

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

# Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, President Robert Miller Interim Executive Director 625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
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## **Board of Directors Special Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom Friday, September 1, 2017 1PM

#### **Minutes**

#### I. Call to Order – the Honorable Board President

#### Roll Call – Quorum Established

- o The Honorable Mitchell J. Landrieu Present
- o Director Alan Arnold Not Present
- o Director Robin Barnes Present
- o Director Eric C. Blue Not Present
- o Director Marion Bracy Present
- o Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis Present
- o Director Ralph Johnson Present
- o Director Joseph Peychaud Present
- o Director Stacy Horn Koch Present

Mayor Mitchell Landrieu introduced new Board Member Stacy Horn Koch. On August 22, 2017 the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) announced the appointment of an Interim Emergency Management and Support Team. The Team members are: Mr. Paul Rainwater, Mr. Terrance Ginn, Ms. Renee Lapeyrolerie, Mr. Ehab Meselhe, Ph.D., P.E., Mr. Owen Monconduit and Mr. Robert Turner, P.E. The Team will provide administrative, financial and technical support to the SWBNO through November 30, 2017.

## II. Status Update on Power and Pumping Capabilities

- o Interim Executive Director, Bob Miller, presented the timeline on Pumps and Turbines Emergency Declarations:
  - **03/09/17** General Superintendent, Joe Becker, made an emergency declaration authorizing repairs to Turbine #3.
  - **07/28/17** General Superintendent, Joe Becker made an emergency declaration authorizing repairs to Turbine #5.

**08/10/17** – Special Board meeting held and motion adopted unanimously to:

- Repair SWBNO power and drainage system
- Provide an independent analysis of power, generators and drainage system

• Appoint an Interim Management Team to provide support to SWBNO's executive leadership

Emergency Actions for repairs to Turbines #3 and #5:

- A total of \$13,183,000 has been obligated to repair Turbines #3 and #5.
- A total of \$8,466,654 has been committed to fixing the Pumps.
- A total of \$23,429,711 has been committed to repair and provide redundancy to SWBNO's power generator systems. This includes securing generators for drainage pumping stations.
- A total of \$3,497,739 has been committed to Manpower.
- A total of \$35,394,104 has been committed to stabilize SWBNO's pumping and drainage system.

**08/19/2017** – Executive Director, Cedric Grant, **declared a state of emergency** and authorized emergency repairs the pumping and drainage system.

- o Mr. Paul Rainwater gave an overview on SWBNO Emergency Operations
  - Redundant management system
  - Spotter/Modelers
  - Communications
  - Reporting
- o Mr. Paul Rainwater delivered a presentation on the status of Power and Pumping capabilities and the concept of Emergency Operations.
  - Status of the Turbines: Turbines #1 & #6 operational; expected timeline for Turbines #3 & #5 to return to service TBD; Turbines #4 & #5 EMDs available mid/late Sept.
  - Status of the Generators: Station D-12 generators operational, 6 generators on standby. Carrollton FC: 6 generators operational, Stations #4, #10 and Station A generators operational, United Rentals Yard 2 generators available.
  - Status of the Pumps: 107 of 120 pumps currently operational; 13 pumps out of service and being assessed for emergency repairs; 8 drainage pumps and 5 constant duty pumps. Stations with critical maintenance needs: Lakeview, Lower Coast Algiers and New Orleans East Intracoastal and AMID.
  - Pump Maintenance Status: Repairs are being made to 13 out of service pumps.
  - Pump Station Manpower: SWBNO procured and assigned additional pump operations and monitors. All stations manned 24/7 during Hurricane Harvey event. Emphasis on master pump operators at critical stations in Lakeview and Broadmoor.
  - **Total Manpower:** Authorized Employees 1,523; Actual Employees 1,184, and Contractual Employees 24, supplementing Pump Stations.
  - Working with Civil Service Commission Staff for additional flexibility in hiring.

#### **Summary of key points**

- Still operating under emergency conditions.
- Interim Emergency Management and Support team on the ground.

- Hurricane Harvey weather event managed with limited number of issues.
- Focus on execution of emergency contracts and budget realignment.
- Focus on continuity of operations during leadership change.
- o Joseph Peychaud entered into the meeting.

# **III.** Appointment of Interim Executive Director:

- Mayor Mitchell Landrieu reported that with the retirement of Cedric S. Grant, an Interim Executive Director must be appointed.
- As President of the Board Mayor Landrieu, recommended that Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer Bob Miller serve as the Interim Executive Director until his departure on October 13, 2017 to become the Public Works Director in Jackson, Mississippi.
- As Interim Executive of Director, Mr. Bob Miller will handle day to day tasks as well any emergency issues.
- Mayor Mitchell Landrieu called for a motion to appoint Mr. Bob Miller as the Interim Executive Director and that his salary and benefits be the same as the retiring Executive Director. Motion by Director Marion Bracy. Seconded by Director Robin Barnes. The motion carried.

#### **IV.** Other Matters:

- o Bob Miller, Interim Executive Director, reiterated that the SWBNO remains in an extreme emergency per Louisiana statute, which has a Declaration of Continuance of Extreme Emergency dates as follows: March 9, July 28, and August 9, 2017.
- A Resolution will come before the Board for consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting regarding the various procurements.
- o Mayor Mitchell Landrieu suggested that a vocabulary list be put together to make sure everyone understands the terms used frequently at the Board meetings. New Board member, Director Stacy Horn Koch, agreed with the Mayor.
- O Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis inquired about the back flow prevention? Mr. Paul Rainwater allowed CH2M Hill Program Manager to respond to that question.
- o Director Ralph Johnson welcomed the new members to the SWBNO.
- The Mayor stated the main 3 focal points for SWBNO are Power, Pumps and Manpower.
- Director Robin Barnes suggested certain presentations should show just how money is being spent at the SWBNO.
- O Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis inquired as to whether there was a process in place for a new Executive Director. Mayor Mitchell Landrieu's response was to have Mr. Terrence

Ginn and Ms. Sharon Judkins start working on the process of finding a new Executive Director.

 Mayor Mitchell Landrieu informed everyone that the Emergency Team is only here 100 days. Turbines will always be in an emergency state until things are done and will be an emergency until further notice.

**Adjournment** – the Honorable Board President requested a motion to adjourn. Motion by **Marion Bracy. Seconded by Ralph Johnson. The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:58 PM.**