FILED APR 29, 2015 DOCUMENT NO. 02426-15 FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

REQUEST TO ESTABLISH DOCKET  (Please type or print. File original with CLK.)						
Date:	4/30/2015					
1. From Division / Staff: Afd			Afd			
2. OPR:	AFD					
3. OCR:						
4. Suggested Docket Title:		ket Title:	Petition for approval to defer legal expenses associated with the resolution of land use issues for utility treatment facilities that are located in Polk County by West Lakeland Wastewater, Inc.			
5. Program	n/Modu	le/Submod	lule Assignment:	A19		
6. Sugges	ted Doc	ket Mailin	g List			
a. Pro	vide NA	MES/ACR	ONYMS, if registered company	☐ Provided as an Attachment		
Company Code, if applicable: Parties (include address, if different		address, if different from MCD):	Representatives (name and address):			
		West Lake	eland Wastewater, Inc.	Mike Smallridge		
			(*)	3336 Grand Blvd. Suite 102		
				Holiday, FL 34690		
b. Pro	vide CC	MPLETE	NAME AND ADDRESS for all othe	rs (match representatives to companies)		
Company Code, if applicable: Interested persons, if (include address, if di		d persons, if any, address, if different from MCD):	Representatives (name and address):			
7. Check o	ne:	⊠ Supp	orting documentation attached	☐ To be provided with Recommendation		
Comments	:			<b>3</b> P		

# FLORIDA UTILITY SERVICES 1, LLC

3336 GRAND BOULEVARD \* SUITE 102 \* HOLIDAY, FLORIDA 34690 352-302-7406 \* MICHAELSMALLRIDGE@GMAIL.COM

FILED APR 29, 2015 DOCUMENT NO. 02380-15 FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

April 23, 2015

Commission Clerk Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL. 32399

Re: Petition to defer costs for West Lakeland Wastewater, Inc.

**Dear Commission Clerk:** 

West Lakeland Wastewater, Inc is requesting the Florida Public Service Commission allow the utility to defer attorney fees and related costs associated with a law suit against Transworld, LLC.

The purpose of this lawsuit is to clear up title so that the utility can have the proper legal access to the polishing ponds and spray field. This is needed to be done in order to meet the requirements of 25-30.037 2-Q. The Utility asks the commission for a three year amortization.

I have enclosed a copy of the monies already paid to the attorney and a copy of the contract with the attorney.

This request for a petition is being filed by Michael Smallridge-Court Ordered Receiver for West Lakeland Wastewater, Inc.

On behalf of the Utility,

Michael Smaye.
Mike Smallridge

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq. emorrell@morrellpa.com



902 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE SUITE 205 LAKELAND, FL 33803 P.O. BOX 2786 LAKELAND, FL 33806-2786 502 WEST MAIN STREET WAUCHULA, FL 33873 TELEPHONE 863.802.8037 FAX 863.802.5312

www.morrellpa.com

February 12, 2015

Email & regular mail Mike Smallridge 3336 Grand Blvd., Suite 102 Holiday, FL 34690

Re:

West Lakeland Wastewater, LLC

Our File No.: WLWW-0001

Dear Mr. Smallridge:

You have asked our firm to represent you, as the Court-appointed receiver for the private utility that operates the sewage plant located on Reynolds Rd. As you know, on November 14, 2014, our firm prepared a demand letter to Transworld, LLC, explaining that you had been appointed as the receiver for the utility, and that in accordance with your application to operate the utility, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) is requiring you to have access to spray fields and ponds, which are located on the adjoining property owned by Transworld, LLC. Our firm, with you, has attempted to negotiate without litigation with Transworld, LLC to acquire access to the spray field and polishing ponds, either by lease or easement, to comply with the mandate from the PSC. To date, we have received no meaningful response from Transworld, LLC.

