



MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers
From: CURO
By: Shannon Oldfield-Blanks
CC: David Gavlinski, Eric Granderson, and Theresa Becher
Date: May 13, 2020
RE: SWBNO Meeting 04.22.2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met Wednesday, April 22, 2020 by way of Skype. The full packet for the meeting may be found [here](#). The Board received updates on the general standing of the Sewerage and Water Board.

The agenda was read aloud by SWBNO Council Yolanda Grinstead.

Executive Director Report

A. Drainage Pumps

1. 99 of 99 storm water pumps are available for service
2. 18 of 21 dry weather pumps are available for use. Repairs for the dry weather pump at City Park station and 2 dry weather pumps at Lower 9th Ward station are underway.

B. Power

The available power currently is:

1. Frequency changers to supplement for the loss of Turbine 5 (T5) are under evaluation. These frequency changers will be used to maximize the availability of Turbine 6 (T6).
2. Turbine 1 (25Hz) produces 6MW has underwent repairs and is available for use.
3. The failure of Turbine 5 remains under investigation.

C. COVID 19 Financial Outlook

2020 Revenue Projections In the wake of COVID-19, adverse impacts upon revenue streams are anticipated. SWBNO has prepared a financial outlook report that identifies revenue projections up to the end of the year. The report is dynamic and will change as situations continue to develop.

Two scenarios were evaluated, Optimistic Total Revenue and Stressed Total Revenue. These scenarios were compared with the budgeted expenses. Both scenarios project a loss of revenue

between 12% and 26%. SWBNO continues to monitor financial health and adjustments are being made to expenditures to maintain balance. SWBNO discussed the financial outlook at the Finance Committee meeting held on April 14, 2020. The Cashflow Modeling Estimates may be found in Attachment 1 and meeting be found [here](#).

Ongoing Projects - SWBNO continues work on projects funded by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Joint Infrastructure Recovery Response (JIRR). Both HMGP and JIRR projects are federally supported and are required to move forward.

Federal Aid Requests - SWBNO is collaborating with fellow utilities, stakeholders, the business community, and water sector organizations. The goal is to unify and advocate for policies that bring greater fairness and equity to the system and the rate payers. Federal dollars are being researched and sought for the [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#), funding to offset revenue losses, and opportunities within the latest federal infrastructure funding package to fund crucial capital projects.

In a collaborative effort with Jefferson Parish, SWBNO has requested full relief of the obligated interest repayments for all completed Southeast Louisiana Flood Control Projects (SELA). This is a request of approximately \$100 million, which is nearly 30 percent of the total obligation.

D. COVID-19 Response: Policy Shifts

For Customers

- Issued a moratorium on water shutoffs for non-payment during the declared emergency
- Restored water service regardless of balance to many customers
- Waived fees for online payment
- Waived new late fees
- Established affordable payment options. These options may be found [here](#)
- Suspended all work on water mains at this time unless deemed an emergency

For Employees

- COVID-19 human resources response team formed to support the workforce and conduct contact tracking
- Disinfecting and deep cleaning workspaces
- Temperature checks at each campus
- Providing masks and other protective equipment
- Deploying rotational civil leave
- Providing remote work schedules

E. COVID-19 Work Force Impact

As of April 19, no new positive cases had been reported since April 13. SWBNO continues to monitor the workforce daily.