

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 20, 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 September 20, 2023, at 9:30 AM in the Executive Boardroom. Special Counsel Ms. Yolanda Grinstead called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Tamika Duplessis, Director Janet Howard, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Robin Barnes, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Tyler Antrup, Director Carol Markowitz, and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

Staff present were Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Grey Lewis, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Ron Spooner, Interim General Superintendent; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Rene Gonzalez, Chief Customer Service Officer; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Director Lynes Sloss presented a motion to accept the minutes of the July 19, 2023, Board Meeting. Director Janet Howard moved for approval of the minutes. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Saltwater Intrusion Update

- New Orleans' water supply is not currently impacted by saltwater. Tap water is safe to use.
- Due to the extremely low level and flow rate of the Mississippi River, intruding saltwater at the Boothville Water Treatment Plant water intake in Plaquemines Parish is currently impacting the drinking water supply from Empire Bridge to Venice.
- We are working closely with NOHSEP, Army Corps, the City of NOLA, GOHSEP and our neighboring parishes to track the progress and prepare.
- Sign up for NOLAREady Alerts: Text NOLAREADY to 77295

SWBNO Power Complex Substation Work Remains on Schedule

- Entergy work remains on schedule for 2024 completion, transmission line work 90% complete

SWBNO Connections and Backup Plant

- Pile driving for utility rack foundations 100% complete
- Currently installing racks
- 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 peak hurricane season 2025

Smart Metering Update

- Integration of smart metering technology and our IT systems
- Initial testing complete
- 2,000+ meters installed as part of O&M, including 50 large meters
- Detailed communications planning and messaging continues
- First batch of postcards have already gone to public
- \$5 million application for State Revolving Fund loan accepted
- An additional \$4.8 million has been applied for

Paving Repair Resources

- Two new crews in the field
- Additional equipment to reduce response timelines – 20% reduction already in 2023 over 2022
- 60-90 paving repairs per week
- Contractors ramping up performance
- Aim to reduce backlog from 3,000 to 600-1,000 by year end
- Backlog currently dropping at around 100 work orders per week
- \$8.3M Additional City/DPW funds secured for work in early 2023
- \$4M Additional funds secured for paving from Infrastructure Advisory Board

Federal and State Funding Efforts \$98M+ Committed

- \$38.9M LDEQ Revolving Fund for additional wastewater plant repairs
- \$15M Capital Outlay - \$10M moved from P5 to P1 for Power Complex funding with \$5 million additional in cash
- \$5M LDEQ + \$5M LDH for Smart Meters
- \$31.5M LDEQ Revolving Fund for Sewer Consent Decree
- 3.3M Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for 10 portable/emergency generators

- Executive Director Ghassan Korban gave an update on the saltwater intrusion. Mr. Korban stated the New Orleans water supply is not currently impacted. Director Duplessis asked how the utility will prepare as an agency if impacted by the saltwater and is there an expected timeline for impact. Mr. Korban stated they are working closely with NOHSEP, Army Corps, the City of NOLA, GOHSEP and our neighboring parishes to track the progress and prepare. The timeline impact is expected October of 2023 if the saltwater reaches upriver.

Director Sholas expressed concerns with the challenges with multi-unit buildings not paying their water bills. Director Sholas stated the tenants are paying the landlords their share, but the landlords are not making payments to Sewerage and Water Board. The multi-unit buildings not making payments are causing high collection increases. Board members are searching for solutions by partnering with City Council to be in alignment on how to fine and hold landlords accountable for not making payments.

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 August was presented and recommended for approval.

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

Strategy Committee Report

Director Robin Barnes reported on the summary and actions taken by the Strategy Committee. The Strategy Committee Report for the month of August was presented and recommended for approval.

Director Lynes Sloss asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy report as amended. Director Janet Howard moved to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Tyler Antrup seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution (R-125-2023) Authorizing Application to The Louisiana Department of Health for Funding from the Louisiana Department of Health's Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF) for Compliance with the Revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR) for Lead Service Line Identification and Removal Purposes
 - **Director Carol Markowitz moved to accept R-125-2023 as amended. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.**

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS/RENEWALS

- Resolution (R-088-2023) Award of Contract 30247 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewers by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining Service Laterals and Point Repairs at Various Sites Throughout the City of New Orleans Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and CMG Pipelines, Inc.
 - Resolution (R-090-2023) Award of Contract 30251 – Carrollton Basin No. 10 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC
 - Resolution (R-103-2023) Award of Contract 30252 – Carrollton Basin No. 11 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC
- **Director Tamika Duplessis moved to accept Contract Awards/Renewals. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**

CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS by Approval

- Resolution (R-106-2023) Approval of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 1438 Procurement of Combustion Turbine Generator 7 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Solar Turbines, Inc.
- **Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept Contract Change Orders by approval. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.**

CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS by Ratification

- Resolution (R-083-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 2162 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-091-2023) Ratification of Change Order No.1 for Contract 30236 – Carrollton Basin No. 6 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC
- Resolution (R-092-2023) Ratification of Change Order No.10 for Contract 3799 – Installation of Sludge Dryer at the Eastbank Wastewater Treatment Plant Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Industrial and Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
- Resolution (R-100-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 for Contract 1376 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program-High Lift Pump Room and Panola Pumping Station Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC
- Resolution (R-101-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 for Contract 1417 – Static Frequency

Converter Procurement Project Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc.

- Resolution (R-102-2023) Ratification of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 1418 – Carrollton Water Plant Utility Rack Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC

- **Director Tyler Antrup moved to accept Contract Change Orders by Ratification. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**

CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

- Resolution (R-093-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Veolia Water North America, LLC for Capital Program Management (CPM) Services
- Resolution (R-094-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Hartman Engineering, Inc. for Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-097-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Integrated Logistical Systems, Inc. for Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-098-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 10 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Meyer Engineer, Ltd. for Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-099-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 11 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel-Schaffer Inc. for Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-104-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and N-Y Associates, Inc. for Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-105-2023) Ratification of Amendment No. 2 to the Algiers Subbasin SELA Project Partnership Agreement with the United States Army Through the United States Corps of Engineers, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Board of Louisiana, and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, and Related Documents

- **Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept Contract Amendments. Director Tyler Antrup seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution (R-121-2023) Authorizing Adoption of Internal Audit Department Charter
- Resolution (R-122-2023) Authorizing Adoption of Audit Committee Charter

- Resolution (R-124-2023) Amendment of Article VI, Section 10 of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans By-Laws Relative to the Plumbing Conference Committee

Director Lynes Sloss asked for a motion to defer Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Maurice Sholas moved to defer Corresponding resolutions as proposed. Director Tyler Antrup seconded. The motion carried.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Report Preliminary Financial Results
- Report General Superintendent
- Report Legal
- Report Human Resources
- Report Safety
- 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 11:05AM.