Accordingly, as we have discussed, our only alternative at this point is to initiate litigation against Transworld, LLC to gain access to the ponds and spray field. The basis for the litigation will be breach of contract and/or declaratory judgment seeking a prescriptive easement as provided by Florida law. You have asked that I provide you this correspondence to give you an estimate what we believe may be the cost of the litigation. As of today, litigation of this matter, taken to trial, usually costs approximately \$40,000.00-50,000.00. This, of course, is just an estimate and will vary greatly depend on the extent of any defenses and the extent of litigation required to be successful.

Upon approval from you, we will initiate the Complaint and commence the litigation. If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely yours.

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq.

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902 S FLA AVE, SUITE 205 LAKELAND, FL 33801 502 WEST MAIN STREET WAUCHULA, FL 33873 TELEPHONE 963,802,8037 FAX 963,802,5312

E-Mail emorrell@morrelipa.com

www.mcarelips.com

DATE: 10/9/14

#### MENT OF PROFESSIONAL FEES AND COSTS

RELL, P.A., to represent you. If our firm accepts this representation, of all attorneys' fees and costs incurred, in a timely manner, upon the

It is our basic policy to bill Attorney, Legal Assistant, and Law Clerk time on an hourly rate basis, plus costs. Examples of costs include Court fees, computer research charges, deposition costs, and expert fees.

When we agree to represent you, you may be asked to make an advance deposit to our Trust Account to secure payment of fees and costs. You may be asked to make additional deposits from time to time, depending on the type of legal matter involved and the lawyer time anticipated to complete the representation. The advance deposit will normally be applied to the <u>last</u> billing for a particular representation, or to past due billings, in our discretion. It is our security for payment. Any unused advance deposit will be refunded, at the conclusion of the representation.

You will receive a monthly statement showing the services rendered, the fees and costs due for a stated period. Payment is due immediately and is delinquent after thirty (30) days. Any other arrangement for representing you, on a different time or method of payment of fees and costs, must be approved, in writing. When we represent more than one person or entity, each client is jointly and severally liable for fees and costs. If our Statements are not paid when due, we reserve the right to discontinue services until our account is brought current. If any Statement is not paid within 30 days from the date of the Statement, we impose an interest charge of 1.5% per month (a 18% annual rate) from the 30th day after the date of the Statement, until paid in full. Any payments made are applied first to the oldest outstanding Statement(s), and interest thereon. You agree to pay our attorneys' fees and costs if litigation is necessary to collect our fees and costs. You waive any conflict of laws provision of the State of Florida and further waive jurisdiction of the Federal Courts in any matter between the parties. Further, you waive any right to jury trial in any action brought in connection with any of your accounts.

You are hereby notified that we are entitled under Florida law to a charging lien for fees and costs due our firm, on any money, documents or property delivered to, or recovered by, us during the representation, whether it is received from you or from other parties on your behalf. If money is held in Trust for you, by us, you agree that we may pay all fees and costs due our firm, before disbursing the balance of the money to you. Of course, we will account to you for any such disbursement. It is your responsibility to request the return of your documents, items or records delivered to our firm ("your property"). If arrangements are not made for the return of your property within six (6) years following the conclusion of a matter or representation, your property may be destroyed with the file.

Although it is unusual, there are certain matters which are billed at a higher rate than the standard hourly rate. For example, a higher rate may be charged in case of emergency requiring immediate attention, night or weekend work; when the representation involves substantial gain or loss; complex, unusual or unique questions of law or fact; when an additional fee is authorized by contract or statute, or in those matters requiring unusual amounts of attorney time or effort. Determination of this additional fee will be based on what is reasonable under all the circumstances, taking into account the time involved and the attorney fees customarily charged for such services in this area.

Currently, the hourly rates are as follows: Eduardo F. Morrell - \$285.00/hour; and Legal Assistants and Law Clerks - \$95.00/hour. Personnel providing services and hourly rates are subject to change, without notice, although an effort will be made to communicate fee changes to our regular clients in advance.

