anticipate. Commission approved the refunds at the May 3rd Commission meeting and the refunds are expected to be mailed out in the next check run.

Ms. Leonard informed the group she has extra copies of the full audit of the Large User Wastewater Treatment Rates from which Ms. LeSage pulled the information.

In reviewing the current fiscal year, 2010/11, the Central Region is 58.34% through the year and has only spent 37.04% of the anticipated budget compared to 37.55% this time last year. The spreadsheet Ms. LeSage shared with the group excluded \$2.3 million in encumbrances, most of which are spread over the year with the exception of capital expenditures. The only area appearing too high is Fringe Benefits due to a quarterly recording of pension. . . Ms. LeSage said the budget looks good and expenditures are similar to last year. Bob Mays asked Ms. LeSage if she expected the entire encumbrance amount to be spent during this fiscal year. Ms. LeSage said no she does not expect it to be spent entirely in this fiscal year, some encumbrances will carry forward into the next fiscal year.

Old/New Business

Ms. Leonard informed the group a task order was issued to Burton and Associates in March to conduct a two (2) year analysis on our water and sewer rates and revenue sufficiency for the region to ensure costs associated to the region are being charged appropriately. Often water and sewer workers will do work and then we charge it back to the Region because it's the repump station or some other major facility part of the Region. A lot of data from the billing and accounting system along with other information has been requested. A meeting to discuss the preliminary findings with Burton and Associates will be held the end May or beginning of June. Mr. Archacki asked what the cost is for a rate study. Ms. Leonard said the initial water and sewer rate study two (2) years ago was approximately \$67,000. When the initial rate study was done, other areas were looked at including additional fees such as new services for sewer installations. Some of the suggestions were not implemented because we were working through the water and sewer discussion as the rate structure was being changed, and increasing blocks and irrigation were different and as a result, we were challenged with getting water and sewer rates approved. Ms. Leonard informed the group that the rate study and the task order are available for review. The current analysis being conducted is less costly because the model is already developed and all that is needed is inputting additional and revised numbers. Mr. Mays asked if this is going to be used as the basis for projected rates for the next fiscal year. Ms. Leonard said there will be a projected 5% rate increase with the current budget in October because the ordinance goes through the end of August. Mr. Womacks asked what the 5% is based on. Ms. Leonard said it is based on the rate structure as it exists now and is what is calculated in the forecast for the budget preparation. Five percent was implemented across the board each year prior to the rate study. Mr. Darmanin said the rationale behind that is to cover the debt service for the Waterworks 2011 program and is based on the revenue bond feasibility study which committed to rate increases every year to cover the \$33 million in debt service.

Next Meeting

Ms. Leonard said the committee should set a date for the August meeting. This is an important meeting because the rate for the following fiscal year is set. Ms. Leonard would prefer to start early so if something happens, there is time to reschedule since public notices need to go out, the ordinance needs to be advertised, and as a resolution, the proposed rate has to be on the September meeting. Ms. Leonard suggested Wednesday, August 10th at GTL to see projects in progress. The meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2011 at 1:30 pm. The location will be determined.

Adjournment

Ms. Leonard asked for a motion for adjournment. Mr. Archacki made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Womacks seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.