

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

August 21, 2019

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 August 21, 2019 at approximately 9:00 AM in the Board Room at 625 St. Joseph Street. Special Counsel, Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Director Joseph Psychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Maurice Sholas and Hon. LaToya Cantrell.

The following member(s) were absent: Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

Also present were: Mr. Ramsey Green, Chief Administrative Officer, Infrastructure; Ms. Brenda Thorton, CommuniRep; Mr. Lloyd Lazard; Mr. Happy Johnson; Ms. Nina Reins, Mr. Steve Dunhu.

Staff present were: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Turner, General Superintendent; Ms. Yvette Downs, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; Mr. Richard Rainey, Chief Communications Officer; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Darryl Harrison, Deputy Special Counsel; Mr. Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Mr. Robert Jackson, Customer Service; Ms. Patti Wallace, Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management, SWBNO; Ms. Brionne Lindsey, Board Relations.

Prior to beginning the meeting, President LaToya Cantrell gave her opening remarks. President Cantrell thanked the Board of Liquidation for successfully passing the resolutions associated with the City of New Orleans. In November, they will be asking our people to approve the \$500 million bond sale. This bond sale will go toward infrastructure collectively. Mayor Cantrell also thanked them for approving the 50 million for this year. President Cantrell thanked the Sewerage and Water Board body for standing tall and firm in getting us where we are now. She stated the next step on her side is getting a campaign associated with the public to approve the bond sales for us.

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### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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President Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2019 Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss move for approval of the minutes. Director Joseph Psychaud second. The motion carried.

General Superintendent Robert Turner recognized employees that work in facility maintenance who maintain all of Sewerage and Water Board equipment and make sure it's available when they need it. President Mayor Cantrell thanked the workers for everything they are doing for the city and the people who live here. We appreciate you.

Ms. Yvette Downs recognized the three summer interns working in the finance office for the summer. She stated they were a great help to Sewerage and Water Board.

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## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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Executive Director Ghassan Korban stated he is blessed for the Mayor and Board giving him the opportunity to come and be a part of this wonderful mission and cause of recreating the Sewerage and Water Board. He is more determined than ever to help this facility grow in the right direction. Mr. Korban is honored and delighted to be here.

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

- Drainage Pumping Status
  - 98 of 99 drainage pumps (mitigate rain and flooding)
  - 21 of 21 constant-duty pumps (aka “dry weather pumps” which are used to manage ground water in canals on any given day)
  - Mr. Korban stated we are only down one pump impacting 25% of the total capacity. Station 14 in New Orleans East pump is down. This station operational capacity is 75%. They are doing everything to get station back online.
- Self-Generated Power
  - Turbine 6 is the newest turbine which produce 60Hz. It has been down for a couple of weeks and they suspect that it was hit by lightning. The turbine is expected to be back online 8/26/2019.
  - The second water tower is online and being tested to make sure it is working properly and doing what it supposed to. Mr. Korban stated we will soon celebrate bringing both towers online. This is a crucial component in our water distribution.
  - Director Alejandra Guzman asked how to change construction practices to require green infrastructure.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### **Audit Committee Report**

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

Dr. Tamika Duplessis stated the minutes were submitted as an outline, and she asked to add additional details to the outline. Director Maurice Sholas asked that Director Guzman's name be spelled correctly. Dr. Duplessis ensured the new minutes will reflect the correct spelling of Director Guzman's name.

President Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt amendments as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Audit minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss second. The motion carried.

President Cantrell asked for approval of report as amended. Director Ralph Johnson move to approve report as amended. Director Janet Howard second. The motion carried.

President Cantrell asked for a motion to reflect Director Maurice Sholas' presence, as well as Mayor Cantrell turning over the meeting to the President Pro Tem, Dr. Tamika Duplessis.

### **Finance and Administration Committee Report**

Chairperson, Lynes "Poco" Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee Report for the month of August was presented and recommended for approval.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration report as amended. Director Maurice Sholas move for approval and second by Director Alejandra Guzman. The motion carried.

### **Pension Committee Report**

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

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to accept the Pension Committee report. Director Lynes "Poco" Sloss move for approval of the Pension Committee Report for the month of August. Director Ralph Johnson second the motion. The motion carried.

