



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

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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April 1, 2015

The Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 in the 2nd Floor Board Room, 625 St. Joseph Street, New Orleans, LA. The meeting convened at 9:00 AM.

Action Item:

The Committee report of Wednesday, March 4, 2015 was accepted following motion by Mr. Joseph Peychaud and second by Mr. Alan Arnold and the motion carried.

Presentation Items:

Urban Water Series Workshops and Site Visits

Carmen James of Greater New Orleans Foundation presented information from the Urban Water Series Phase I workshop and Phase II site visits to Austin, TX, Philadelphia, PA, and Milwaukee, WI. The workshops brought experts from around the United States to New Orleans to describe how vanguard cities were developing green storm water management approaches. Green storm water management is a new way to think about, address, and pay for storm water runoff and treatment; the major elements discussed were:

- Re-establishing key components of the natural water cycle lost or compromised through urbanization;
- Raising revenue to fund storm water management in ways that incentivize property owners to reduce storm water runoff;
- Ensuring that everyone pays their fair share of the cost of managing storm water;
- Regulating and restricting land development to prevent or reduce storm water runoff; and,
- Involving a wide-variety of stakeholders in making important decisions about storm water management for their neighborhoods and communities.

Ella Delio presented concepts for ongoing value added by Greater New Orleans Foundation:

- Provide information from other cities on stormwater fees;
- Serve as a convener of stakeholders across sectors in New Orleans;
- Build communications and public information materials based upon market research;
- Highlight what is already occurring for green initiatives in New Orleans; and
- Possibly pilot a rain barrel program.

Mr. Arnold commented that New Orleans was different from other cities due to movement of stormwater by pumping rather than by gravity. He also noted the differences on geography, soil types, and rainfall. He emphasized the need to know more about the contemplated cost of implementation and whether the community could afford it. He observed that there were significant quality of life benefits from green infrastructure and that a large demonstration project based upon public/private collaboration may be needed.

Mr. Grant encouraged focus on where we already have this in place in the community. He noted that significant grant applications were underway with businesses and other philanthropic entities offering assistance. He emphasized the need for coordination of efforts, noting that this was a fifty-year initiative. He stated that he intends to come back to the Committee with a proposal for furthering this partnership.

Power Plant Retrofit Projects

Mr. Becker presented information regarding capital projects at the Carrollton Water Plant:

- Storm-proofing projects estimated at \$70 million, including a 15 megawatt 60 cycle generator, storm-proofing of the building, and improvements at the East Bank river intakes.
- Katrina-related storm damage restoration projects estimated at \$55 million, including Turbine #4 repairs, steam pump repairs, and boiler repairs. He noted that most of the work was inside the Carrollton Plant and would be completed in 2015.
- Power Plant HMGP projects estimated at \$150 million which were not damage repair but hazard mitigation for future storms. The projects included replacement of critical feeders, refurbishment of the boiler room, refurbishment of the turbines, construction of a generator test load bank, and improvements at the Oak Street intakes.
- Water hammer projects estimated at \$50 million to construct water towers at the plant and booster pump stations in the distribution system to be bid in 2015.

He stated that the Water Quality Master Plan prepared by Arcadis has identified approximately \$200 million in additional projects related to basin repairs, tank maintenance, gallery repairs, filter media replacement, chemical storage, and SCADA.

Mr. Grant commented that these projects would improve system reliability.

Mr. Paychaud asked about localized low pressure notices. Mr. Becker responded by describing tie-ins for new construction projects.

Topics for Future Discussions: None

Response to Questions: There were no remaining questions from Board members at this time. The remaining information items were accepted.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.

PRESENT: Mrs. Kerri Kane- Chair
 Mr. Alan Arnold

Mr. Joseph Peychaud
Ms. Kimberly Thomas
Mrs. Robin Barnes

ABSENT: Dr. Tamika Duplessis

Also in attendance were: Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director; Joseph Becker, General Superintendent; Harold Marchand, Legal Department; Yolanda Grinstead, Legal Department; Lauren Averill, GAEA Consultants; Susan Higginbotham, Staff of the Executive Director Office; Robert Jackson, IG&R Department; Brenda Thornton; Kevin Garrison, Budget Department; Geneva Coleman, Hawthorne Agency; Carmen James and Ella Delio, Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Kerri Kane
Chairperson