




## Utility Department Monthly Update

**MEETING DATE:** May 11, 2021

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

**FROM:** Daniel Saus, Utility Director 

**THROUGH:** George Garrett, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** April 2021 Utility Department Update

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### A. Wastewater Treatment Plants

#### 1. General Issues

- a. The only large issue in April was the vacuum main going out to 120<sup>th</sup> St gulf. Council approved the modifications to the line and the work began but FKEC decided to move some electrical poles and we had to re-route the new piping to avoid those locations. A small change order will be required for these modifications.
- b. Council has also approved work related to the ACOE grant money being received this year. That work is under way and we expect to make the deadline of the end of July.

#### 2. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

- a. We received no odor complaints for the wastewater treatment facilities in the last several months.

#### 3. Effluent Quality Report/Plant Performance

The March 2021 wastewater facility performance chart is shown below because the January numbers are just being tabulated. The plant permits now require AWT compliance and the operations staff is doing an amazing job as reflected in our effluent quality as shown below. **(Effluent results are always a month behind due to sampling, shipping, & lab reporting)**

# City of Marathon WWTP's Plant Performance Data for:

MARCH 2021

Parameters:			CBOD mg/L		TSS mg/L		TN mg/L		TP mg/L	
WWTP	Permit (MGD)	MADF (MGD)	Monthly Average (6.25)	Annual Average (5.0)	Monthly Average (6.25)	Annual Average (5.0)	Monthly Average (3.75)	Annual Average (3.0)	Monthly Average (1.25)	Annual Average (1.0)
AREA 3	0.250	0.200	1.0	1.6	0.5	1.0	1.34	2.73	0.940	0.686
AREA 4	0.400	0.291	1.0	1.8	0.5	1.6	2.08	1.8	0.086	0.30
AREA 5	0.450	0.353	1.0	1.4	1.07	1.4	1.03	1.2	0.310	0.30
AREA 6	0.200	0.105	1.0	1.7	0.5	1.1	0.67	1.40	0.327	0.371
AREA 7	0.200	0.042	2.1	2.3	0.5	0.5	3.30	2.38	0.426	0.273

## B. Collection System

1. The month of April was relatively quiet with flows returning to normal for this time of year.
2. Vacuum Station Salinities for April:
  - a. April's vacuum station salinities were at as follows (in parts per thousand): SA3: 1.9; SA4: 1.9; SA5: 4.6; SA6: 1.2 and SA7: 0.9. This indicates a minimal amount of saltwater intrusion into our system from the king tides except for SA5 where we continue to find issues.
3. Wastewater System Connections
  - a. The City's wastewater system parcel connection rate is currently standing at approximately 100%. (Only customers that are in code or do not have a certificate of occupancy are not connected)

#### 4. Code Compliance

- a. There are currently 8 open code cases in process for failure to connect to the City's central wastewater system, code violations, or expired permits. Most of them are residential properties at some point in the foreclosure process.

#### 5. Call-Outs

- a. From April 1st to April 31st there were 27 documented Call outs for the entire Collections System. Of these, 20 were system generated typically a low vacuum detected at one of our Vacuum Stations. These 20 call outs did not result in any inconvenience to our customers in any way as the problems were detected and remedied by Collections/Maintenance City Staff before these problems could become a nuisance to the homeowners or residents at these locations. There are 11 days of reports missing due to VUEworks Work Order program being upgraded and the slow reprogramming of the Collections Techs iPads to the new App.

- b. The other call outs were as follows:

- i. 4-2-21: Backup Area 7. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and found a test ball/plug blocking the sewer lateral. The Tech called the Collections Supervisor to ask what the test ball/plug was doing in the line. He responded that the Property Owner was in some kind of Code Violation and the Test Ball/Plug was inserted in the line per instructions from Josh Lane the Field Construction Engineer. I advised him to call Josh Lane to verify the Test Ball/Plug insertion in the line. He told the Tech yes, that he was responsible and instructed him not to pull the Test Ball/Plug. The situation was resolved through Josh Lane's instructions and coordination with the Homeowner.

- ii. 4-3-21: Backup Area 4. 14 48<sup>th</sup> St. Gulf. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded. He inspected the Vac Pit and found the Surge Suppressor was clogged. He cleaned the Surge Suppressor and put the Vac Pit back into service. No damage to property.

