

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

December 15, 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 December 15, 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 Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Director Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Alejandra Guzman

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

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged and thanked everyone for being on. Mayor Cantrell congratulated Mr. Korban, his team and Board members for their leadership, with the Board leaning heavily on Councilmember Banks. Banks who in being very instrumental in helping secure \$275 million dollars in terms of the WIFIA loan. The WIFIA loan has been signed, executed, and made public news. Unfortunately, due to weather delays, the EPA's representation was unable to be on ground with us. However, Mayor Cantrell provided a nice comprehensive overview about the partnership that SWBNO and the City of New Orleans has with EPA.

Mayor Cantrell stated she had the opportunity to sit down with Secretary Regan associated with EPA and verified there is more to come. The City of New Orleans are prime to the leverage and additional resources from the federal government particularly as we talk about IJA. The infrastructure investment Job Act is very significant, \$1 trillion dollars on infrastructure. The City is exceeding and already spending FEMA resources, and making significant progress. Mayor Cantrell met with and had quarterly meetings with FEMA and the state quaternion meeting with Sewerage and Water Board front and center.

Our partners affiliated with the work associated with the joint infrastructure program confirmed the city has now reached a significant milestone of over 50% of the joint infrastructure projects has been

completed. There are many more projects on the way to come in 2022, and we are in good position to leverage these resources.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 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 thanking the Mayor for her continued leadership. Sewerage and Water Board is very excited about the prospects and confident Mayor Cantrell is going to maximize partnership at the federal level. The need is great, SWBNO is primed, and ready. The SWBNO team could not have asked for a better leader as it moves forward for the next four years. Mr. Korban stated that SWBNO thanks Mayor Cantrell for her vision and partnership.
- Mr. Korban also thanked Councilmember Jay H. Banks for his leadership and partnership in serving with SWBNO. He thanked Councilmember Banks for being an awesome spokesman and supporter for the utility and defending the utility every chance he had. He stated that Councilman Banks was appreciated.
- 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.
- Water Overview: Responded to 12,000 plus work orders, 700 plus hydrants repaired, 800 plus valves repaired and 2,700 plus meters repaired or raised. Treated 56 billion gallons of water for drinking. Performed 100,000 plus water quality analyses on 20,000 plus samples from across the city. Distributed 100 plus home lead testing kits to customers.
- Sewer Overview: Responded to 10,000 plus work orders, 7,600 plus manholes repaired, 180 plus miles of sewer line cleaned, 170 plus miles of sewer lines inspected. Closed on \$275 million WIFIA loan for sewer projects saving our customers \$100 million in interest payments. Advanced 16 JIRR Group Projects for water and sewer mains replacement to new phases.
- Power and Drainage Overview: Successfully rehabbed Turbines 4 and 5, critical for power continually during hurricane Ida. Completed environmental permitting for future Turbine 7 and procured new Frequency changer. Winterizing Turbine 6 transformed site of the future West Power Complex. In each major rain event, retained 304,600 plus gallons of stormwater with Green Infrastructure
- Customer Service Overview: 27,000 plus visits to customer service centers, 216,000 plus calls to 52-WATER, 46,000 plus emails to customerservice@swbno.org, 6,000 plus special payment arrangements and customer care act pay plans. Hired first ever Chief Customer Service Officer, Elevated customer service functions to the Executive Team. Remained on call during Hurricane

Zeta to answer customer calls. Before Ida, reached and exceeded 80% goal for actual meter reads.

- Highlights: Completed process for Five-Year Strategic Plan, captured \$20 million in cost savings through water and sewer bond refinancing, completed systemwide meter inventory for the Smart Metering Program and participated in 45 public outreach events.

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 complete. Testing will take place on December 17.

- **DPS 12:**

D Pump is installed. Testing Continues.

- **DPS 14:**

#4 Pump gear box repairs underway --- Still with Vendor

Power Update:

- C7 and C8 Basin Sites Work is 94% complete.
- Turbine 4 and 6 are available for use Continue to test T6 for winter conditions.
- Turbine 1 out due to vacuum issues.
- Turbine 5 gas control valve issue covered under warranty.
- Mr. Korban stated they are reading approximately more of our meters. The weekly numbers vary based on weather and other factors. They are continuing to work towards giving accurate water bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 December 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 Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution (R-148-2021) 2022 SWBNO Board/Committee and Holiday Calendar
 - o **Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-148-2021. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-135-2021) 2022 Operating Budget
 - o **Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-135-2021. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-136-2021) 2022 Capital Budget
 - o **Director Janet Howard moved to accept R-136-2021. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-147-2021) 2022 Operating Budget and 2022 Capital Budget Blanket Appropriations
 - o **Director Robin Barnes moved to accept R-147-2021. Councilmember Jay H. Banks seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the December 8, 2021 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-127-2021) Award of Contract 1376 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program - High Lift Pump Room and Panola Pumping Station Improvements Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.
 - o **Director Ralph Johnson moved to Defer R-127-2021. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-129-2021) One Year Renewal of Contract PM 18-0016 – Solid Waste Disposal Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Richards Disposal, Inc.

- Resolution (R-098-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 for Contract 1370A – Installation of 60Hz Transformers and Switchgear Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc.
- Resolution (R-124-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 5 for Contract 1403 – Demolition of Abandoned C-7 and C-8 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-125-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 2145 – Water Main Point Repairs, 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 Boh Bros Construction Co., LLC.
- Resolution (R-113-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., for Professional Services for Sewer System Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program Management (SSERP)
- Resolution (R-128-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel-Schaffer, Inc for Design Services Associated with the repairs for the Additional Damage to the Fender Systems Caused by the MV Bow Tribute
 - o **Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of Special Counsel
- Safety Report
- Human Resources 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 9:51 AM.