

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 18, 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 October 18, 2023, at 9:00 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 Lynes Sloss, Director Robin Barnes, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Carol Markowitz and Director Alejandra Guzman

The following member(s) were absent: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Councilmember Freddie King.

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 September 20, 2023, Board Meeting. Director Maurice Sholas moved for approval of the minutes. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

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

- Utility rack is at 65% completion
- Bond commission meeting on 10/19 for approval of **\$10 million**
- Static frequency changers and Turbine 7 – Undergoing testing at the manufacturing facilities
- Aiming to be ready for peak hurricane season 2025

Saltwater Water Wedge

- Corps of Engineers releases new timeline every Thursday.
- Salt water may continue to migrate upriver, but toe of the wedge is holding in place
- Algiers and Carrollton intakes not projected to see surface salinity levels of over 250 parts per million
- Sill is working to slow down wedge

Next Steps: West Bank

- Coordinate with Army Corps for transfer barges
- 14M gallons of fresh water daily to add to intakes and dilute salt water for treatment
- Operational considerations
- Rebid Algiers intake design modifications to receive water
- Updated data and guidance from USACE

Next Steps: East Bank

- Pumping from Upstream (plan on hold)
- Pipeline that pumps fresh water 12 miles from Kenner to East Bank intakes for blending
- Contractors can build in 30 days if needed due to timeline shifts
- Sustainability and Long-Term Solutions
- Working to ensure long term reliable service is ensured
- Long term solutions have the potential to be less-costly than temporary emergency contracts – One time cost

Corrosion Control

- Continue daily chloride testing
- Reporting our water chemistry to GOHSEP, LDH, and the EPA
- Developing a corrosion sampling plan
- Coordinating with local, regional, and federal entities
- Regional Joint Information Center

State and Federal Stakeholder Engagement

- Discussion about long-term solutions with State and Federal partners
- Visit from GOHSEP, National Security Council and White House Infrastructure Staff to tour needs of water treatment facilities on Oct 19
- Tour of Carrollton Water Treatment Plant, as well as Algiers Treatment and Intake Facility
- Coordinating with local and regional partners
- Met with Jefferson Parish officials, as well, on long-term solutions

Water Quality Master Planning in Progress

- Evaluating Proposals
- Planning process to start by end of the year
- 18 – 24-month process
- Outcomes will be recommendations for investment in the treatment system, considering new anticipated Federal regulations as well as climate risks
- PFAS, PFOS, Emerging Contaminants
- Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
- Saltwater Intrusion

Smart Metering Update Integration of smart metering technology and our IT systems

- QA/ QC continues
- Finalized automation efforts underway
- Customer portal design beginning Q4 2023
- 2,200+ meters installed as part of O&M, including 55 large meters
- Detailed communications and messaging continues
- 1.5” and 2” meter installation has begun, at a designed slow pace allowing
- The ability to streamline processes and procedures
- Representative data to optimize our design

Paving Repair Resources

- 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

Plumbing and One-Stop Update

- SWBNO Integration with One-Stop is now complete
- Plumbers can register with SWBNO or at One-Stop
- Access to One-Stop is granted after registration is approved
- Permit applications are submitted via One-Stop
- Once permits are approved and paid, they can begin work and call for inspections

Continued Funding Efforts Rolling Forward of Millage

- Intent to request Council to set Millage by year's end estimated 19-23% increase
- Estimated \$198 per year for a home assessed at \$100,000 * \$76 / year with Homestead Exemption
- \$38.9M LDEQ Revolving Fund for additional wastewater plant repairs
- Lead Service Line Replacement Program
- \$84M available via IJA * applied for
- \$5M LDEQ + \$5M LDH for Smart Meters
- \$31.5M LDEQ Revolving Fund for Sewer Consent Decree
- \$3.3M Hazard Mitigation Grant Program portable/emergency generators
- \$15M Capital Outlay , \$10M moved from P5 to P1 for Power Complex funding with \$5 million additional in cash Meeting in Baton Rouge tomorrow Thursday, Oct. 19

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee Report

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

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

Audit Committee Report

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

Director Lynes Sloss asked for a motion to adopt the Audit report as amended. Director Joseph Psychaud moved to adopt Audit minutes as proposed. Director Tyler Antrup 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 October 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 Joseph Psychaud seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution (R-126-2023) Roll Back of Sewerage and Water Board Millages
 - **Director Janet Howard moved to accept R-126-2023. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-127-2023) Roll Forward of Sewerage and Water Board Millages
 - **Director Tyler Antrup moved to accept R-127-2023. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-128-2023) Ninth Supplemental Sewerage Service Revenue Bond Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Sewerage Service Revenue Bond, Series 2023
 - **Director Joseph Peychaud moved to accept R-128-2023. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-130-2023) Authorization for Contract Between the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, for Saltwater Intrusion Response
 - **Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept R-130-2023. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-131-2023) Second Extension of Contract for Furnishing Janitorial and Related Services to Multiple SWBNO Locations (REQ. #SA19-0001)
 - **Director Tyler Antrup moved to accept R-131-2023 as amended. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the October 11, 2023, Finance and Administration Meeting: General Superintendent Recommendations

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution (R-109-2023) Award of Contract 30253 – Carrollton Basin No. 12 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC
- Resolution (R-110-2023) Award of Contract 30254 – Carrollton Basin No. 13 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC

- Resolution (R-107-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel-Schaffer, Inc for Design and Engineering Services for Repairs to River Intake Fender Systems
- Resolution (R-111-2023) Authorization of Final Acceptance and Close Out of Contract 8165 – Repaving Open Cuts in Sidewalks and Driveways at Various Locations Throughout New Orleans Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc
- Resolution (R-112-2023) Authorization of Final Acceptance and Close Out of Contract 2159 – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Locations Throughout New Orleans Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc

Director Lynes Sloss asked for a motion to approve Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Janet Howard moved to accept Corresponding resolutions as proposed. Director Tamika Duplessis 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 Resource
- 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.