

"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS

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Wednesday, November 5, 2014

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

Mesdames and Messieurs:

The Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 in the 2nd Floor Board Room, 625 St. Joseph Street, New Orleans, LA. with Mrs. Kerri Kane, Mr. Alan Arnold and Mr. Joseph Peychaud at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Action Items:

- 1. The infrastructure Committee report of Wednesday, October 1, 2014 was motioned by Mr. Alan Arnold and seconded by Mr. Joseph Peychaud. The motion carried with changes recommended by Mr. Alan Arnold that the collection of the three-mill ad valorem tax levy is authorized until the year 2017 and the storm water fee is something for the Board is currently considering implementing.
- 2. Anna White of Black & Veatch Corporation presented the 2013 Report on Operations of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans. This report was prepared in compliance with covenants contained in the 1997 Sewerage Revenue Bond Resolution and the 1998 Water Revenue Bond Resolutions and subsequent amendments and resolutions that were in effect during 2013. The report included findings and recommendations designed to assist staff in future construction and operational policies and practices. Mr. Arnold raised concerns regarding the need for clear notation of the assumptions that the three-mill ad valorem tax levy will be reauthorized in 2017 and that a new stormwater fee would be implemented in 2016. Deputy Director Robert Miller provided assurances that these changes would be made prior to finalization and distribution of the report.

Acceptance of the Report on Operations for 2013 as modified (R-234-2014) was motioned by Mr. Alan Arnold and seconded by Mr. Joseph Peychaud. The motion carried.

Presentation Items:

3. SELA Progress

General Superintendent Joseph Becker presented a power point presentation regarding the history of SELA projects and its funding. Mr. Becker stated SELA was certified by CORPS HQ in 1993. SELA funding from 1995 -2005 was 75% federal funds and 25% S&WB funds. Post Hurricane Katrina 2005 SELA funding changed on all future projects to 65% federal funds and 35% S&WB funds with a 30 year payback. Projects that were substantially completed prior to 2005 were: Holly Grove/Pritchard P.S.; Dwyer Road; DPS#1; and Napoleon Avenue/S.Claiborne Avenue. Mr. Becker stated the SELA program has proven to be effective with reducing flood loss and damages substained. Current SELA projects in progress to increase the drainage capacity are: S. Claiborne, Florida Avenue, Napoleon Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, and Louisiana Avenue.

4. 2015 Capital Budget

Mr. Miller stated that the 2015-2024 Capital Improvement Program has been developed and prioritized by the General Superintendent's Office and the operating department managers. The program for the Drainage system was presented at the October 2014 meeting. Mr. Becker briefly described the programs for the Water and Sewer systems. The development of the proposed 2015 Capital Budget is approaching completion and will be submitted shortly for consideration in advance of the December 2014 meeting.

5. Committee Responsibilities

Executive Director Cedric S. Grant presented recommended changes to the bylaws for the Infrastructure Committee, noting that there are key issues that may be added in order to clarify the defined role of the committee: evaluation of the condition of facilities; execution of the annual capital budget and long-term capital improvement plans; and, consideration of green infrastructure and resiliency initiatives. These changes to the bylaws will lay over for one month and be considered for adoption at the December 2014 cycle of meetings.

<u>INFORMATION ITEMS – RECEIVED</u>

- 6. Topics for Future Discussions
- 7. 2014 Committee/Board Meeting Schedule
- 8. Response to Questions
- 9. Any Other Matters

Reference Material (In Binders)

- A. Sewerage and Water Board By-Laws
- B. 2014 Operating & Capital Program
- C. Strategic Plan
- D. Tracking Tool for Commitments to the City Council

- E. Bond Rating
- 9. Adjournment The Infrastructure Committee ended at approximately 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mrs. Kerri Kane- Chair

Mr. Alan Arnold Mr. Joseph Peychaud

ABSENT:

Ms. Kimberly Thomas

Dr. Tamika Duplessis

OTHER COMMITTEE/

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: NONE

Also in attendance were: Cedric S. Grant, Executive Department; Robert Miller, Deputy Director; Joseph Becker, General Superintendent; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Brian Ferrara, Legal Department; Willie Mingo, Purchasing Department; Tiffany Carter, EDBP; Susan Higginbotham, Staff of the Executive Director Office; Brenda Thornton; Dexter Joseph, Planning & Budget Department;

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Kerri Kane

Chairperson

KK/kal