

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

JULY 15, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

ROLL CALL

The Board of Directors of Sewerage and Water Board met on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 9:40 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 representing Mayor Landrieu, Mr. Alan Arnold, Mr. Marion Bracy, Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Mrs. Kerri Kane, Mr. Joseph Peychaud, and Ms. Kimberly Thomas (Seven).

The following members were absent: Mrs. Robin Barnes, Mr. Scott Jacobs and Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning (Three).

Also present were: Brenda Thornton, CommuniRep, Inc.; Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.; Terry Dupre, Meyer Engineers; Kurt M. Evans, Digital Engineering; Amer Tufail, Greenpoint Engineering; Randy Smith, Royal Engineers; Stephen Stuart, BGR; Fannie Bennett, G.E.C., Inc.; Hayne Rainey, City of New Orleans; Reginald Crear, EJES, Inc.; Fahamu Dennis, Lloyd Dennis Photography.

Staff present were: Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director; Robert Miller, Deputy Director; Joseph Becker, General Superintendent; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Harold Marchand, Yolanda Grinstead, Legal Department; Willie Mingo, Purchasing Department; Robert Jackson, Community & Intergovernmental Relations Department; Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management Department; Emanuel Lain, Budget Department; Paula Arceneaux, Hazel Bell, EIC, Employee Incentive Committee; Melvin Ron Spooner, Mubashir Maqbool, Engineering Department.

The Acting Chair, Ms. Suchitra Satpathi requested a motion to take the agenda out of order and proceed with Item #8 Executive Session for certain litigation matters. Ms. Kerri Kane moved and Mr. Arnold seconded the motion and the motion was adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session to discuss the necessary legal action to be taken in regard to the following litigation matters:

- Brock Litigation Settlement
- Oil Spill by the Oil Rig “Deepwater Horizon” in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010, USDC, Eastern District of Louisiana, MDL No. 2179, Sec. J (R-138-2015)

Mr. Joseph Peychaud moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Mrs. Kerri Kane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Joseph Peychaud moved to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Alan Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Kerri Kane moved to accept staff’s recommendations re: Brock Litigation Settlement and the Oil Spill Claim. Ms. Kimberly Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS REPORT

Mr. Joseph Peychaud moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 17, 2015. Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HONORS AND AWARDS

(R-137-2015) – The Board recognized Mr. Melvin Ron Spooner, Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the United States Navy, who is a Senior Engineering Division Manager for the Engineering Division. Mr. Spooner oversees all aspects associated with the Engineering Division which includes: Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Network/Drainage Engineering and Construction Administration, and Inspection Departments. Recently, he was deployed as an Individual Augmentee to Afghanistan to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom’s Sentinel serving as Operations Officer for the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Combined Joint Engineering Directorate from October 5, 2014 to April 30, 2015. Mr. Spooner’s outstanding performance, expertise and dedication to duty greatly contributed to the success of the dictatorship’s mission during combat operations. Lieutenant Commander Spooner was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Forces Medal.

The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director, Mr. Cedric S. Grant reported on the following topics of discussion. He noted that the upcoming event of the Water Environmental Federation (WEF) Great Water Cities Conference will be held in New Orleans on July 21-22, 2015 at Tulane University. There will be discussion of water management with a focus on collaborating for a resilient future. He extended an invitation the Board Members to attend and to participate in this event. He reported on the SELA update and the Sewerage and Water Board is in the

process of acquiring staff for the “Boots on the Ground” program. The new staff is expected to begin working within two weeks. Sewerage and Water Board appeared before the City Council Public Works Committee to provide an update on protocol for services interruptions for planned and emergency work. He also discussed the outreach efforts in which he and Mr. Becker were interviewed by the Weather Channel re: 10th anniversary of Katrina. Additionally, there would be a South Korean delegation visiting Pumping Station #6 on July 23, 2015. Lastly, he discussed the key agenda topic regarding the Proposed By-Laws Changes.

