

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 27, 2025

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 Monday, January 27, 2025, at 9:04 a.m. 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 Robin Barnes, Director Lynes Sloss, Director H. Davis Cole, Director Janet Howard, Director Chadrick Kennedy, Director Tyler Antrup, Director Tamika Duplessis.

The following member(s) were absent: Councilmember Freddie King; Director Maurice Sholas.

Staff present were: Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Jamie Parker, Interim Chief of Staff; Grey Lewis, Chief Financial Officer; Stephen Nelson, General Superintendent; Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Irma Plummer, EDBP; Darryl Harrison, Legal; Brionne Lindsey, Board Relations; Giselle Smothers, Board Relations.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Honorable Mayor Cantrell delivered her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged the utility and administrative personnel during the wintry snowstorm event which occurred in January. Mayor Cantrell stated while snow has a way of bringing a little joy even in the midst, it was good to see how the residents responded to the event. Mayor Cantrell thanked the first responders and those on the front line who continue to show up and do their job. She stated "It's bigger than a job. It's a calling".

Mayor Cantrell addressed the concerns of the nationwide outage regarding Capital One Financial Institution's that resulted in non-payroll payments. The Board and leadership team rapidly responded to the concern. Mayor Cantrell thanked the Payroll Department for the overtime and dedication put in to ensure the employees means were met in a timely manner. Mayor Cantrell gave a special thanks to all that participated in the Freeze Campaign. The public's engagement reflects the trust the utility is building across the board.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2024, Board Meeting as amended. Director Barnes moved for approval of the minutes. Director Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 January was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Pension report. Director Howard moved to adopt Pension minutes as proposed for January. Director Cole seconded. The motion carried.

Operations Committee Report

Director Janet Howard reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the operations report. Director Sloss moved to adopt Operations minutes as proposed. Director Kennedy seconded. The motion carried.

Finance & Administration Committee Report

Director Lynes Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval.

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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Ghassan Korban opened with gratitude by acknowledging the tenacity and resilience of the Emergency Response team during the winter snowstorm that impacted our city. Mr. Korban further continued with acknowledgements to the Payroll and Human Resources departments during a payroll breakdown with the financial institute and its failure to process direct deposits. The team has worked effortlessly to process paper checks for face-to-face distribution.

Post Winter Storm:

- Water System:
 - The water pressure is back up and functioning
 - One main tripped offline on yesterday (January 26th)
 - Pressure returned within 15 minutes
 - The public was understanding and responded well to the requests of trickling water.

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

Drainage Consolidation (Act 763)

- **2025 Funding:**
 - \$18M estimated (Infrastructure Maintenance Fund (IMF), Traffic Camera Revenues, ARPA funds).
- **2025 Goal:**
 - Clean 15% of the system
- Collaboration with ISeeChange and 311 data to develop capital plans for 2026
- Residents are encouraged to call and reports
- Initial work to begin utilizing our internal workforce
- Goal: Clean 4-5% of the system with internal crews in 2025
- Cleaning and repairs contract advertisement pending

Drainage Consolidation Internal Efforts

- Working with DPW to take possession of 5 vacuum trucks
 - Ready to use
- Assessing Superbowl clean zone after rain events to determine priority cleaning prior to the Superbowl LIX
- Develop workforce by hiring and training staff
- Purchase of an additional vacuum truck

ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution (R-033-2025) 2025 SWBNO Holiday Schedule
 - **Director Peychaud moved to accept R-033-2025. Director Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-034-2025) Ratification of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between The City of New Orleans and Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Maintenance Transfer of Drainage Operations.
 - **Director Duplessis moved to accept (R-034-2025) Director Antrup seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-035-2025) Ratification of Agreement Between the City of New Orleans and Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans for Transfer and Consolidation of Drainage Operations Pursuant to Acts 763 and 103 of 2024
 - **Director Kennedy moved to accept (R-035-2025). Director Antrup seconded. The motion carried.**
 - **Director Duplessis called for a revision to amend Act 783 to reflect 763. Director Cole seconded. Motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-036-2025) Ratification of State of Louisiana Cooperative Endeavor Agreement CEA #945-226 Arbiters for Customer Billing Disputes.
 - **Director Peychaud moved to accept (R-036-2025). Director Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-021-2025) Authorization of Amendment No.1 For Contract 30264 – Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered Sites Within Orleans Parish between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Compliance EnviroSystems, LLC.
 - **Director Kennedy moved to accept (R-021-2025). Director Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-022-2025) Ratification of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between Sewerage And Water Board Of New Orleans And Plaquemines Parish Government For Mutual Emergency Assistance For Potable Water Supply.
 - **Director Howard to moved to accept (R-022-2025). Director Cole seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the January 15, 2025, Finance and Administration Meeting

- Resolution (R-016-2025) Amendment No. 6 To Professional Services Agreement Between Sewerage and Water Board Of New Orleans And HDR Engineering, Inc. For Internal and External Communications Support

General Superintendent Recommendations

- Resolution (R-001-2025) Award of Contract 2154 – Transmission Main Replacement Program – 24” Waterline Replacement Decatur St. (Dumaine St – Governor Nichols St.) St. Peter St. (Chartres St.-Royal St.) - Tm010 - Project No. Pw20232, 2024-Swb-100 between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Roubion Roads & Streets, LLC.
- Resolution (R-015-2025) Award of Contract 2167 – Lead Service Line Inspections and Replacements at Schools and Residential Connections Between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc.
- Resolution (R-017-2025) Renewal No. 1 for Contract 30247 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewers by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining 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 CMG Pipelines, Inc.
- Resolution (R-018-2025) Renewal No. 2 for Contract 2164 – Water Line Replacements and Extension at Scattered Locations throughout Orleans Parish between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc.
- Resolution (R-019-2025) Amendment No. 11 to the Agreement Between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Richard C. Lambert, Consultants, LLC for Design and Engineering Services for Water Line Replacement Program.
- Resolution (R-003-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 For Contract 30228 – Mid City Basin No. 2 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Fleming Construction Company, LLC.
- Resolution (R-004-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 30233 – Carrollton Basin No. 4 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Hard Rock Construction, LLC.
- Resolution (R-005-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 30236 – Carrollton Basin No. 6 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-006-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30248 – Carrollton Basin No. 7 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Fleming Construction Company, LLC.
- Resolution (R-008-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 30251 – Carrollton Basin No. 10 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-009-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 30252 – Carrollton Basin No. 11 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-010-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30253 – Carrollton Basin No. 12 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.

- Resolution (R-011-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 30254 – Carrollton Basin No. 13 Sewer Rehabilitation between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-012-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 7 for Contract 1415 – West Power Complex Foundations and Underground Package between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.
- Resolution (R-013-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 For Contract 8171 – Repaving Open Cuts in Streets, Driveways, and Sidewalks Resulting from The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Underground Utility Repairs between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Fleming Construction Company, LLC.
- Resolution (R-002-2025) Authorization of Final Acceptance of Contract 8166 – Repaving Open Cuts in Driveways and Sidewalks Resulting from the Repair to The Sewerage and Water Board Underground Utilities between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace Drennan, Inc.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Sloss moved to accept Corresponding resolutions as proposed. Director Howard seconded. The motion carried.

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit the executive session. Director Sloss moved. Director Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Report Preliminary Financial Results
- Report General Superintendent
- Report Human Resource
- Report Legal
- Report Safety
- Report Procurement
- FEMA Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, Director Cole moved to adjourn. Director Barnes seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:43 a.m.