

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

ROLL CALL

The Board of Directors of Sewerage and Water Board met on Wednesday January 21, 2015 at 9:00 AM in the Board Room at 625 St. Joseph Street. The Executive Director, Cedric S. Grant, called the roll and showed the following members present: **Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning, Mr. Alan Arnold, Mr. Scott Jacobs, Mrs. Kerri Kane, Mr. Mark M. Moody, Mr. Marion Bracy, (Seven) and a quorum.

The following members were absent: Mrs. Robin Barnes, Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Mr. Joseph Peychaud; Ms. Kimberly Thomas (Four). Also present were: Brenda Thornton, Communirep, Inc.; Richard Rainey, Times Picayune; Sharmaine A. James, Condall Consulting; Richard Briscot, Gulf South Engineers; Teri Dupre, Meyer Engineers; Atri Sen, HNTB Corp.

Staff present were: Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director; Robert Miller, Deputy Director; Joseph Becker, Madeline Fong Goddard, General Superintendent's Office; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Harold Marchand, Yolanda Grinstead, Legal Department; Willie Mingo, Purchasing Department; Rosita Thomas, Finance Administration Department; Robert Jackson, Community & Intergovernmental Relations Department; Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management Department; Bobby Nathan, EEOC, Equal Employment Opportunity Department; Kathleen LaFrance, Executive Director's Office; Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Tiffany Carter, EDBP Department; Bobby Nathan, EEOC, Equal Employment Opportunity Department; Raymond Gable, Irma Mahan Nuar, Internal Audit Department.

** Mayor's Representative

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS REPORT

Mr. Marion Bracy moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2014. Mr. Mark M. Moody seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Mr. Becker reported that the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans Carrollton and Algiers Wastewater Systems received the 2013 Water Fluoridation Quality Awards presented by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention United States Department of Health and Hospitals. Mr. Marion Bracy would like the customers to be aware of these awards. Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning stated this issue will be brought up at the strategic planning session.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director, Mr. Cedric S. Grant presented a slide overview which focused on the following topics:

- Audio Video Upgrade
- Healthcare Open Enrollment Progress
- Healthcare Open Enrollment Challenges
- Big Treesy Tree Giveaway
- Employee Turnover Rate

He also discussed the critical issues relative to the employee turnover rate of the Sewerage and Water Board. Management is in the process of addressing these concerns and will provide the Board with more information on this important matter. Mr. Alan Arnold requested if staff could give an average length of employment with Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chairperson, Mr. Marion Bracy, reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval. Mr. Arnold asked if his questions that were presented to this committee would involve more in depth discussion, re: response to those questions and if he could be invited to that meeting. The Committee Chair, Mr. Bracy stated that at the February Operations Committee Meeting, Mr. Arnold's questions would be answered and further discussion could take place at that time. Mr. Marion Bracy moved acceptance of the Operations Committee Report and approval of the Operations Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Scott Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Chairperson, Mr. Mark M. Moody, reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval. Mr. Arnold asked staff to include 12-month figures re: Financial Statements report from the start of 2014 through the end of the 2014 fiscal year; and to provide this information at next month's meeting. Mr. Marion Bracy moved acceptance of the Finance Committee Report and approval of the Finance Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Scott Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The General Superintendent, Mr. Joseph Becker, stated it is staff's recommendation to rescind agenda Item #7 of the January 6, 2015 Finance Committee Meeting; re: Award of Contract to Provide Arc Flash Assessment and Analysis for the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant, as stated in resolution R-004-2015. Recently, URS was to provide services on above contract, however URS and AECOM have merged. Therefore, it is staff recommendation to rescind above contract. Mr. Mark M. Moody moved approval to rescind Award of Contract to Provide Arc Flash Assessment and Analysis for the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant, resolution therein (R-004-2015). Mr. Scott Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Chairperson, Mrs. Kerri Kane reported on the summary and actions taken by the Infrastructure Committee. The Infrastructure Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval. Mrs. Kane noted a correction within the minutes; Dr. Tamika Duplessis was not present at this meeting and she is listed as seconding a motion. Also, Mr. Alan Arnold expressed concerns that the minute report is not clear enough; the summary report is more thorough and he would like to see more details within the report itself. The Special Counsel, Mr. Nolan Lambert suggested for the Board to accept the minutes with noted correction and recommendations. Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Infrastructure Committee Minutes with the noted correction, and recommendations, therein as amended. Mr. Marion Bracy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairperson, Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning reported on the summary and actions taken by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval. Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Executive Committee Presentation and approval of the Executive Committee minutes, therein. Mr. Scott Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted in conjunction with approval of the Committee reports:

R- 001-2015 – Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for Hurricane Isaac

R-002-2015 – Award of Contract to Provide Construction Management Services for Capital Projects

