




Utility Department Monthly Update

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Daniel Saus, Utility Director 

THROUGH: George Garrett, City Manager

SUBJECT: January 2021 Utility Department Update

A. Wastewater Treatment Plants

1. General Issues

- a. The contract for the Chemical Feed Upgrades was approved at last month's Council meeting and has been executed. We had a pre-construction meeting on January 20th and work has begun on the project.

2. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

- a. We received 1 odor complaint for the wastewater treatment facility at the airport. We tracked down the problem to an under aerated digester and got it corrected.

3. Effluent Quality Report/Plant Performance

The December 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:
December 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 | 0.194 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.82 | 1.69 | 0.885 | 0.747 |
| AREA 4 | 0.400 | 0.301 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.95 | 0.8 | 1.30 | 1.2 | 0.253 | 0.180 |
| AREA 5 | 0.450 | 0.334 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.01 | 1.1 | 0.150 | 0.300 |
| AREA 6 | 0.200 | 0.075 | 3.92 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 0.269 | 0.412 |
| AREA 7 | 0.200 | 0.043 | 1.00 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.959 | 1.27 | 0.178 | 0.248 |

B. Collection System

1. The month of January had above average flows for this time of year.
2. Vacuum Station Salinities for January:
 - a. August's vacuum station salinities were at as follows (in parts per thousand): A3: 2.0 SA4: 2.3; SA5: 5.9; SA6: 1.0 and SA7: 1.7. These values show some infiltration but only Area 5 is really causing a problem. We continue to look for the outstanding issues in that system. We have hired additional staff to find and address these leaks, most still left-over damages from Irma.
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 still currently 6 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 January 1st to January 31st there were 38 documented Call outs for the entire Collections System. Of these, 32 were system generated typically a low vacuum detected at one of our Vacuum Stations. These 32 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.

- b. The other call outs were as follows:

- i. 1-4-22: Backup Area 4. 123 Mockingbird Ln. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the vacuum pit and cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. He let the homeowner know to call a plumber. No damage to property.

- ii. 1-9-22: Backup Area 4. Backup Area 5. 10977 O/S Hwy. 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 sensor tube clogged with grease. He pulled the sensor tube and cleared it of the grease blockage and put the Vac Pit back into service. No damage to property.

- iii. 1-15-22: Backup Area 5. 317 Calle de Bouganvillea. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the vacuum pit and cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. He let the homeowner know to call a plumber. No damage to property.

- iv. 1-16-22: Backup Area 6. 102 Ave E. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the vacuum pit and cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order. The City had been responsible for backups at this property in the past due to poor construction when the original vacuum system was installed which had been rectified by the time of this incident. We reinspected the gravity lateral with CCTV equipment and found the problem this time to be due to

poor installation by the plumber at the time of the Gravity Sewer hookup to the vacuum system. The Tech marked the problem on the ground of the problem area and the Collections Supervisor let the property owner know what the issue was. No damage to property.

v. 1-18-22: Backup Area 7. 235 Guava Ln. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded. He found the wet well full of water and called in the pump truck to help pull the water down to be able to work on the station. He found the stators were bad on the pumps in the station. He pulled the pumps and replaced the stators. He then put the station back into service. No damage to property.

vi. 1-23-22: Backup Area 4. 4000 Tuskegee Ln. The MOD phone received a call about a backup at the property. The Tech responded and inspected the vacuum pit and cleanout. He found the unit to be in good working order, but it appeared that the problem was located on the Cityside as water was backing up between the vacuum pit and the city cleanout. But the problem turned out to be grease being dumped down the drain of the rental property causing the blockage. The Tech was required to call in the Jet Vac Truck to clear the blockage. Problem was resolved and the Property Owner informed of the problem with Grease being dumped down the drain.

6. Odor Complaints / Mitigation

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

C. Plant Upgrades & Construction Projects

1. The design for the sludge facility at Area 6 is back on track. The City received about \$3.5 million in Stewardship funding this year and plans to move this project forward. It is being prepared for bidding.
2. A CDBG-DR Grant has been received for electrical upgrades, vacuum monitoring system, and flood wall at Area 6 plant. Design is at approx. 85%.
3. The design for the Area 3 WWTP expansion is nearly completed and permitting through FDEP is underway at this time. Another unexpected RAI (request for additional information) was received by FDEP in September. Our response team is working on a proposal for this required response which is due March 10, 2022.

D. Grants Update Summary

1. We received notification of an award of \$3,500,000 for Stewardship this year! We plan to move the sludge handling facility forward with this grant money. It is expected to get to bid soon. We are hoping for another larger award next year.