

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

November 17, 2021

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 November 17, 2021 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft Teams. Special Counsel Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Director Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent:

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; Mr. Robert Jackson, 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 October 20, 2021, Board Meeting. Director Maurice Sholas moved for approval of the minutes. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

---

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

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

- Executive Director Korban started his report on the Plumbing Department Debrief. Mr. Korban stated our utility is not under investigation. The employee who are under investigation for their outside work have been suspended. The Sewerage and Water Board is not involved in gas inspections.
- On October 19, SWBNO moved the Plumbing Department into Customer Service. Water and Sewer connections and inspections are services SWBNO provide to customers, and this change aligns our organizational structure with our priorities. SWBNO have updated the Plumbing Department's outside work policy as well as the utility-wide work policy.
- WIFIA Loan: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act provides long-term, low cost supplemental loans. Sewerage and Water Board closed on a \$275M loan on November 10, 2021. The Smart Metering Program meter survey is complete. The vendor RFP is near

finalization. Turbine 7 permitting process is complete, and specs are done. RFP will be on the streets by December.

**Pumping Status/ Drainage:**

**94 out of 99 Pumps Available for Use**

- **DPS 6:**
  - 1 Pump is out of service for pump bearing issue. Contractor is estimating. It will take several months to repair.
  - F Pump emergency rotor repairs underway. Anticipated completion by December.
  
- **DPS 12:**
  - D Pump is installed. Testing begins this week. Expected to be online by first of December.
  
- **DPS 13:**
  - #5 Diesel Pump vendor had delays sourcing parts, which are hard to come by due to supply chain issues, but SWBNO are tracking for completion in 2-3 weeks.
  
- **DPS 14:**
  - #4 Pump gear box repairs underway.

**Power Update:**

- C7 and C8 Basin Sites Work is 90% complete. First major step in foundational work for the proposed Power Substation.
  
- Turbine 4 and 6 are available for use. Testing T6 for winter conditions. Turbine 1 out due to vacuum issues. Turbine 5 have value issues, which is covered under warranty.
  
- Mr. Korban pronounced the Paul Habans School ribbon cutting. The Stormwater and Nature Center at Paul Habans Charter School in Algiers was made possible by Sewerage and Water Board's Green Infrastructure Grants Program. This is one of the 28 green infrastructure sites that Sewerage and Water Board have funded through our Environmental Department and Consent Decree. This site alone holds over 90,000 gallons of stormwater during a rain event.

In early 2019, SWBNO awarded them a grant of more than \$375,000 to fund the project. Site consists of a rainwater detention pond, rain gardens, boardwalk, and native trees and plantings, all of which will help mitigate flooding.

- Mr. Korban stated they are reading approximately 71% of our meters. The weekly numbers vary based on weather and other factors. They are continuing to work towards giving accurate water bills.

Following Mr. Korban's report, Director Howard asked if the plan had been derailed. Mayor Cantrell stated that it had not, and that a level of momentum had been lost. Mayor Cantrell also stated that the City Council played a role in terms of creating and building momentum with the plan, and that the Administration would be putting \$22 million toward the project through bond sales. Mayor Cantrell went on to state that the pieces have been moving forward, and the loss of momentum is tied to the regulation of the New Orleans City Council during the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. That caused some pain points and impacted the timeline of the power plant. Mayor Cantrell stated that it is their hope to keep moving in the right direction and not lose any more ground and begin to build momentum that leads to not only realizing the vision but also the need for real redundancy for the City of New Orleans. The need for balance and all partners forward thinking on the matter to sustain.

---

## 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 October and November was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Operations reports as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Operations minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

### Pension Committee Report

Director Joseph Peychaud reported on the summary and actions taken by the Pension Committee. The Pension Committee Report for the month of November was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Pension reports as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

### Finance and Administration Committee Report

Director Lynes Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee Report for the month of November was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

Strategy Committee Report

Director Robin Barnes reported on the summary and actions taken by the Strategy Committee. The Strategy Committee Report for the month of November was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy report as amended. Director Janet Howard move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

**Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter in Executive Session. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

**Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit Executive Session. Director Joseph Psychaud moved. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**

---

**CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

---

**The following resolutions were discussed at the November 11, 2021 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-120-2021) Approval of the Updated Sewerage and Water Board Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Resolution (R-110-2021) Award of Contract 30238 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewers by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining of Service Laterals and Point Repairs at Various Sites Throughout the City of New Orleans to Wallace C. Drennan, LLC
- Resolution (R-112-2021) Award of Contract YW21-0062 – Furnishing SWB Standard 4” & 5” Fire Hydrants w/ McGard Anti-Tampering Device to Cimsco, Inc.
- Resolution (R-108-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 for Contract 1404 – Algiers Water Purification Plant Improvements Project Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Max Foote Construction, Inc.
- Resolution (R-107-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Volkert, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Demolition of the Two Abandoned Carrollton Water Plant Clarifiers
- Resolution (R-111-2021) Authorization of Contract 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-109-2021) Final Acceptance of Contract 6267 with M.R. Pittman Group, LLC Turbine 5 Exhaust System Fabrication and Installation

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

---

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

---

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Contracts Under \$1 Million or Less Report
- FEMA October Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts 2021

---

### **ADJOURNMENT**

---

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:27 AM.