R-003-2015 – Award of Contract to Provide Design and Engineering Services for the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant Sludge Line to the River

R-005-2015 – Appointment of the Law Firm of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C. to Handle Dispute with Contractor on Public Works Contract

R-006-2015 – Contract 8143 – Katrina Related Repairs to Garage #2 at Central Yard

R-007-2015 – Ratification of Change Order No. 10 for Contract 3661 – Modifications to East Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Protection System

R-008-2015 – Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30002 – Restoration of Existing Gravity Sewer Mains by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining from Manhole to Manhole, and Point Repairs at various sites throughout Orleans Parish

R-009-2015 – Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30003 – Restoration of Existing Gravity Sewer Mains by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining from Manhole to Manhole, and Point Repairs at various sites throughout Orleans Parish

R-010-2015 – Federal Lobbying Services

NEW BUSINESS

Agreement between the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans and Louisiana Urban Stormwater Coalition for EPA Urban Waters Small Grant (R-011-2015)

The Deputy General Superintendent, Mrs. Madeline Goddard provided information on the Louisiana Urban Stormwater Coalition for the EPA Urban Waters Small Grant for Green Infrastructure Monitoring Project in an amount not to exceed \$8,000; to provide outreach to communities and residents in the project area through training and education about water quality and reduction of pollutants in stormwater. Mr. Scott Jacobs moved approval of Agreement between the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans and Louisiana Urban Stormwater Coalition for EPA Urban Waters Small Grant, resolution therein (R-011-2015). Mr. Mark M. Moody seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agreement between the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation for EPA Urban Waters Small Grant (R-012-2015)

Mrs. Goddard stated it is staff's recommendation to authorize approval to enter into an agreement with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation for the EPA Urban Waters Small Grant – Green Infrastructure Monitoring Project in an amount not to exceed, \$17,168; by improving water quality through research and water quality monitoring experiments that also support community revitalizations. Mr. Scott Jacobs moved approval of Agreement between the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation for EPA Urban Waters Small Grant, resolution therein (R-012-2015).

Approval for the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans to Submit a Proposal for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program (R-013-2015)

Mrs. Goddard provided information on the Board's interest to utilize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program grant funds to implement water quality monitoring at existing stormwater retention sites in the Gentilly neighborhood to improve understanding about-and-management-of these sites; this grant program aligns directly with the goals of the Board's Green Infrastructure Plan. Mr. Scott Jacobs moved approval for the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans to Submit a Proposal for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program, resolution therein (R-013-2015). Mr. Alan Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Scott Jacobs requested more clarity on this agreement and whether staff is asking the Board to authorize submittal of a proposal; and is there an amount not to exceed within this proposal. Mrs. Goddard stated there are no fees associated with this proposal; rather staff is simply requesting the approval of the Board to submit a proposal by February 2, 2015.

Approval for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans to Submit a Proposal for the EPA Environmental Education Model Grant Program (R-014-2015)

Mrs. Goddard provided background information on the Ripple Effect Project, a Green Infrastructure grant in which the Board was awarded in June of 2014, in the amount of \$75,500 for the creation and implementation of a Kindergarten through Fourth (4th) Grade curriculum on water issues and green infrastructure at the KIPP Central City Primary School. The purpose of the EPA grant is to promote environmental stewardship throughout Orleans Parish school system. It is staff's recommendation for the Board to approve a grant proposal for the EPA Environmental Education Model Program for funds in an amount not to exceed \$256,267 of which \$64,067 is the Board's matching cost share. Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning stated that this education model could be done system wide with all schools in the city. Mrs. Kerri Kane moved approval for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans to Submit a Proposal for the EPA Environmental Education Model Grant Program, resolution therein (R-014-2015). Mr. Marion Bracy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Declaration of Vacancies on the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (R-015-2015)

The Executive Director introduced the topic of discussion and stated that Mr. Lambert would explain the process to the Board regarding declared vacancies of the Sewerage and Water Board. Mr. Lambert noted that staff is asking the Board to declare two vacancies, made up of Dr. Tamika Duplessis and Mr. Mark M. Moody, whose initial term was for one (1) year, will terminate on May 22, 2015; staff can then begin the selection process pursuant to law, a selection committee shall be convened to nominate candidates for the vacant positions. The Board recommended for staff to research more information to see if some Board Members could be re-nominated to serve on the Board. Mr. Grant stated Board Members could potentially serve two term limits on the Sewerage and Water Board. Mr. Marion Bracy moved approval for staff to Declare Two Vacancies on the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans, resolution therein (R-015-2015). Mr. Mark M. Moody seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- FEMA Status Report
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of the Special Counsel
- 2015Committee/Board Meeting Schedule
- Financial Statements

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.