

**Central Wastewater Region Large User Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday August 7, 2013 – 1:30 p.m.
George T. Lohmeyer (GTL) Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fort Lauderdale**

Voting Members Present:

Julie Leonard, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant Public Works Director - Sustainability
Laura Garcia, City of Fort Lauderdale/Senior Accountant
Ken Resor, City of Oakland Park/ Public Works Director
David Archacki, City of Wilton Manors/Public Services Director
Carrie Sarver, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant City Attorney I
Mark Darmanin, City of Fort Lauderdale/Distribution and Collection Systems Manager
Miguel Arroyo, City of Fort Lauderdale/Acting Assistant Public Works Director - Utilities

In Attendance:

Hardeep Anand, City of Fort Lauderdale/Public Works Director
Talal Abi-Karam, City of Fort Lauderdale/Assistant Public Works Director
Dennis Girisgen, City of Fort Lauderdale/Land Development Manager
Pat Long, City of Fort Lauderdale/GTL Wastewater Treatment Facility Manager
Susan LeSage, City of Fort Lauderdale/Financial Administrator
Steve Curmode, City of Fort Lauderdale/Regional Chief Wastewater Operator
Cliff Sanders, City of Fort Lauderdale/Regional Wastewater Plant Operator II
Ruth Burney, CDM Smith, Inc./City of Fort Lauderdale Wastewater Consultant
John McGeary, Town of Davie/Chief Operator
Susan Smith, City of Oakland Park/Assistant Public Works Director
Bob Mays, City of Wilton Manors/Finance Director

Welcome – Julie Leonard

Julie Leonard welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Ms. Leonard thanked everyone for attending this quarterly meeting.

Introduction of Advisory Board Members and Guests

All attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Leonard informed the group Miguel Arroyo is now the Acting Public Works Director – Utilities as she is now transferred to the Office of Sustainability and heading that office.

Approval of May 15, 2013 Minutes

David Archacki made a motion to approve the May 15th minutes. Mr. Arroyo seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Construction Project Updates

- Reactor 1, train A mixers were removed the week of February 11th for refurbishment. The tank was cleaned by plant personnel and 252 tons of grit were hauled to the Pompano landfill. During the cleaning of this tank, it was discovered protective coatings in the first stage were failing. A bid for removal of the existing coating and replacement closed on May

7th. Approval of the bid for recoating is scheduled for the August 20th Commission meeting. Cost of project to be \$157,900. Installation of the last three refurbished mixers is awaiting the application of the new coating.

- Work to complete an RFP package for the LOX instrumentation project is being finalized by City Engineering. Estimated cost of construction for the project is \$3.5M.
- Task Order 3 with CDM Smith to design replacement of all conduits, wiring and control circuits to sludge feedwell mixers along with electrical outlets in dewatering room is complete. This project was released for bid on July 29th. Bid closes on August 28th. Funding for construction of this project is \$220,000.
- Task Order 6 with CDM Smith was approved at July 10, 2012 Commission meeting to study and design upgrades to the switch gear and electrical feeds at FPL service point 1 (generator building). Task Order cost is \$425,164. This task order is in the 60% design stage. Additional work associated with this task is being delayed pending an overall plant electrical condition assessment study to prioritize needed upgrades.
- Task Order 23 with CDM Smith to design replacement of four sections of PCCP concrete pipe was approved by the Commission on January 8th. The 60% review comments were submitted to CDM Smith on July 12th.
- City Engineering is currently negotiating a task order with CDM Smith to brush clean the injection wells concurrently with the five year MIT which is due in October 2014. This cleaning will hopefully restore a portion of the well capacity.

Capacity Issues

Annual average flows for the last twelve months are currently at 40.4 MGD.

Very high flows in May, June and July were caused by excessive rains and the resulting I&I. Maximum flow rates during the period:

- May 2 - 93.8 MGD.
- June 7 – 88.5 MGD
- July 13 – 101.7 MGD
- July 18 – 97.8 MGD

Effluent pumps have only been able to pump 76 – 79 MGD. Plant staff assessed the condition of the effluent pump impellers and found cavitation damage to pump #5 impeller. A purchase order has been secured for the replacement of this impeller at \$84,230.

June 7 excess flows were diverted to empty treatment tanks to avert a discharge to the intracoastal.

July 13 flows resulted in a discharge of 640,000 gallons to the intracoastal.

