

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 19, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

**SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS**

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## **ROLL CALL**

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The Board of Directors for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) met on Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft team. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis Special Counsel, Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Janet Howard and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent: Hon. Mayor Latoya Cantrell

Staff present were: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Ron Spooner, Interim General Superintendent; Ms. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Darryl Harrison, Deputy Special Counsel; Mr. Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Mr. Robert Jackson, Customer Service; Cashanna Moses, Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management, SWBNO; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

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## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2021, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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Executive Director Ghassan Korban presented a slide overview that focused on the following topics:

- Executive Director Korban started his report giving an update on the Boil Water Advisory which occurred last Wednesday. Entergy power was loss and lower than normal water pressure due to a major repair on a 48" water line at the Carrollton water plant. The pressure briefly dipped below 20 psi.
- Mr. Korban stated Repair on 48" water line had a greater impact on the residents than expected. Crews worked around the clock to increase pressure by opening additional valves in the system. The feeder main is now stable.

- Mr. Korban proudly announced the utility have a new satellite office coming to the New Orleans East library on Read Boulevard opening June 3, 2021.
- Power Update: T1 AND T6 are in service  
Turbine 3 is out of service  
Turbine 4- in service and continuing to make adjustment  
Turbine 5 – Final repairs underway. Now estimated to be back in service by Late June.
- Mr. Korban gave update on funding opportunities. Conversations around the capital outlay dollars for Entergy Substation moving in a positive direction. Mr. Korban thanks President Joe Biden's visit, the utility is hopeful about receiving needed federal funding form the Infrastructure Bill.
- LIHWAP: Expect funding for COVID water utility to relief next month.
- Mr. Korban stated the current state of the system is fragile, but they are working getting the turbines back online for the hurricane season.
- Mr. Korban stated the meter reading is improving and they are continuing to work towards giving accurate water bills.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Finance and Administration Committee Report

Director Lynes Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee Report for the month of May was presented and recommended for approval.

Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

### Strategy Committee Report

Director Robin Barnes reported on the summary and actions taken by the Strategy Committee. The Strategy Committee Report for the month of May was presented and recommended for approval.

Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy reports as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

### Pension Committee Report

Director Joseph Peychaud reported on the summary and actions taken by the Pension Committee. The Pension Committee Report for the month of May was presented and recommended for approval.

Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Pension reports as amended. Director Ralph Johnson move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

### Operations Committee Report

Director Janet Howard reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of May was presented and recommended for approval.

Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Operation reports as amended. Director Robin Barnes move to adopt Operations minutes as proposed. Councilmember Jay H. Banks seconded. The motion carried.

### Audit Committee Report

Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis reported on the summary and actions taken by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee Report for the month of May was presented and recommended for approval.

Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Audit reports as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Audit minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

### Action Items

Resolution (R-047-2021) Award of Contract 1417 between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc. for the Static Frequency Converter Procurement Project

- Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to defer R-047-2021 for approval. Director Maurice Sholas move to defer R-047-2021 as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

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## CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the May 12, 2021 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-060-2021) Authorization for Agreement for Consulting Services for Utility Strategic Planning with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.
- Resolution (R-063-2021) Resolution Granting Approval Authority from the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans to the Executive Director for Certain Designated Change Orders and Contract Amendments
- Resolution (R-064-2021) Resolution Authorizing Application to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Resolution (R-045-2021) First Renewal for Contract 3742 between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Atakapa Services, LLC for Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered Sites within Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-042-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC for Contract 1403 – Demolition of Abandoned C-7 and C-8 Basins and Other Site Improvements at the Carrollton Water Plant
- Resolution (R-052-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 12 between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC for Contract 1368 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Oak Street Pumping Station
- Resolution (R-053-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC for Contract 1377 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program – Claiborne Ave. Pumping Station and Off-Site Improvements
- Resolution (R-037-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and ECM Consultants, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-050-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and the City of New Orleans for the West Power Complex
- Resolution (R-051-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Black & Veatch Corporation for Design and Engineering Services for Sewer Pumping Station A Structural Rehabilitation

**Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.**

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## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

Preliminary Financial Results through March 1- 31, 2021

Human Resources Report April 1-30, 2021

Report of the General Superintendent

FEMA April Project Worksheet Status

DBE Participation on Contracts

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:23 AM.