

**Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 24, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.**  
**@ Fiveash Regional Water Treatment Plant, Fort Lauderdale**

**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  
Susan Smith, City of Oakland Park/Assistant Public Works Director  
Chet Jablonka, City of Tamarac/Utilities Maintenance Supervisor  
Neil Buckeridge, Town of Davie/Superintendent of Operations  
Ruth Burney, Camp Dresser & McKee/City of Fort Lauderdale Wastewater Consultant  
Tim O'Neil, Camp Dresser & McKee/City of Fort Lauderdale Wastewater Consultant  
Leigh Ann Henderson, City of Wilton Manors/Assistant City Manager  
Brian London, Town of Davie/Wastewater Supervisor

**Welcome – Julie Leonard**

Julie Leonard welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Ms. Leonard thanked everyone for attending this part two of the annual rate-setting regional large user meeting.

**Introduction of Advisory Board Members and Guests**

All attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of August 10, 2011 Minutes**

The minutes from August 10, 2011 will be approved at the next meeting.

**Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage**

Susan LeSage reintroduced the worksheet from the last meeting with the calculation of rates for what is estimated to finish the 2010/11 year and the proposed rate for 2011/12. Ms. LeSage said the new operating expense added to the budget for Return on Investment (ROI) is a

generally accepted accounting principle well within the City Manager's authority to be added to the budget. The City Manager sent out letters to the large users establishing the ROI as a new operating expense. David Womacks researched the City of Fort Lauderdale's budgetary policy and explained under the enterprise fund effective October 1, 2011, the ROI can be implemented. The information he had, suggested the City adopted this policy by resolution September 2000 although it was never implemented. Ms. Leonard corrected Mr. Womacks explaining the policy was adopted as a part of a report on the City's investments. Ms. LeSage said it was a document establishing the parameters of the City Treasurer, types of investment, and ROI. Vickie Minard pulled the resolution and it was introduced at the time the City adopted the new investment policy. Mr. Womacks made a request to have copies of both the old policy from September 2000 and the new one. Ms. Minard provided copies of the documents.

Ms. LeSage asked the group to set the rate for the next year. She explained flows were lower than expected, and the operating budgets were constant, thus the rate per thousand gallons was increasing. For the proposed year, an average flow was calculated resulting in a rate of \$1.48. The plant staff has been consistent in saving at least \$1 million in their operating budget; however, the ROI is a new operating expense.

Mr. Womacks wants to see the value of the assets and how the 3% was calculated. In addition he would like to see the value of the assets running through the City of Oakland Park Right-of-Ways. Ms. Leonard said the 3% is associated with the region: the three (3) pump stations and GTL but force mains were not calculated. The 3% of the net assets is only based on the large user regional wastewater system. The information will have to be obtained from the Budget Office. Mark Darmanin said CDM has been asked to update the inventory belonging to the region as part of the next R/R plan. Currently, the region pays for the A, B, E re-pumps and D-54 but does not pay for any force mains. Mr. Darmanin said the information will be provided in two formats with one being a map of the infrastructure and the second being the budget documents.

Mr. Arroyo asked if a new wastewater plant was being designed from scratch, what would be the guidance regarding the per gallon basis. Varying from the last five (5) to ten (10) years, it would be \$4-\$6.

Mr. Archacki said the City of Wilton Manors is against the ROI and pointed to the Burton and Associates rate study at the Commission meeting August 23, 2011 where he said there was no mention of the ROI. Ms. Leonard said there was a comment on the ROI. Mr. Archacki said 3% is a substantially high percentage to pass on as a new charge. With the economy the way it is, he asked to spread out the implementation to 1% over three (3) years instead of a 22% increase to the resident. Mr. Darmanin said this was presented to the City Manager, but can be presented again. Wilton Manor's next step is a September Commission meeting with the residents to impose the rate. Mr. Darmanin said while we are in this phase, there is also discussion for a balancing act at the end of the year and believes options are still available. Mr. Archacki asked if a rate could be set and then readjusted. Ms. Minard said adjustments are made yearly. Mr. Archacki wondered if a rate could be set and then be voted on again in six (6) months if there is a change. Mr. Darmanin said if Mr. Archacki was to suggest a rate he could live with until we were able to reassess, that rate would be up for discussion knowing there would be a risk.

A motion was made by Mr. Halquist and seconded by Ms. Minard to accept the rate at \$1.48. Ms. Leonard called for a roll call vote. Julie Leonard yes, Don Halquist yes, Vicki Minard yes,

Dave Womacks no, David Archacki no the vote passed three (3) to two (2). The public hearing will be September 20, 2011 and anyone can be present to speak.

Ms. Leonard asked the group if they had a chance to review the minutes from August 10, 2011 and asked for a motion to approve them. Since the group did not have a chance to review them, they will be approved at the next meeting.

Mr. Womacks announced this will be his last meeting as he will be retiring effective September 30, 2011. He commended the City for doing an excellent job on the sewer break recognizing it was a difficult situation but handled well and public relations was excellent in keeping people informed with notices.

### **Old/New Business**

No old/new business

### **Next Meeting**

Ms. Leonard asked the group to set a tentative date for the next meeting. Ms. LeSage said the meeting has always been held in January so there is a full quarter to review. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 1:30 pm. The location is to be determined.

Mr. Arroyo quickly mentioned to the group free chlorination will take place November 1, 2011 at 9 a.m. and continue through to November 22, 2011 at 9 a.m.

### **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 2:04 p.m.