July 17, 18, and 19 flows resulted in a total of 2,780,000 gallons to the intracoastal.

Operational Issues

Two Operator I employees qualified and applied for the four vacant Operator II positions at GTL. One is being promoted on August 18th. We still have six vacant positions with two of

them frozen. During this next budget process, any positions frozen more than two years ago will be released to be filled.

Budgetary Issues

City Engineering is in the process of preparing documents to bid concrete rehabilitation work in both grit collection chambers. At the same time we will also be rehabilitating the collector drive units and replacing structural steel components that are supporting walkways to the drives.

Rate Calculations – Susan LeSage

Susan LeSage distributed three spreadsheets for review.

The first spreadsheet is Computation of Rates for FY2012 Actual, FY2013 Estimated and Proposed FY2014 budget. After the books were closed for 2012, we billed at \$1.48 per thousand gallons and came in at \$1.28.

On the first spreadsheet, the 2013 column is an estimate based on operational and debt costs for a total regional charge of \$23.4 million. When divided by the flow, this will bring the cost to \$1.64 per thousand gallons and the City has been billing at \$1.44.

The last spreadsheet shows the actual flows through July with a conservative approach taken for August and September. July was the highest for the year.

The second spreadsheet shows what has been spent so far year-to-date with an estimated \$2 million in savings bringing the cost per thousand gallons to \$1.50. For the 2014 proposed column, Burton and Associates forecasted the revenues and expenditures. Additionally, a cost allocation study was bringing the costs down further from IT services and indirect overhead. Fleet charges will no longer be taken from this fund. Under Total Regional Cost for 2014 after all the reductions, it comes to \$22.4 million even though the 20 year replacement funding increased. The flows of the 2012 actual column were used as the flows which puts the cost per thousand gallons at \$1.44.

Bob Mays noticed on page 35 of the City's budget book, the transfer out increased by \$1.4 million. Mr. Mays requested that be identified in addition to a breakdown of operating and maintenance costs. Ms. Lesage will send the information by subobject code to the group.

Mr. Arroyo made a motion to keep the rate for FY2014 at \$1.44. Mr. Mays seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Infiltration & Inflow (I&I)

Mr. Arroyo referenced an e-mail from the FDEP. This document referred to the use of the emergency outfalls and discharges in one instance of 2.5 million gallons for unauthorized wastewater. A draft letter is being prepared requesting clarification in reference to some terminology used.

As part of their preliminary emergency investigation, within 30 days, the FDEP has requested documentation and notification of what has been done to control I&I in the past and what is the plan to control I&I for the future. The group would all like to receive a copy of this FDEP letter.

In response to this request, there is language about I&I control over the past 10 years regarding the work to be done on the injection wells to remove water from the plant and multiple actions being taken by the stormwater advisory group. Also being provided are calculations starting from FY2006/2007 regarding how much water is being sold to and how much wastewater is being returned from each large user on a monthly basis. As a rule, for each 100 gallons being sold, 80-85% is returned as wastewater, however, there are instances of 165% or higher on a given fiscal year. As documented, this plan is being affected by the rain events.

Oakland Park is weighing the costs of what is being paid to have their wastewater processed versus having their own plant. They have spent \$2.2 million to reduce I&I so far and have another \$1.5 million to contribute. Because of penalties, they concentrated on the western portion of the city but will now focus on the Fort Lauderdale area.

Wilton Manors has spent over \$6 million in reducing I&I.

A concerted effort to reduce I&I would benefit everyone because not only will a major expansion will be needed, but there is a potential of a moratorium on being able to construct new facilities. In the 2007 Master Plan, expanding GTL was estimated to cost \$68 million.

Dennis Girisgen said some of the pump stations are being upgraded and the concern is they are going to pump ground water at a higher rate, one option is as they are being upgraded, the same capacity be kept until the I&I is resolved.

Old/New Business

A resolution for the large user rate needs to be on the agenda for the Commission meeting on September 17th. The regular 5% increase for water and sewer rates will be on the September 3rd Commission agenda. This date may be moved to September 4th due to Labor Day.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2014 at 1:30 pm to allow Ms. Lesage three months of data to review. Wilton Manors has agreed to hold the next meeting, however, the location is to be determined.

Adjournment

Mr. Arroyo asked for a motion for adjournment. Ms. Leonard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Resor seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.