**PRESENTATION ITEMS** - None

**ACTION ITEMS**- None

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**CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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The following resolutions were discussed at the August 21, 2019 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

(R-090-2019) Recommendation of Backflow Prevention Services, LLC. for Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Management (Plumbing Dept)

(R-105-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 6249 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Project – Design Build Retrofit Power Distribution Network (Vendor-GCCCI) (Dept-Elec Engr)

(R-113-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 2130 – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish (Vendor-Wallace C. Drennan) (Dept-Networks Administration)

(R-115-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 3799 - New Installation of Sludge Dryer at the Eastbank Wastewater Treatment Plant (Vendor-IMC) (Dept-Operations)

(R-117-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1368 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Rehabilitation of Oak Street Pumping Station (Vendor-MR Pittman) (Dept-Mech Engr)

(R-118-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1395 - Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation – Elevated Storage Tanks (Vendor-B&K Const) (Dept-Mech Engr)

(R-136-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 5 for Contract 1369 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- Emergency Fuel Storage Retrofit Power Plant (Vendor-Lou Con) (Dept-Elec Engr)

(R-122-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 1406 – Sycamore Filter Gallery Structural and Filter Rehab at Filters No's 13, 15, 18 & 27 (Vendor-IMC) (Dept-Mech Engr)

(R-135-2019) Change Order No. 1 for Emergency Purchase of Five 25Hz Generator Sets (Vendor-ARCCO) (Dept-GSO)

(R-073-2019) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Richard C. Lambert, LLC for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program (JIRR)

(R-074-2019) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Arcadis U.S., Inc for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program (JIRR)

(R-075-2019) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and G.E.C., Inc. for Design and No. x

(R-083-2019) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Neel Schaffer, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program (JIRR)

(R-084-2019) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Royal Engineers and Consultants, LLC for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program (JIRR)

(R-085-2019) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Design Engineering, Inc Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program (JIRR)

(R-086-2019) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Rahman and Associates, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program (JIRR)

(R-119-2019) Authorization of Amendment to Agreement for Services with Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. for Program Management Services for Hurricane Katrina-Related Sewer Restoration Projects and in Connection with the 404 Sewer Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Mech Engr)

(R-124-2019) Authorization for Second Extension of Contract 8138-Furnishing Skilled and Unskilled Labor for Maintenance Services with the GEE CEE Company of Louisiana, Inc. (Facility Maintenance)

(R-125-2019) Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and among the City of New Orleans and the Sewerage and Water Board and the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority for the Pontilly Drainage Project (Chief of Engineering)

(R-116-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1397 – Final Acceptance and Close Out of Improvements to Michoud Water Tower

Resolution (R-057-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1401 – Close Out, Requisition and Delivery of two pumps and one motor as per specifications at the New River Pumping Station

(R-094-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 2106 – Installation of New Water, Sewer and Drain Service Connections at various sites throughout Orleans Parish

(R-033-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 2133 – Reconciliation and Final Acceptance for Emergency Repair Contract for Winter Freeze (INGA) – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at various sites throughout Orleans Parish.

(R-034-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 2134 – Reconciliation and Final Acceptance for Emergency Repair Contract for Winter Freeze (INGA) Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at various sites throughout Orleans Parish

(R-120-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 30204 – Reconciliation and Final Acceptance- Restoration of Existing Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewers by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole CIPP Lining of Service Laterals and Point Repairs at various sites throughout Orleans Parish

(R-121-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 5240 – Close Out of Contract, Drainage System Support Pump Repairs DPS 4 C/D/E

(R-131-2019) 2019 Pension Contributions

(R-134-2019) Termination of the State Revolver Fund

(R-133-2019) Issuance of \$25 million in DEQ EPA Funds

(R-123-2019) 2017 Report on Operation

(R-132-2019) Designating Executive Director as Authorized Officer of Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

(R-139-2019)-Preliminary Approval for DEQ EPA Funds

(R-130-2019) – Go Zone Amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement

Dr. Tamika Duplessis President Pro Tem, presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Joseph Peychaud move to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Janet Howard second. The motion carried.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to exit regular session and enter Executive Session. Director Lynes Sloss move to leave the Regular Session and enter Executive Session. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

Director Joseph Peychaud move to leave Executive Session and return to Regular Session. Director Ralph Johnson second. The motion carried.

There were no recommendations made by Special Counsel in Executive Session and no action taken following Executive Session.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Maurice Sholas requested training for the front-line staff to access appropriate language to support and better help customers who speak different languages besides English. Mr. Sholas would also like to create safety report incident cards.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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The following person(s) appeared before the Board of Directors to make comments:

- Mr. Lloyd Lazard, representing himself, asked about Fluorine and calcium in water.
- Mr. Steve Donhu asked how bills are estimated.

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## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

Preliminary Financial Results through June 31, 2019  
Human Resources Report July 1-31, 2019  
Report of the General Superintendent  
Report of the Special Counsel  
FEMA July 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 10:45 AM.