



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

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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

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November 7, 2014

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, November 7, 2014 at 9:00 AM in the Board Room at 625 St. Joseph Street.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Wm. Raymond Manning, Committee Chair
Marion B. Bracy
Kerri Kane
Alan Arnold

Also in Attendance: Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director; Nolan Lambert, Legal Counsel; Brian Ferrara, Legal Counsel; Joseph Becker, General Superintendent; Bobby Nathan, Equal Employment Opportunity Director (EEOC); Kathleen LaFrance, Executive Director's Office; Willie Mingo, Purchasing Department; Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.; Ashleigh Gardere, Sr. Advisor to the Mayor for Strategy & Development

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Previous Report

The Executive Committee received the Executive Committee Report of October 10, 2014 for review and action. Ms. Kane motioned to accept the report and Mr. Bracy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

2. Workforce Initiative

The Executive Director, Mr. Cedric S. Grant introduced Ms. Ashleigh Gardere, Sr. Advisor to the Mayor for Development Opportunities and asked her to give an update on the Mayor's Workforce Initiative Strategy. Mrs. Gardere stated in a short amount of time, the city has been able to attract just about \$10 million worth of public and private investments to support the Workforce Initiative endeavor. The U.S. Department of Labor made recent commitments to support workforce development efforts in the region. A \$2.4 million grant went to Delgado Community College and a \$5.8 million competitive grant to the City of New Orleans Office of Workforce Development and the Workforce Investment Board to support the

creation of a sector based training program and enhance the City's ability to connect job seekers with advanced manufacturing employment opportunities.

Mr. Alan Arnold asked how does the training program work with Delgado and is it in sync with the city's Civil Service program.

Mr. Cedric S. Grant explained the training and certification processes; all certifications are recognized by Civil Service re: Delgado's training program.

Following a discussion, the committee expressed concerns of replacing the Board's aging workforce and to find ways to create exceptions to fill job needs. It was recommended by the committee to have staff conduct a compensation analysis for 2015. Staff would bring more information back to the Board.

3. Employee Healthcare Communications

Mr. Robert Miller, Deputy Director updated the committee on the employee healthcare communication process. Employees received information about the new SWBNO Employee Health Care Plan with their paystubs on October 24, 2014. Next, employees were given the health provider's website and they were able to look up information pertaining to their primary care physicians, and others who participate in the CIGNA network. Employees will receive the open enrollment package via mail on or about November 24, 2014. Lastly, employees can call the Personnel Department and speak to a staff person who will be able to assist them with questions.

4. Committee Responsibilities

Mr. Cedric S. Grant recommended changing the bylaws of the Executive Committee to include within its responsibilities strategic planning; business development; risk management; and information technology. Staff recommends these changes go before the December Board meeting for adoption.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Wm. Manning requested for staff to arrange training sessions for the Board in 2015.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. Tracking Tool for Commitments to the City Council - received

6. EEOC Activity Status Report Y.T.D. - received

7. Topics for Future Discussion - received

8. Response to Questions

Mr. Cedric S. Grant responded to Mr. Alan Arnold's questions that were submitted in writing. Staff would continue to review and research further information to answer all questions.

Mr. Wm. Manning made a request to the legal counsel to look into ways the board can meet to review and discuss sensitive matters outside of a public meeting.

Nolan Lambert, Special Council stated staff will give a conservative effort to see if the Board can delve into some issues, maybe in a smaller group, to satisfy the concerns; but, it has to be done within the parameters of the open meeting laws.

9. Any Other Matters

Mr. Robert Miller reported that the drainage bond sales take place this week and staff expects approximately \$1.5 million dollars in savings to the Board. Also a comprehensive customer service survey is underway and staff would bring back the results to the Board at the January 2015 cycle of Committee/Board meetings. Another positive note to report, the Customer Service Department has achieved 94% of customer service calls and nearly 92% of emergency calls. This is a significant improvement in the performance of the Customer Service Department.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM.

Very truly yours,

Wm. Raymond Manning
Committee Chair