

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

June 21, 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 June 21, 2023, at 9:00 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 Alejandra Guzman, Director Lynes Sloss, Director, Director Robin Barnes, Director Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Janet Howard, Director Tamika Duplessis and Director Carol Markowitz.

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 May 17, 2023, 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 presented a slide overview that focused on the following topics:

Pumping and Power Update

- 93 of 99 drainage pumps available
- T5 and T6 are available
- T4 rotor has been repaired, balanced and arrived on site this week at the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant
- Anticipate testing by mid-July
- 3 of 5 EMDs available and 5 of 6 Frequency Changers available
- Smaller Frequency Changer at Treatment Plant out of service due to electrical issue.

SWBNO Power Complex

Substation Work Remains on Schedule

- Entergy work remains on schedule for 2024 completion, transmission line work underway

SWBNO Connections and Backup Plant

- Pile driving for utility rack foundations ongoing
- Optimizing Capital Outlay Funds

Power Complex Update

- \$39 million requested to install and commission
- Three frequency changers
- Turbine 7

Capital Outlay Funding Update

- Optimizing \$15 million awarded during Legislative Session
- Moving forward with one static frequency changer and Turbine 7
- Ready for hurricane season 2025

S. Claiborne Transmission Main Project FEMA FUNDED PROJECT

- Total estimated cost: \$26 million
- Tulane Stadium to Upperline
- 1,585 of new 48” pipe
- First of its size to be done in Louisiana
- Joints are fused together – HDPE Pipe (High-Density Polyethylene)
- Traffic impacts expected through Sept.
- Video of project in the works

Smart Metering Update

- Installation completed for 9 of 12 base stations
- 700+ meters installed as part of O&M, including 12 large meters
- Detailed communications planning and messaging continues. Initial customer postcard design complete.
- 2 of 9 IT Integrations complete
- \$5M application for State Revolving Fund loan accepted

Infrastructure Maintenance Fund Status

- Total Revenues: \$40,826,621
- Total Expenditures: \$11,599,121
- Allocated to IAB Projects (awarded contracts): \$16,927,500

Major expenditures to date:

- 1.5M - Sycamore Filter Gallery Rehabilitation
- \$1.7M - Turbine 7 Design Contract
- \$1.9M - Smart Meter Program
- \$3.5M - SELA Drainage Projects
- \$2.1M - Power Complex

- Approximately \$2.7M of expenditures in the last 3 months
- IAB supports the supplemental paving efforts across the City (\$4M)

Pavement Repairs - Focus on Backlog

- 8.3M Additional City/DPW funds secured for work in early 2023
- \$4M Additional funds secured for paving from Infrastructure Advisory Board
- Monthly KPIs 45% more paving cuts completed year to date than in 2022
- Year-End Goal Reduce current paving backlog from 3000 to 600-1000 by end of 2023

Sycamore Filter Gallery Update

- **Improvements to 13 of 18 Filters completed by August 2023:**
 - 6 Previously-Inactive Filters will be in service by August
 - Cost: \$600,000 Per Filter for Steel, Valves, and Media
- **Scope of Current Work:**
 - Structural Steel, Pipe Hangers, and Pipe Cradle Replacement
 - Re-casting Concrete Pedestal Bases for Structural Steel
 - Process Valve and Actuator Removal and Replacement
 - Filter Media Removal and Replacement
 - Control Table Modifications

Wastewater Treatment Improvements in 2023:

- Commitment of \$39 Million from LDEQ Revolving Loan Fund
- Final design for projects needed to close loan
- Design expected in January 2024

- Includes improvement to both East and Westbank facilities

Customer Service

New Meter Reading Strategy

- 95+% read in first six months (compared to 60-80%)
- ✓ Goal Met More Accurate and actual reads for all customers
- 18% Fewer Bill disputes-initiated year over year in Q4

City Council Billing Ordinance Action Plan: Door Hangers

- Implementing program
- Letting customers know we were onsite to read their meter

Software Investment

- Upgrades to handhelds to have the capability to take a picture of the meter with timestamp date and actual read
- Information will be available to customers, especially cases of disputed bills
- In line with our Focus Area of Technology Modernization

Stakeholder Engagement

Power Complex and Water Treatment Plant Tours

- AmeriCorps
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- American Society of Civil Engineers NOLA
- Customer Advisory Committee

Community Meetings

- Central Carrollton Neighborhood Association
- District B Town Hall
- Huntlee Neighborhood Association
- Treme Center in partnership with Water Collaborative
- RoadWorkNOLA Infrastructure Open House series

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 Committee Report for the month of June was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance report as amended. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud 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 report as amended. Director Robin Barnes move to adopt pension minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items

- Resolution (R-082-2023) Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Preliminary Approval for Sewerage System Bonds
 - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-082-2023 as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to approve as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

**The following resolutions were discussed at the June 20, 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting:
General Superintendent Recommendations**

- Resolution (R-065-2023) Authorization for Amendment No. 4 to The Maintenance and Support Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cogsdale Corporation
- Resolution (R-059-2023) Award of Contract 2165 Transmission Main Replacement Program South Claiborne Avenue (Louisiana Avenue -Third Street), TM011 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC
- Resolution (R-058-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 2159 – 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-067-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 14 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
 - Resolution (R-069-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 CN 2155 Transmission Main Replacement - S. Claiborne (Versailles – Upperline) per FEMA JIRR Project Worksheet (PW) 21031 & PW21032 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC
 - Resolution (R-072-2023) Authorization of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 8168 – Repaving Open Cuts in Driveways and Sidewalks Resulting from Underground Utility Repairs Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and CMG Pipelines, Inc
 - Resolution (R-046-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement to Provide Assessments, Design, Construction and Program Management Services for the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Program Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BCG Engineering and Consulting, Inc.
 - Resolution (R-070-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 12 to the Professional Services engineering and design services for the Water Line Replacement Program for the Leonidas, Marlyville-Fountainbleau, East Carrollton and Black Pearl neighborhoods Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Linfield, Hunter and Junius, Inc.
 - Resolution (R-073-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 7 to the Professional Services engineering and design services for the Water Line Replacement Program for the Read Blvd East, Read Blvd West, Village de L'est neighborhoods Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and ECM Consultants, Inc.
 - Resolution (R-068-2023) Final Acceptance of Contract 1377 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program – Claiborne Ave Pumping Station and Off-Site Improvements

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 Lynes Sloss moved. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve Special Counsel recommendations. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Director Ghassan Korban acknowledged the departure of Tyler Antrup, Director of Strategic Planning and Development. Mr. Korban thanked Mr. Antrup for his contributions to

the utility and implementing the SWBNO strategic plan and wished him the best with his endeavors.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report Human Resource
- Report Legal
- Report Safety
- 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 10:26 AM.