

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

April 20, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

ROLL CALL

The Board of Directors for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) met on Wednesday April 20, 2022 at 9:00 AM in Executive Board Room. Special Counsel Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Nichelle Taylor and Director Ralph Johnson.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Alejandra Guzman, Councilmember Freddie King, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis,

Staff present were: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Ron Spooner, Interim General Superintendent; Ms. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Darryl Harrison, Deputy Special Counsel; Mr. Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Customer Service; Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management, SWBNO; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2022, Board Meeting. Director Joseph Peychaud moved for approval of the minutes. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell welcomed the Board members back to in person meetings. Mayor Cantrell stated she recently signed the CEA agreement that will invest 22 million in bond sales dollars into purchasing two static Frequency changers. Mayor Cantrell thanked the Board members for their work and support in partnering with the City to get the agreement done. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged the voting on the bid award for the new combustion turbine generator, which is a big deal. This agreement is a testament to the hard work of the Board and its progress that continues to be made. Under the leadership of this Board and administration, SWBNO made more progress than seen in decades.

Mayor Cantrell expressed concerns about what is happening in Baton Rouge. The Board voted unanimously on a resolution stating its position very well that was provided to those in Baton Rouge. However, she stated they are seeing how it plays out. The Board will remain steadfast and focused on what it is right for the utility and what is right for the City relative to fixing and improving our infrastructure in ways that are unprecedented and with creativity and innovation. They are also excited about having the strategic plan in place.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Ghassan Korban presented a slide overview that focused on the following topics:

Customer Service: Facts and Stats

- 2018: Backlog of over 10,000 open disputes
- Now: 2,329 open disputes

- **Estimated Bills**
- On average, fewer than 15,000 of 140,000 accounts monthly
- About 11 percent
- 39 of 60-meter reading positions filled (10 more than last month)

- Adjustment: A courtesy waiver for a customer with a leak on their side of the meter (i.e., in the customer's plumbing)
- Up to 100% of sewer use + up to 50% of water use charges
- Policy explained: [swbno.org/Customer Service/Bill Dispute and Adjustments](http://swbno.org/Customer%20Service/Bill%20Dispute%20and%20Adjustments)
- **Incorrect Bills** -- We can correct 100% of an incorrect bill

Technology Modernization

Smart Metering Program

- Vendor selection imminent
- Installation to begin Q4 2022

Other Technology Project Highlights

- Financial system
- Asset management system
- Website ADA upgrades

Financial Stability

Federal IJJA Funding

Met with Louisiana Department of Health to discuss priority projects.

Three revenue sources available in next five years:

- Lead Service Line Replacement Program
- LDH State Revolving Fund
- Water Sector Commission

Approved for State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan

- \$11.1M loan approved from Clean Water SRF for sewer consent decree work

- Filed pre-application for next round of funding

FEMA Grant Revenue

- \$40 million paid out to SWBNO since January
 - \$12.2 million reimbursement secured within 7 days of contractor payment
 - Fast reimbursements keep our system funds available

Infrastructure Resilience and Reliability

West Power Complex

- T7 approval on today's agenda
- Fully executed CEA for frequency changer
- Federal earmarks
- \$6M received
- \$10M requested for FY 2023
- 7 active contracts + 10 upcoming

JIRR Project Updates

- Water transmission main rehabilitation work began yesterday
- 11 major projects in next 16 months
- First will be complete by end of May
- 4,000-foot force sewer main replacement complete

Pumping Status/ Drainage:

95 out of 99 Pumps Available for Use

- **DPS 6:**
1 Pump is out of service for mechanical issues. Pump assembly shipped to Original Equipment Manufacturer in Wisconsin for repairs.
- **DPS 11:**
E Pump is out of service due to an oil leak. Assessments are being made.
- **DPS 13:**
#4 Pump available for emergency use only. Gear box and bearing issue
- **DPS 14:**
#4 Out of service due to oil leaking from bearing. Work under warranty.

Power and Equipment Status

Turbines available for use:

- T4

- T5
- T6
- Turbine 1 out of service until further notice

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee Report

Director Janet Howard reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of April was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Operation report as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt operation minutes as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items

- Resolution (R-056-2022) Adoption of Specific Provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code (LPC)
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-056-2022 as amended. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept R-056-2022 as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-057-2022) Renewal for Security Guard Services Month to Month
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-057-2022 as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to accept R-057-2022 as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-061-2022) Sewer 8th Supplemental Resolution
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to defer R-061-2022 as amended. Director Janet Howard moved to accept R-061-2022 as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-062-2022) SWB Preliminary Resolution
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-062-2022 as amended. Director Ralph Johnson moved to accept R-062-2022 as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the April 20, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting:

- Resolution (R-037-2022) Contract 1438 – Combustion Turbine Generator 7 Procurement (Re-Bid of Contract 1419)
- Resolution (R-032-2022) Renewal of Contract MH 190014 – Furnishing and Delivering Positive Displacement Cold Meters Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Mueller Water Products
- Resolution (R-053-2022) Award of Contract 30245 - Mid-City Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 3 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Palmisano Construction, LLC
- Resolution (R-040-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 8 – Contract 1403 – Demolition of Abandoned C7 & C8 Basins and Other Site Improvements at the Carrollton Water Plant Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC
- Resolution (R-052-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 – Contract 30109 – Sewer Pumping Station A Structural Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC
- Resolution (R-038-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 9 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Meyers Engineers, LTD for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-039-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Digital Engineering & Imaging, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-041-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Mott MacDonald, LLC (successor interest to Lambert Engineers, LLC) for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-044-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Arcadis U.S., Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-045-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 10 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (formerly MWH Americas, Inc.). for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-050-2022) Ratification of Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Black & Veatch for Design and Engineering Services for the Sewer Pumping Station A Structural Rehabilitation Project

- Resolution (R-048-2022) Reconciliation and Final Acceptance of Contract 2144 – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Sites throughout Orleans Parish Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc
- Resolution (R-049-2022) Reconciliation and Final Acceptance of Contract 30217 – Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered Sites within Orleans Parish between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Compliance EnviroSystems, LLC April 2022

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Human Resources
- Safety Report
- Legal Report
- Contracts Under \$1 Million or Less Report
- FEMA Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts Report

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:33 AM.