



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-856

Agenda Date: September 7, 2023

Department: Gainesville Regional Utilities

Title: 2023-856 Main Street Water Reclamation Facility Capacity and Renewal Upgrade (B)

Department: GRU, Water/Wastewater

Description: Main Street Water Reclamation Facility Capacity and Renewal Upgrades Project Update and approval of \$22.5M Phase 1 grant agreement.

Fiscal Note: The City Commission previously approved the Design Build contract up to \$50M and the corresponding expenses have been included in the annual budget from current FY 23 to FY26. The previous approval addresses Phase 1 costs.

The upgrades required for Phase 2 are currently being designed and are estimated to cost an additional \$110 million dollars. Additional grant funding is being requested in August 2023. The total project expenses for Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been included with the 10-year capital improvement plan for the wastewater system and in the GRU Debt Reduction Plan. These expenses will be included in annual budget submittals.

Explanation: The Main Street Water Reclamation Facility (MSWRF) started treating wastewater in the 1920's. This facility has seen upgrades and expansions over its 100 years of service. The last major plant upgrade was in the early 1990s and the plant is due for significant upgrades.

The Main Street WRF Capacity and Renewal Project will replace and upgrade assets at the facility to improve wastewater treatment quality and expand the facility's capacity to meet current and future wastewater flows. The improvements to the plant will bring the facility from a 7.5 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) capacity to 10 MGD. The improvements at Main Street Water Reclamation Facility will increase treatment capacity, prepare GRU to meet upcoming regulatory conditions, proactively address aging infrastructure, and lower operation and maintenance costs.

In 2019, staff conducted a two-phase evaluation of the prospective design-build teams. CH2MHill Engineers was awarded the contract, which was executed on July 20, 2020 for a total of \$50M. GRU Staff and our Design-Builder have worked through the planning phase of the effort to determine the best approach for future treatment at the Main Street WRF site. The project was broken into two phases due to rising construction costs and supply chain issues.

- Phase 1 of the project will replace critical gravity sewer piping from the Innovation District and downtown corridors, and install a new master lift station, headworks screening and grit removal facilities, odor control facilities, security improvements, and necessary electrical and stand-by power facilities. Construction of this phase is expected to start in March of 2024.
- Phase 2 of the project will replace the 1967 East Treatment Train with the latest Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) technology, which will improve water quality and reduce nitrogen and phosphorus being discharged to Sweetwater Branch and Alachua Sink, via Sweetwater Wetlands Park. This phase will include additional screening facilities, MBR treatment basin, associated blower and pumping equipment, improvements to the existing clarification and disinfection systems, and necessary electrical and stand-by power facilities. Construction of this phase is expected to begin in 2025. GRU Staff will request approval for this additional phase of the project in the future.

In development of the phases the team faced dramatic rises in construction and commodities costs. Supply chain impacts have resulted in treatment and electrical equipment experiencing extended manufacturing times and escalating construction costs industry wide. Capacity expansion necessitated gravity sewer improvements and a master lift station that will alleviate system surcharging and reduce risks of sanitary sewer overflows during large storm events

In January 2023, GRU was awarded \$22.5M of grant funding for water quality improvements associated with this project. GRU has submitted for additional grant funding in the next fiscal year cycle to help defray the cost to GRU customers for the Phase 2 Improvements.

Strategic Connection:

- Goal 1: Equitable Community
- Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute a grant agreement with FDEP to accept \$22.5M in grant funding for Phase 1 of this project subject to form and legality.