

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 19, 2023

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 July 19, 2023, at 9:02 AM in the Executive Boardroom. Special Counsel Ms. Yolanda Grinstead called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Director Janet Howard, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Robin Barnes, Director Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Director Joseph Peychaud, 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. 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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Director Lynes Sloss presented a motion to accept the minutes of the June 21, 2023, Board Meeting. Director Janet Howard moved for approval of the minutes. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

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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:

#### **Pumping and Power Update**

- 93 of 99 drainage pumps available
- T5 and T6 are available
- Turbine 4 being "load tested" tomorrow morning
- Brings 18.5 MW back into system
- 4 of 5 EMDs available and 5 of 6 Frequency Changers available
- Smaller Frequency Changer at Treatment Plant out of service due to electrical issue.

### **Power Complex Funding Update**

- Optimizing \$15 million awarded during Legislative Session plus \$10 million of Fair Share
- Moving forward with two static frequency changers and Turbine 7
- Ready for hurricane season 2025

### **Smart Metering Update**

- Installations of base stations progressing.
- 1,000+ meters installed as part of O&M, including 16 large meters.
- Smart Metering installations for 1.5” and 2” meters to begin Q3 of 2023.
- Supply chain driven
- First round of installations are “large meters” which are: 60% large residential / multifamily and 40% commercial
- All other meter size installations to begin Q4 2023

### **Billing and Meter Reading New Meter Reading Strategy**

- 96.3+% of meters read in Q2 2023 (*compared to 60-80%*) Goal: 98%

### **Implementing door hanger program**

- Safety training
- Customer service training
- Vendor contract/printing
- Rollout in one week

### **Annual Water Quality Report**

- Information about our drinking water
- EPA regulates over 90 contaminants in drinking water
- Also monitoring potential contaminants
- Mailed to all customers
- Available online: [swbno.org/Drinking Water/Quality](http://swbno.org/Drinking%20Water/Quality)

### **Sewer Force Main Update**

- Additional resources being utilized
- Safety is a top priority
- Estimated repair: July 28

### **Paving Restorations (Networks & Contractors)**

- Two new crews in the field August 2023
- Additional asphalt and concrete equipment reducing response timelines
- Internal crews working toward completing 60-70 paving repairs per week
- Contractors ramping up performance
- Aim to reduce backlog from 3,000 to 600-1,000 by year end
- Remainder of backlog to be eliminated in 2024

### **Average Restoration Timelines**

- 80 days
- 21% faster than in 2022
- Goal: 2-4 weeks cut to fill

### **Water/Sewer Field Repairs Average Repair Timelines**

- 36% faster on average for all major categories
- 50%+ faster for Paving, Hydrant Leaks, and Sewer Main Repairs
- Same-day response for sewer overflows

### **Internal Audit Department**

#### **Staffing**

- Audit Senior – Hired May 22
- Audit Supervisor - Hired June 20
- Audit Staff (2) – Open Interviews ongoing

#### **2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**

- Completed and submitted
- Pending posting by LLA

### **Charters**

- Edits to Internal Audit Charter and Audit Committee (AC) Charter are complete
- To be formally adopted at next AC Meeting in September

### **Workforce Development**

- Approximately 200 applications and associated screening tests from the 2023 Job Fair.
- 50 new hires went through orientation in the past two weeks.
- Orientation numbers are so large that we are utilizing bigger spaces to hold more frequent, larger classes.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### 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 July was presented and recommended for approval.

Director Lynes Sloss asked for a motion to adopt the Finance report as amended. Director Maurice Sholas moved to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

### Pension Committee Report

Director Maurice Sholas reported on the summary and actions taken by the Pension Committee. The Pension Committee Report for the month of July was presented and recommended for approval.

Director Lynes Sloss asked for a motion to adopt the pension report as amended. Director Janet Howard moved to adopt pension minutes as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

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## **GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the July 12, 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting:  
General Superintendent Recommendations**

- Resolution (R-080-2023) Authorization to Renew and Extend Licensing Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

- Resolution (R-076-2023) Renewal of Contract AL220012 & CM220026 – Furnishing Polyelectrolyte Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Polydyne, Inc.
- Resolution (R-077-2023) Authorization of Change Order No.1 for Contract YG19 – Furnishing and Delivering Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Lard Oil.
- Resolution (R-083-2023) Ratification of Change Order No.2 for Contract 2152 TM004 Gert Town Waterline Replacement Program – St. Dupre St Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-084-2023) Ratification of Change Order 2 for Contract 1418 – Carrollton Water Purification Plant Utility Rack Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.
- Resolution (R-085-2023) Ratification of Change Order 3 for Contract 1417 – Static Frequency Changer Supply Contract Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J Barnes Electric Co, Inc.
- Resolution (R-086-2023) Re-Authorization of Amendment No. 13 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program.
- Resolution (R-087-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for Consulting Services for Managing the Preparation, Selection, and Implementation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure Solution.
- Resolution (R-074-2023) Final Acceptance of Contract 1370A – (HMGP) 60 Hz Transformer/Switchgear Project Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc.
- Resolution (R-075-2023) Final Acceptance of Contract 2152 – TM004 Gert Town Waterline Replacement Program – St. Dupre St Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.

**Director Lynes Sloss asked for a motion to approve Corresponding Resolutions in Globo.**

**Director Alejandra Guzman moved to accept Corresponding resolutions as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**

**Director Lynes Sloss presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.**

**Director Lynes Sloss presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Joseph Peychaud moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**

**Director Lynes Sloss presented a motion to approve Special Counsel Recommendations. Director Alejandra Guzman moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

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### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Report Preliminary Financial Results
- Report General Superintendent
- Report Legal
- Report Human Resource
- Report Safety
- 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 9:45AM.