

# BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

MARCH 19, 2014

## MEETING MINUTES

### SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

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#### ROLL CALL

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The Interim Executive Director, Robert Miller, called the roll and showed the following members present: \*\*Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning, Mr. Marion Bracy, Ms. Kerri Kane, Mr. Glen Pilie, Mrs. Florence Schornstein, Mr. Charles F. Webb, \*Ms. Loyce Pierce Wright (Eight) and a quorum.

Absent: Dr. Beverly Wright, Mr. Mark M. Moody (Two).

\*\*Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, Mayor's Representative

\*Ms. Suchitra Satpathi and \*Ms. Loyce Wright were not present when roll was called, but arrived later during the meeting.

Also present were: Brenda Thornton, Communirep, Inc; Randy Smith, Royal Engineers; Richard Rainey, Times Picayune; Paul West, Chester Engineers; Derrick Francis, Hayne Rainey, Mayor's Office; Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.; Veronica Gordon, MST Enterprises, LLC; Sharmaine James, Condall Consulting; Terri Dupre, Meyer Engineers.

Staff present were: Robert Miller, Executive Director's Office; Joseph Becker, Madeline Fong Goddard, General Superintendent's Office; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Brian Ferrara, Harold Marchand, Anthony Stewart, Legal Department; Kathleen LaFrance, Executive Director's Office; Alvin Porter, EDBP Department; Willie Mingo, Purchasing Department; Ethel Williams, Finance Administration Department; Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management Department; Robert Jackson, Community & Intergovernmental Relations Department; Bobby Nathan, EEOC, Equal Employment Opportunity Department.

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#### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS REPORT

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Mr. Charles F. Webb moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 19, 2014. Mr. Marion Bracy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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Interim Executive Director

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

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NONE

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## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Robert Miller, Interim Executive Director, provided a verbal report that focused on:

- **Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans' Awards Banquet**

The “*Executive Director’s Award for Employee of the Year*” was renamed “*Marcia Armant St. Martin Award for Excellence in Public Service*”. Eric Labat was named this year’s recipient.

- **Bond Issue Status Update**

Feasibility studies and other financial projects are underway. The key objectives are to refinance outstanding bonds for economic savings, modernization of bond covenants and issuance of new money bonds for 2014 projects.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson, Mr. Charles F. Webb reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee Report for the month of March was presented and recommended for approval.

Ms. Kerri Kane moved acceptance of the Finance Committee report for the month of March. Mr. Glen Pilie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Kerri Kane moved approval of the Finance Committee recommendations with the exception of the Executive Session for the month of March. Mr. Marion Bracy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

\*Ms. Suchitra Satpathi entered at this time.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The acting Chairperson, Mrs. Florence Schornstein reported on the summary and actions taken by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee Report for the month of March was presented and recommended for approval.

\*Ms. Loyce P. Wright entered at this time.

Mr. Marion Bracy moved acceptance of the Executive Committee Report and approval of the Executive Committee recommendations inclusive of the Operations Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Glen Pilie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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## CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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The following resolutions were adopted:

R-041-2014 - Ratification for Execution of Third Amendment to Lease Regarding Algiers Customer Service Center Location

R-042-2014 – Contract 8132 – Hurricane Related Repairs to Garage No. 1 and the Generator Building at Central Yard in the City of New Orleans, LA

R-043-2014 – Furnishing Janitorial Services at Central Yard, 2900 Peoples Avenue, 2901 Eads Street Buildings and Trailer – Req. No. YO130018

R-044-2014 – Emergency Letter Bids for 2014 Rewinding Frequency Changer No. 1 at Station “C”

R-045-2014 – Final Acceptance and Close Out to Contract 1337 – Sodium Hypochlorite Bulk Storage/Feed Facility at the CWPP

R-046-2014 – Ratification of Change Order No. 4 for Contract 3661 – Modifications to East Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Protection System

R-047-2014 – Final Acceptance and Close Out to Contract 8140 – Hurricane Katrina Related Repairs at the Carrollton Water Plant and Water Intake #1

R-049-2014 – Authorization to Issue Request for Proposal for Two Attorneys to Represent Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans on Automobile Accident Cases

R-050-2014 – Authorization to Amend Contract with Chester Engineers, Inc. for Program Management Services for Hurricane Related Drainage Restoration Projects

R-051-2014 – Ratification of the Execution of Agreement with Aaron & Gianna, PLC to Represent Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans in Cassandra Jones v. Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans USDC 2:13-CV-06288

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## COMMUNICATION

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- **Status Update on New Board Members**

The Special Counsel, Mr. Nolan Lambert gave a status update on new Board Members. In accordance with Act 345 of the 2013 Louisiana Legislature, the Board Selection Committee met on February 26, 2014 to select nominees that represent each of the five councilmatic

districts; two communities or consumer advocated; and one member at-large. Twenty-four (24) candidates, from nearly 90 applications received, were selected and submitted to the Mayor. The Mayor has sixty (60) days to make his selection to the full Council.

Following a discussion, Ms. Loyce Pierce Wright stated for the record, her concerns with the selection process of the new Board and the importance of having all areas of the city represented.

- **Status of New Executive Director**

Mr. Lambert updated the Board on the status of hiring Mr. Cedric Grant as the new Executive Director. An attorney has been retained and the Louisiana Ethics Board is scheduled to meet on April 24 and 25, 2014 to discuss all concerns regarding this matter.

The President Pro Tem asked staff to draft a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for the Board to review at its April Board Meeting.

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### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Mr. Glen Pilie moved to go into Executive Session re: legal matters. Mr. Marion Bracy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Marion Bracy moved to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Florence Schornstein seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Kerri Kane moved acceptance of recommendations of the Legal staff regarding matters discussed in Executive Session. Mrs. Florence Schornstein seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

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Ms. Loyce Pierce Wright stated that she wanted to offer condolences to Mr. Robert Miller on behalf of the recent loss of his mother. The Board offered their sympathy and condolences.

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### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- FEMA Status Report
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of the Special Counsel

- 2014 Committee/Board Meeting Schedule
- Financial Statements

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business the meeting adjourned.