

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

February 19, 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 Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 9:08 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, Hon. Freddie King III, Director Joseph Psychaud, Director Robin Barnes, Director Lynes Sloss, Director H. Davis Cole, Director Janet Howard, Director Chadrick Kennedy, Director Tyler Antrup, Director Maurice Sholas.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Tamika Duplessis

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, Special Counsel; Brionne Lindsey, Board Relations; Giselle Smothers, Board Relations.

Prior to beginning the meeting, the Hon. Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged and expressed gratitude to all dedicated personnel for their hard work during Super Bowl LIX and all those that helped with the infrastructure throughout the city. Mayor Cantrell mentioned that eighty-five thousand smart meters have been installed city wide by SWBNO. All people of the Utility were recognized and applauded for their work performed.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2025, Board Meeting as amended. Director Barnes moved for approval of the minutes. Director Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Administration Committee Report

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

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

Ad Hoc Committee

Director Chadrick Kennedy reported on the summary and actions taken by the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Report for the month of February was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Ad Hoc Report. Director Antrup moved to adopt the Ad Hoc minutes as proposed. Director Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

Prior to beginning the Executive report, Mayor Cantrell applauded Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director of SWBNO with heartfelt appreciation. While Mr. Korban will be leaving the organization, Mayor Cantrell thanked Mr. Korban for his leadership, raising and setting the bar. Mr. Korban has moved the organization in the 21st century and positioned the Utility where it needs to be to continue the progress of moving forward. Mayor Cantrell mentioned, since being in the arena, the Utility found the best in him.

In consideration of the aforementioned, an Ad Hoc committee was set forth to pursue its search for the next Executive Director. Mayor Cantrell thanked Director Chadrick Kennedy for stirring the committee.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

SMART METERING PROGRAM

The Utility has reached one of its largest accomplishments which has been the progress made on the smart metering program. The installation began this time last year with:

- 1,400 meters in the ground.
- 85,000 meters installed to date

The utility is on track to complete all residential installs by the end of this year, 2025.

POWER COMPLEX

THEN:

- Construction began
- \$29M in Capital Outlay funding needed

NOW:

- Funded through HERO Grant
- On track to be completed summer 2025

LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

THEN:

- Developing inventory
- Goal to issue replacement RFP in 2024

NOW:

- Refining inventory
- Secured \$86M for LSLR program
- Prioritizing school service line replacements
- Selecting Program Management Firm (March)

WATER QUALITY MASTER PLAN

THEN:

- Selected Consultant

NOW:

- One year into the 18-month process
- Water quality analysis is ongoing
- Completed treatment facility ops assessment

STORMWATER FEE

THEN:

- Re-engaged with our consultant for stormwater fee feasibility study

NOW:

- Feasibility study ongoing
- Continuing conversations with stakeholders and policy makers
- Developing campaign strategy

Looking Ahead

The Utility is forecasted to:

- Secure funding for minor drainage system, potentially through stormwater fee
- Secure Capital Outlay funding for additional Power Complex enhancements
- Complete smart meter installations citywide
- Launch lead service line replacements
- Complete Water Quality Master Plan

- Finalize and submit People Plan model, pending employee support
- Complete Consent Degree Work for Sewer System Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program
- Rate Adjustments for Water and Sewer (2020 Rates)
- Complete JIRR Projects
- Launch of Executive Director Search
- The search has gone public February 18, 2025.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the February 12, 2025, Finance and Administration Meeting:

General Superintendent Recommendations

- Resolution (R-020-2025) Award of Contract 2024-SWB-117 Furnishing Lime to the Carrollton Water Plant between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cheney Lime Co.
- Resolution (R-014-2025) Amendment to Contract 30265 between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Craig's Electrical & Generator Service for Portable Generators for Sewer – Zeta.
- Resolution (R-024-2025) Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. for Professional Services in Engineering Services for Power Frequency Converter at Carrollton Water Plant.
- Resolution (R-026-2025) Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Jacobs Engineering Group, for Design and Construction Administration Services for a New Turbine-Generator at the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant.
- Resolution (R-139-2024) Ratification of Change Order No. 8 for Contract 1418 – Carrollton Water Plant Utility Rack between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC. (Corrective)
- Resolution (R-025-2025) Ratification of Change Order No. 7 for Contract 1376 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program – High Lift Pumping Station and Panola Pumping Station between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.
- Resolution (R-140-2024) Authorization of Final Acceptance of Contract 1418 – Carrollton Water Plant Utility Rack between The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman, LLC. (Corrective)

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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:

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| A. CFO | December 2024 Report |
| B. GSO | January 2025 Report |
| C. Legal | December 2024 Report |
| D. Safety | January 2025 Report |
| E. HR | January 2025 Report |
| F. FEMA | January 2025 Report |
| G. EDBP | January 2025 Report |

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, Director Sloss moved to adjourn. Director Sholas seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:23 a.m.