

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

June 15, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

## SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

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### ROLL CALL

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The Board of Directors for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) met on Wednesday June 15, 2022 at 9:07 AM in the Executive Boardroom. 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 Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, and Director Maurice Sholas.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Nichelle Taylor and Councilmember Freddie King.

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. Rene Gonzalez, Chief Customer Service Officer; Cash Moses, Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

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### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2022 and May 18, 2022, Board Meetings. Director Maurice Sholas moved for approval of the minutes. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell started the meeting by commenting on the legislative session. Mayor Cantrell stated that our New Orleans delegation fought hard to secure funding and resources that are precious and vital to SWBNO. The City secured over \$180 million in capital outlay funds, which are critical to infrastructure projects tied to SWBNO and tied to infrastructure throughout the city of New Orleans. Mayor Cantrell provided a recap on the joint work between SWBNO and the Department of Public Works, funded by FEMA. Mayor Cantrell noted the completion of the St. Claude loop E roadway project, which cost \$3.5 million, and the completion of the Milney Burg group B project, which cost \$7.1 million.

Mayor Cantrell recognized a recent storm that dumped over 9 inches of rain throughout the city and caused some flooding, which is the key indicator on why the city of New Orleans is doing the work that needs to be done. This work will continue to move forward throughout the city of New Orleans. Mayor Cantrell acknowledges we are on the front lines of climate change. Climate adaption is our way, and flood mitigation efforts are top priority. Mayor Cantrell is turning over a \$14-million-dollar risk reduction system that protects this parish along with our neighboring parishes. Mayor Cantrell

stated we must do everything within our power to ensure that we are moving risk mitigation projects forward and being forward-thinking about climate change.

The City has worked hard to diligently secure a multibillion-dollar project designed to store over 187 million gallons of storm water at City Park, to help protect Lakeview and the surrounding areas. This project is 90% designed and now being told to not move forward. Mayor Cantrell will continue to push as necessary to ensure we have a system throughout this city that holds stormwater, reduces our flood risk and leverages investments, along with federal investments, to become a safer and healthier city for generations to come. The city of New Orleans is looked upon as the national model for infrastructure investments, stormwater reduction, green infrastructure and blue infrastructure relative to a system and climate adaption. We are the focus.

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### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

#### **2022 Hurricane Preparedness**

- Every storm is unique: even if the equipment is operational, variables and challenges arise.
- SWBNO staff trains in emergency response all year.

#### **Progress at our Wastewater Treatment Plants**

- Eastbank and Westbank Sewer Treatment Plant backup generators have been tested and are operational.
- Fluidized Bed Incinerator has undergone \$3.1M in repairs.

#### **Pre-Season Storm Preparedness**

- Conducted hurricane exercises in conjunction with Entergy
- Ongoing clearing of large debris, cleaned vegetation, cut grass along 35 open canals
- Outfall pumping SOPs for canal pumping from SWBNO to Lake Pontchartrain sent to South Louisiana Flood Protection Agency for review

#### **Lessons Learned from Hurricane Ida**

- Backup generators at Drainage Pump Stations have been tested
- Purchase orders issued for rental generators and portable diesel pumps

#### **Pumping Status/ Drainage:**

##### **94 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.

H Pump is Out of service due to failed inboard bearing. Anticipated back into service by late June.

- **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 16:**  
#2 Pump went out of service afternoon of June 14 due to a coupling issue

### **Power and Equipment Status**

#### **Turbines available for use:**

- T4 (25 hz)
- T5 (25 hz)
- T6 (60 hz)
- We can use up to 9.75 MW from T6 through FCs for 25 hz power
- EMDs
- Frequency Changers
- Turbine 1 will not return to service

### **Infrastructure Resilience & Reliability**

Turbine 1, the oldest in our fleet, will be decommissioned.

- Installed in 1913, renovated in 1967 and 1972
- The unit has not been operational since last summer (August 2021)
- Repair cost estimate of at least \$3.6 million

### **West Power Complex Updates**

- \$200 million+ total program cost
- Continuing efforts to complete funding
- Static Frequency Changer (SFC) 1 equipment is being manufactured
  - SFC 2 and 3 to follow
- Awarded Turbine 7 procurement in May 2022
  - Turbines 8 and 9 are funding-dependent

### **Infrastructure Resilience & Reliability**

- Transmission main projects updates. Crews are in the process of installing new 42” pipe on Norman C. Francis this week.

- The next steps are the Pressure test, chlorinate, and test. Water should be flowing in this transmission main by the end of June.
- SWBNO has 50+ JIRR projects in construction, awarded and out for bid.
- The Lead and Copper rule revisions Requires inventory and posting online of presence of Lead Service Lines (LSL) by October 2024 and Coincides with IIA LSL replacement funding. Partnering with BlueConduit to identify LSL likelihood and develop online map. Includes partnership with the Water Collaborative for outreach and education and Funded by a grant from Google.org. Creating a new position to manage Lead and Copper Rule Compliance.

### **Meter Reading**

- Staffing remains a critical challenge
- 10 new employees start today
- Readings are highly tied to seasonal changes
- Meter reader safety concerns

### **Workforce Development Sewerage and Water Board Job Fair**

- Partnered with 20 agencies and businesses
- 500+ Job Seekers attended
- 85 SWBNO Job Offers
- 21 in Meter Reading
- 53 in General Superintendent Office

### **Stakeholder engagement**

#### **Members of our Leadership Team attended New Orleans Day at the State Capitol**

- HB 652 Billing Working Group
- Rep. Landry Governance Study Resolution
- Drainage Consolidation Task Force
- Tours of Carrollton Water Plant and West Power Complex site
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies Conference
- Sankofa Wetland Park Site Kickoff
- Concordia Roundtable Course
- Partnerships to address litter in canals in the Florida Avenue and Morrison Canals

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### 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 June was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Operations reports as amended. Director Robin Barnes move to adopt Operations minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss 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 June was presented and recommended for approval.

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

### Action Items

- Resolution (R-094-2022) Authorization for Award for Armed Security Guards at Board Facilities
  - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-094-2022 as amended. Director Tamika Duplessis moved to accept R-094-2022 as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

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## CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the June 15, 2022 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

### **CONTRACT AWARDS/RENEWALS**

- Resolution (R-076-2022) Renewal and Extension of Contract 8164 for Skilled and Unskilled Labor for Maintenance Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and JEI Solutions, Inc.
  - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Contract Awards/Renewals as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to accept Contract**

**Awards/Renewals as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**

### **CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS**

- Resolution (R-066-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1370A - 60Hz Transformers and Switchgear Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co, Inc.
- Resolution (R-079-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 8 for Contract 1377 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program-Claiborne Ave Pumping Station and Off-Site Improvements Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.
- **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Contract Change Orders as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept Contract Change Orders as proposed. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.**

### **CONTRACT AMENDMENTS**

- Resolution (R-075-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for Engineering and Design Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-077-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 9 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Arcadis O.S. Inc Engineering and Design Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Contract Amendments as amended. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept Contract Amendments as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

**Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Joseph Peychaud moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

**Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

**Director Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to approve the Recommendations in executive session. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

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### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

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

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:21 AM.