



**"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

# **Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, President  
WM. RAYMOND MANNING, President Pro-Tem

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## **TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS:**

A regular meeting of the **Executive Committee** of the Sewerage and Water Board was called to order on Friday, February 7, 2014 at 9:00 AM in the Board Room at 625 St. Joseph Street.

### **ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** William Raymond Manning, Committee Chair  
Mark M. Moody  
Glen Pilie  
Florence Schornstein  
Charles F. Webb

**Also in Attendance:** Robert Miller, Interim Executive Director; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Yolanda Gristead, Legal Counsel; Joseph Becker, General Superintendent; Emanuel Lain, Budget Department; Bobby Nathan, Equal Employment Opportunity Director (EEOC); Jacqueline K. Shine, Revenue Administration Department; Lynn Cobette, Administrative Services Department; Brenda Thornton, CommuniRep, Inc.; Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.; Carol Rocque, Damon Rocque Securities.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Previous Report**

The Committee reviewed and approved the previous report from January 10, 2014.

#### **(Revised) Amendment to By-Laws (R-029-2014)**

Mr. Nolan Lambert provided information to the committee on the amended By-Laws of the Sewerage and Water Board. He noted that the above amended By-Laws would go before the full board for adoption at its February Board meeting.

Upon a motion by Mr. Webb and second by Mrs. Schornstein the revised amendment to the By-Laws of the Sewerage and Water Board was approved.

### **Authorization to Investigate and Acquire Property for Construction of SPS #1 (R-036-2014)**

Mr. Becker provided background information regarding the request for staff to investigate and acquire property next to SPS #1 for construction of a new sewer pumping station. The station is one of a few remaining stations that has not been elevated to the new FEMA base flood level and is at risk for damage or possible failure due to flooding. It is staff recommendation for authorization to investigate and acquire property adjacent to SPS#1 that is for sale located at 7330/7332 Cohn and 1823 Lowerline Streets in New Orleans.

The Board requested for staff to bring back more information on the estimated cost of the purchase of the above properties in question, to communicate plans with the neighbors living near these properties, and to report to the Board on a month-to-month basis of the progress of this construction project.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pilie and second by Mr. Moody the authorization to investigate and acquire property for construction of SPS #1 at 7330/7332 Cohn Street and 1823 Lowerline Street was approved.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **Customer Account Management Replacement System**

Mr. Miller provided the committee with background information regarding the Board's current account management and billing system, CAM, a mainframe Cobol-based system which has been in place since the 1980s. In order to improve the Sewerage and Water Board's customer service with additional capabilities like e-billing, expanded payment methods, interfaces with GIS, IVR, AMI, and a new cashiering system, the Board determined that it needed to update its system.

It is staff recommendation for the Interim Executive Director to have authorization to enter into contract negotiations to establish final terms and conditions for a contract to be considered for award to Cogsdale Corporation for the new Customer Information System.

#### **Update United Way Campaign**

Mr. Miller provided an update on the Sewerage and Water Board's United Way Fund Raising Campaign of 2013. Employees participated in campaign kickoff events and other fund raising activities led by employee and United Way Campaign Coordinator, Ms. Sabrina Hickerson and a number of volunteers to make the 2013 fundraising drive a huge success with a grand total of all donations collected \$55,401.76.

The committee thanked the employees for their participation in United Way Fund Raising Campaign.

#### **Bond Issues Status Update & Preliminary Authorization of Resolutions**

Mr. Miller reported on the issuance of water revenue, sewerage service revenue and drainage system improvement and refunding bonds in order to make the March 2014 State Bond Commission meeting for approval of the refunding and new money bonds.

### **Tracking Tool for Commitments to the City Council**

Mr. Miller presented the tracking tool for commitments to the City Council associated with the water and sewer rate increases. He reported that all initiated items are on target and that staff is preparing to report back to the City Council in late March 2014 to give a presentation.

The staff would keep the Board apprised of the upcoming Public Works Committee meeting.

### **EEOC Activity Status Report**

Mr. Bobby Nathan, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, reviewed the EEOC Activity Status Report for January 2014.

The committee members requested that the monthly report include a summary on the grievance cases that have been resolved or not resolved, along with results from the respective supervisors re: Grievances/Outcomes.

### **Update on Newly Appointed Executive Director**

The President Pro Tem updated the committee on the status of the newly appointed Executive Director, Mr. Cedric Grant. Currently, the Board is in negotiations with Mr. Grant and this process will come to a conclusion soon.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Very truly yours,

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Wm. Raymond Manning  
President Pro-Tem and Committee Chair