- iii. 4-8-21: Backup Area 6. The Tides, 11890 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Gulf. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and the Cleanout. The Vac Pit was overwhelmed with water probably due to the increased Flows for the Spring Break Holiday causing the Vac Main to Waterlog. The Tech purged the water from the Vac Main and the Vac Pit. The Vac Pit was put back into operation. The Vac Main that services that area is in the process of having an existing construction issue being remedied in the near future. No damage to property.

iv. 4-10-21: Backup Area 5. 1875 Industrial Ave. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vac Pit and Cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. He let the Homeowner know to call a plumber.

v. 4-12-21: Backup Area 6. 1825 Ave H. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and the Cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. The owner came out on the property and proceeded to verbally abuse the Tech stating that he had paid an Engineer to come out and inspect his property, while he was holding a hammer at his side. That this Engineer had told him the City Equipment was defective and it was sucking the water out of his house causing his water bill to skyrocket. At this point the Tech had to ask the owner to calm down two or three times as he was trying to explain how the system works to assure him that the system was not sucking the water out of his plumbing. The Tech finally had to inform the owner that he was ready to get back into his vehicle and leave if he did not calm down. The owner still tried to argue with the Tech. The Tech handed him the Collections Supervisor's contact information and left the area.

The owner called the Collections Supervisor a couple of days later and introduced himself to me as Mr. Gibson. I had been forewarned about the individual before the call. He started to tell me about the water being sucked from his plumbing and causing his water bill to be sky high. I started to explain to him that the water gravity feeds from his house to the Vac Pit and that there were House Plumbing Vents and a Candy Cane to feed air to the Vacuum Pit when before I could finish explaining all the reasons that the problem perceived by him could not happen, he started getting verbally abusive towards me. He stated that he had heard all of that from my Lackey. Then he proceeded to get even more worked up on the phone. I tried to ask him to calm down twice. When he would not, I hung the phone up on him. He called back a few moments later and I anticipated that maybe he had calmed down. As soon as I answered my phone he immediately went back into a tirade and I disconnected again, then proceeded to block his number to my personal phone.

He again called my phone. And it did not ring as I had blocked his number. He left a message on my voice mail saying that it was Mr. Gibson. In the voice mail he stated that he was going down to the Sheriff's office to file a "formal complaint" against me. That he was going to see George Garrett at City Hall and find out if I was related to Tom Wright the Attorney. As he had crossed paths with him in the past and if I were related to him and "he was involved in anyway, he would see to it ". I have the voice mail saved on my phone.

No damage to property

vi. 4-27-21: Backup Area 7. 58324 Morton St. The MOD phone and City Hall notified Collections of a Backup at 58324 Morton Street. Blaine Connell responded to troubleshoot the problem. He found Bad Alarm/On/Off switches and Stators on the Grinder Pumps at the Grinder Pump Station. He replaced both Grinder Pumps with newer style e-one Grinder Pumps that are Hardwired to the Control Panel versus the Wireless Pumps that were currently at that location. These pumps are more dependable and the City is slowly phasing out the less reliable Wireless pumps with the Hard Wired pumps as they fail. I phoned the owner of the property (Jim Houser 305-395-0806) and informed him that the City would deal with the cost of remediation of the damage to the property. The Tech took pictures of the damage and attached them to the Incident Report. I e-mailed the pictures of the incident and report to Elizabeth Schut for review. The property owner was extremely happy with the City's response time to the incident.

vii. 4-27-21: Backup Area 5. 10702 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the Vacuum Pit and the Cleanout. He found the Vac Pit to be overwhelmed with water. He Manually fired the Vac Pit clearing the water and put the Vac Pit back into service. No damage to property.

6. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

b. We received no odor complaints in April for the collection system.

## C. Plant Upgrades & Construction Projects

1. The design for the sludge facility at Area 6 is still on hold awaiting funding.
2. The construction for the Area 3 to 4 force main is about 95% completed. The tie-in was scheduled to take place April 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. The design for the Area 3 WWTP expansion is nearly completed and permitting through FDEP is underway at this time. An unexpected major RAI (request for additional information) was received by FDEP in late October. This will require

geotechnical investigations and work from a licensed Geologist for a proper response. That work has been approved and is underway.

4. The design work and engineering is underway to complete the ACOE grant work for this fiscal year. We believe we can make the deadline of the end of July for reimbursement requests.

#### **D. Grants Update Summary**

1. LP44041 17 Million dollar Grant – This grant has been closed out.
2. In January we were informed we are receiving \$1,700,000 from ACOE for fiscal year 20/21!
3. Regarding the ACOE PCA: in August we received a reimbursement of \$1,245,000.00 from ACOE for FKWQIP for fiscal year 19/20.