Mr. Alan Arnold requested staff to send the information re: the Water Federation Conference (WEF) and information pertaining to those events to the full Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PENSION COMMITTEE

Ms. Suchitra Satpathi reported on the summary and actions taken by the Pension Committee. Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Pension Committee Report and approval of the Pension Committee recommendations, therein. Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Acting Chairperson reported on the summary of actions taken at the Operations Committee Meeting. Mr. Joseph Peychaud moved acceptance of the Operations Committee Report and approval of the Operations Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Marion Bracy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Suchitra Satpathi reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance Committee. Mr. Alan Arnold noted a correction in the minute report that he was in attendance at this meeting. Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Finance Committee Report with the noted correction and approval of the Finance Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Joseph Peychaud seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Alan Arnold requested staff to forward his written comments that he presented to the Finance Committee members to the full Board.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Suchitra Satpathi reported on the summary report on the actions taken by the Executive Committee Meeting. Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Executive Committee report and the Executive Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Joseph Peychaud seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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

R- 123-2015 – Furnishing Air Conditioning and Heating Maintenance for Central Yard – Req. No. YO150020

R-124-2015 – Furnishing Annual Service Awards – Req. No. Ed150009

R-125-2015 – Furnishing EIC Award Program Banquet Accomodation – Req. No. YW150008

R-126-2015 – Contract 1371 – HMGP Structural General Contract Retrofit Power Plant Main Water Purification Plant Power Complex

R-127-2015 – Contract 3737 – Carrollton Area Sewer Rehabilitation Mistletoe Street 18-inch Sewer Line Replacement

R-128-2015 – Contract 30014 – Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered sites throughout Orleans Parish

R-129-2015 – Contract 30016 – Restoration of Existing Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewers by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining of Service Laterals and Point Repair at various sites throughout the city of New Orleans

R-130-2015 – Contract 5238 – Equipment Purchase and Installation, Including Startup and Training for Stormwater Monitoring and Sampling for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit Stormwater Outfalls

R-131-2015 – Commercial Flood Insurance Policy for Facilities

R-132-2015 – Award of Contract to the Law Firm of Roedel Parsons to Represent the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans in Construction Litigation Matter

R-133-2015 – Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 3696 – Cleaning and CCTV Sanitary Sewer Mains at scattered sites throughout Orleans Parish

R-134-2015 – Change Order No. 5 for Contract 5223 – Hurricane Katrina Related Repairs to St. Bernard Avenue Drainage Underpass Pumping Station

R-135-2015 – Change Order No. 7 for Contract 5226 – Hurricane Katrina Related Repairs to Franklin Avenue Drainage Underpass Pumping Station

R-136-2015 – Change Order No. 7 for Contract 5221 – Hurricane Katrina Related Repairs to Pontchartrain Boulevard Drainage Underpass Pumping Station

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Amendment to the By-Laws of the Sewerage and Water Board

Mr. Grant discussed the proposed changes to responsibilities of the Board of Directors new committees and he asked Ms. Satpathi to speak on the proposed suggested amendments. Ms. Suchitra Satpathi stated the corresponding bylaw changes further refine the committees' roles. There was discussion regarding the authority and latitude for contracts for a certain amount. The consensus was to allow the restructuring of the committees to proceed, allow an internal review of purchasing practices to take place, and then consider a review of management authority for procurement following that review.

Mr. Marion Bracy moved to change the name of the "Finance Committee" to "Finance Administration Committee". Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Grant stated the above proposed changes would layover for 30 days or until the August cycle of meetings and staff hopes to implement these changes in September. Ms. Satpathi thanked the Board for their thoughtfulness and patience regarding this matter.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Grant stated on Monday, July 20, 2015 staff would appear before the Civil Service Commission to request four (4) new unclassified Deputy Director positions as follows: Logistics, Security, Communications and Human Resources. The meeting is scheduled to take place at 1340 Poydras Street, on the 9th floor at 10 a.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.