Further, you may be entitled to recover "attorneys' fees" from an opposing party in certain types of litigation. The Court may not award a fee or the fee that the Court awards may be less than your actual legal fee. The Court's award does not reduce your obligation to our firm. We cannot guarantee results in an adversary system or recovery of your fees and costs. In certain cases, you may run the risk of paying the opposing parties' fees and costs, and you should carefully consider this before undertaking or defending litigation.

We are providing this explanation of fees and costs to avoid any misunderstanding in the future. We are always available to discuss or explain our fees, costs and services. Your execution of this document is your agreement to pay all fees and costs billed to you as provided above for services rendered on you or your company's behalf, until our firm or you terminate the representation, in writing. Either you or our firm may terminate this representation at will, in writing, in which case you will owe us all fees and costs for services rendered through the date of termination.

CLIENT:	wat	<u>Lake (-1</u>	wastewater,	LC.	MORRELL,	P.A.
By://ka.a. PRINT NAM	ETTLE: 2	verent.	Smallurdos	(Sign) BY:	4	h-r

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq. Type Reference Date 10/23/2014 Bill 10.09.2014

Original Amt. 2,500.00 Balance Due 2,500.00 10/23/2014 Discount

Payment 1,000.00

Check Amount

1,000.00

Checking CenterState Transfer Legal Costs

1,000.00

LMP100 M/P CHECK

WEST LAKELAND WASTEWATER, LLC

2775

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq Date Type Reference 10/23/2014 Bill 10.09.2014

Original Amt. 2,500.00 Balance Due 1,500.00 1/15/2015 Discount

Payment 750.00 750.00

Check Amount

Checking CenterState Transfer Legal Costs

750.00

LMP100 M/P CHECK

WEST LAKELAND WASTEWATER, LLC

2790

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq. Type Reference Date 10/23/2014 Bill 10.09.2014

Original Amt. 2,500.00 Balance Due 750.00 2/17/2015 Discount

Check Amount

750.00 750.00

Payment

Morrell, P.A.
Post Office Box 2786
Lakeland, Florida 33806-2786

Ph:

(863)802-8037

Fax:

(863)802-5312

November 30, 2014

Mike Smallridge 1902 Barton Park Rd. Suite 201 Auburndale, FL 33823

File #:

WLWW-0001

Inv #:

14803

To all professional services rendered including the following:

Nov-07-14

Draft correspondence to Transworld

Nov-12-14

Teleconference with client re: strategy for Easement over

Transworld property

Nov-19-14

Review correspondence from Attorney Smith

Nov-25-14

Teleconference with client re: follow-up demand to Transworld and

stragety for access to spray field

Nov-26-14

Teleconference with Attorney Randall Smith re status of

development order and workout lease/easement.

Totals

\$541.50

Total Fees and Disbursements	\$541.50
Retainer Applied	\$0.00
Transferred from Trust to General	\$541.50
Previous Balance	\$285.00
Previous Payments	\$285.00
Interest Due	\$0.00
Balance Due Now	\$0.00

# PLEASE INCLUDE INVOICE AND MATTER # ON YOUR CHECK

OUR CLOSING DATE IS THE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH. IF YOU REMIT A PAYMENT THAT IS NOT REFLECTED ON THIS STATEMENT, IT WILL APPEAR ON YOUR NEXT STATEMENT.

DUE UPON RECEIPT; INTEREST PAYABLE AT 1.25% PER MONTH 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF STATEMENT

#### TRUST STATEMENT

		Disbursements	Receipts
	Trust Balance Forward		715.00
Nov-30-14	Paid To: Morrell, P.A.	541.50	
N0V-3U-14	raid to. Morrell, 1.A.	541.50	
	Payment for invoice: 14803		
			3
	Total Trust	\$541.50	\$715.00
	Trust Balance		\$173.50

### TRUST STATEMENT

		Disbursements	Receipts
Oct-27-14	Received From: West Lakeland Wastewater, LLC		1,000.00
	Future fees & Costs		
Oct-31-14	Paid To: Morrell, P.A.	285.00	
	Payment for invoice: 14754		
		man and the second seco	THE STREET SHALL SHALL SHALL
	Total Trust	\$285.00	\$1,000.00
	Trust Balance		\$715.00

