

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 25, 2023

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 January 25, 2023, at 9:10 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 Joseph Peychaud, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Robin Barnes, Director Nichelle Taylor, Director Janet Howard, Director Alejandra Guzman, and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Carol Markowitz and Director 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; Mr. Rene Gonzalez, Chief Customer Service Officer; Cash Moses, Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2022, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Ghassan Korban started his report by introducing the new Chief Auditor Edwin Sutterland. Mr. Korban stated Mr. Sutterland brings the utility vast amount of experience in the audit world and will hold a unique position at this utility. Mr. Korban also introduced the new Deputy General Superintendent Mr. Steve Nelson. Mr. Nelson is going on his third week with Sewerage and Water Board and doing an outstanding job. Mr. Korban stated Mr. Nelson is responsible for networks and gas engineering and acknowledge Mr. Nelson for stepping up and deescalating plenty of ongoing issues.

Executive Director Ghassan Korban and General Superintendent Steve Nelson recognized Mr. Alvin Jackson from networks on his observed good work in serving the community. Mr. Jackson was presented with a Sewerage and Water Board metal for his awesome and proud service. Executive Director Ghassan Korban presented a slide overview that focused on the following topics:

2022 Year in Review Strategic Plan Implementation

- Quarterly working group meetings
- Tracking metrics

Power Complex Groundbreaking

- \$250M project
- Operational substation in 2024
- **Smart Meter Launch**
- Selected a vendor
- Employee education
- **\$11.5 M in WWTP Projects**

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

- Hurricane Ida Recovery
- Phase One Project at the Eastbank WWTP
- General maintenance and repairs

Claiborne Drinking Water Pump Rehab

- Rehab complete
- Claiborne reopened

Improved Drinking Water Reliability

- 0 Citywide Precautionary Boil Water Advisories
- Treated 58 billion gallons of water for drinking
- 100,000+ water quality analyses performed
- 300+ home lead testing kits distributed to customers

Repaired the Sewer System Completed 8,500+ work orders

- 180 miles of sewer line cleaned
- 175 miles of sewer line inspected
- 5 Consent Decree sewer main rehabilitation projects underway with WIFIA funding as of Q4 2022

JIRR projects resulted in:

- 2.25 miles of transmission main rehabilitated
- 26+ miles of water distribution mains rehabilitated
- 3.9 miles of sewer mains replaced

Expanded Green Infrastructure

- In each major rain event, retained 274,500 gallons of stormwater with Green Infrastructure
- Nearly completed Bayou St. John Green Infrastructure project
- 4,900 community members reached through outreach efforts

Elevated Customer Service Field Work Orders

- 11,800+ Water Work Orders Closed
- 643 hydrant work orders closed
- 665 valves work orders closed
- 2,698-meter work orders closed
- 2,843 paving restoration projects

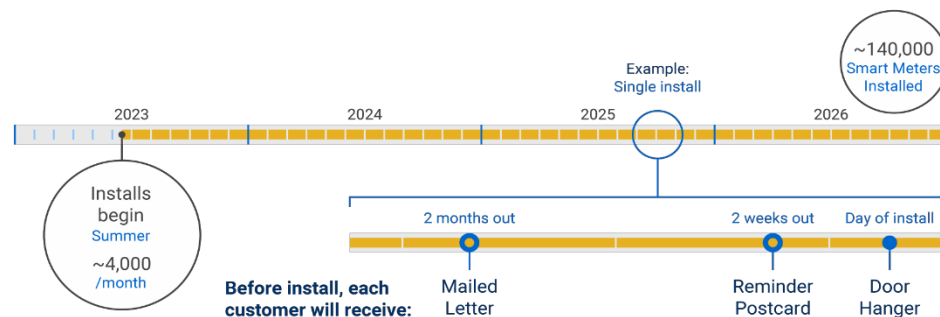
Billing New Meter Reading Strategy

- 95% of all customer meters read in first two months (compared to 60-80%)
- GOAL: A minimum of two actual reads for all customers by Feb. 2023
- 18% Fewer Bill disputes initiated YOY in Q4

Secured Innovative Funding

- \$79 million in Capital Outlay Funds
- Fair Share Funds \$34 million to date
- HUD Federal Earmarks \$16 million
- WIFIA loan \$275 million saves customers over \$100 million

Smart Meter Installation



Pavement Repairs

- Doubled SWBNO resources
- \$8.3M Additional City/DPW funds secured for work in early 2023
- Monthly KPIs to show completion and reduction in backlog

Director Alejandra Guzman and Director Maurice Sholas expressed how the smart meter customer portal is important for Sewerage and Water Board. This portal is a big deal with communication to the community, customer service and operation effectiveness. The big response is that the customer screen and employee screen will look exactly alike. Director Sholas stated it is a very important matter and a relief to the community for them to see same screen portal. This progression is a direct response to the consumer response in making the system better and also responds to people who felt they haven't been heard.

Mayor Cantrell acknowledges this achievement has come from making tough decisions to have the resources to get where this utility is today. Mayor Cantrell stated this is where partnership really makes a difference, when we are acknowledging the progress every step of the way. Director Guzman reinsured this not a product in a couple of days but years in the making and the public can finally see the progress. Mayor Cantrell stated the city received the 7 million of reimbursements from FEMA. 2 million dollars aligned with COVID and 5 million dollars aligned with hurricane Ida. These reimbursements are starting to come forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee Report

Director Duplessis/Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Governance reports as amended. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Governance 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 Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance report as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

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 January was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to defer the Operations report as amended. Director Maurice Sholas move to defer Operations minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Audit Committee Report

Director Tamika Duplessis reported on the summary and actions taken by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Audit report as amended. Director Janet Howard move to adopt Audit minutes as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items

- Resolution (R-019-2023) 2023 SWBNO Board/Committee Schedule
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to defer R-019-2023 as amended. Director Robin Barnes moved to defer R-019-2023 as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-020-2023) 2023 Holiday Schedule
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-020-2023 as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to accept R-020-2023 as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the January 18, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting:

- Resolution (R-006-2023) Award of Approved List of Firms to Provide Professional Design and Related Services
- Resolution (R-007-2023) Award of Contract 2162-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 Boh Bros Construction Co., LLC
- Resolution (R-008-2023) Award of Contract 2163-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 Boh Bros Construction Co., LLC
- Resolution (R-009-2023) Award of Contract 2164-Water Main Line Replacements and Extension at Scattered Locations Throughout Orleans Parish Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, LLC

- Resolution (R-011-2023) First Renewal of Contract 30238-Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewers by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining of Service Laterals and Point Repairs at Various Sites Throughout the City of New Orleans Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, LLC
- Resolution (R-012-2023) Award of Contract 2022-SWB-77 - Furnishing Lime to Carrollton Water Plant Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cheney Lime Company
- Resolution (R-003-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 8 for Contract 3799 – Installation of Sludge Dryer at the East Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Industrial and Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
- Resolution (R-002-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 5 for Professional Services for Sewer System Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program Management (SSERP) Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stantec Consulting Services, LLC
- Resolution (R-005-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 11 to the Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stanley Consultants, Inc.
- Resolution (R-010-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 5 for Professional Services for Water Line Replacement Program Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Integrated Logistical Support, Inc.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept Corresponding resolutions as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Joseph Psychaud moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve Special Counsel Recommendations in executive session. Director Janet Howard 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
- Report Human Resource
- Safety 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 10:56 AM.