Morrell, P.A. Post Office Box 2786 Lakeland, Florida 33806-2786

Ph:

(863)802-8037

Fax: (863)802-5312

October 31, 2014

Mike Smallridge 1902 Barton Park Rd. Suite 201 Auburndale, FL 33823

File #:

WLWW-0001

Inv #:

14754

To all professional services rendered including the following:

Oct-09-14

Meet with client re: work on access to spray field

Totals	\$285.00	
Total Fees and Disbursements	\$285.00	
Retainer Applied	\$0.00	
Transferred from Trust to General	\$285.00	
Previous Balance	\$0.00	
Previous Payments	\$0.00	
Interest Due	\$0.00	
	HERETELL LY	
Balance Due Now	\$0.00	

#### PLEASE INCLUDE INVOICE AND MATTER # ON YOUR CHECK

OUR CLOSING DATE IS THE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH. IF YOU REMIT A PAYMENT THAT IS NOT REFLECTED ON THIS STATEMENT, IT WILL APPEAR ON YOUR NEXT STATEMENT.

DUE UPON RECEIPT: INTEREST PAYABLE AT 1.25% PER MONTH 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF STATEMENT

## TRUST STATEMENT

	Disbursements	Receipts
Trust Balance Forward		173.50
Total Trust	\$0.00	\$173.50
Trust Balance		\$173.50 53.02

Morrell, P.A.
Post Office Box 2786
Lakeland, Florida 33806-2786

Ph:

(863)802-8037

Fax:

(863)802-5312

December 31, 2014

Mike Smallridge 1902 Barton Park Rd. Suite 201 Auburndale, FL 33823

File #:

WLWW-0001

Inv #:

14862

To all professional services rendered including the following:

Dec-03-14

Email correspondence with Client regarding status of development

order.

Dec-12-14

Correspondence with Attorney Randall Smith re: follow up on

development order.

Totals

\$114.00

**DISBURSEMENTS** 

Dec-01-14

Postage log

6.48

Totals

\$6.48

Total Fees and Disbursements	\$120.48
Retainer Applied	\$0.00
Transferred from Trust to General	\$0.00
Previous Balance	\$541.50
Previous Payments	\$541.50
Interest Due	\$0.00
Balance Due Now	\$120,48 with Trust
ASE INCLUDE INVOICE AND MATTER #	CHIA

OUR CLOSING DATE IS THE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH. IF YOU REMIT A PAYMENT THAT IS NOT REFLECTED ON THIS STATEMENT, IT WILL APPEAR ON YOUR NEXT STATEMENT.

DUE UPON RECEIPT: INTEREST PAYABLE AT 1.25% PER MONTH 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF STATEMENT

CENTER STATE BANK N.A.

2775

WEST LAKELAND WASTEWATER, LLC 1902 BARTON PARK RD. # 201 AUGURNDALE, FL 33823

REDACTED

1/15/2015

PAYTO THE ORDER OF

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq.

\$ <del>--75</del>0.00

DOLLARS

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq 902 S. Florida Ave, Suite 205 Lakeland, FL 33801

MEMO

Transfer Legal Costs

much Sury

WEST LAKELAND WASTEWATER, LLC

2775

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq Date Type Reference 10/23/2014 Bill 10.09.2014

Original Amt. 2,500.00 Balance Due 1,500.00 1/15/2015 Discount

Check Amount

Payment 750.00 750.00

Checking CenterState Transfer Legal Costs

750.00

WEST LAKELAND WASTEWATER, LLC

2775

Eduardo F. Morrell, Esq Date Type Reference 10/23/2014 Bill 10.09.2014

Original Amt. 2,500.00

Balance Due 1,500.00 1/15/2015 Discount

Check Amount

750.00 750.00

Checking CenterState Transfer Legal Costs

750.00

400

TWELCO MECHECK