



MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers
From: CURO
By: Shannon Oldfield-Blanks
CC: David Gavlinski, Eric Granderson, and Theresa Becher
Date: October 29, 2019
RE: SWBNO Meeting 10.16.19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A. The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met Wednesday, October 16, 2019. 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 Executive Director's Report

A. Staff

Tyler Antrup is filling the position of Strategic Planner for the SWBNO. Previously, Tyler served as the Urban Water Program Manager in the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability.

SWBNO announced the search to fill an open seat on the 11-member governing panel. The appointee must be a retired civil engineer who lives in District D. Applications are due on November 15, 2019. The details of the advertisement may be found [here](#).

B. Boil Water Advisory

On Saturday, October 12, SWBNO issued a "precautionary boil water advisory" in response to a break on a 48" diameter water transmission main near Panola and Lowerline streets. This water main is critical infrastructure that services the uptown area and is approximately 110 years old. SWBNO closed valves to isolate and repair the main. The main was returned to service on Monday, October 14. However, while returning the main to service, a second "boil water advisory" was issued for the same area. Executive Director Korban stated the pressure drop was caused by valve operators opening the valves too quickly and too much. SWBNO performed the required tests, and the advisory was lifted on Tuesday, October 15. Director Howard and Korban discussed providing staff training and refreshers on the protocols for operating valves.

C. Drainage Pump Station (DPS)

All drainage pumps are online and available for use, which includes 21 of 21 dry weather pumps and 99 of 99 drainage pumps.

D. Water Pumps

One water pump at the Carrollton plant is out of service. The potable water pumps are scheduled for upgrades in 2020; therefore, minimal investment for repairs will be made, and the pump will be serviced for short-term use.

E. Elevated Water Towers

Both elevated water towers at the SWBNO water plant located on Claiborne Avenue are complete and operating. A ribbon-cutting announcement is forthcoming.

F. Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

SWBNO submitted a letter of interest (Attachment 1) in August to the EPA for funding under the WIFIA. On October 22, 2019, the EPA approved SWBNO to take part in the financing opportunity to upgrade the sewer system. According to the press release, SWBNO and the EPA will negotiate the technical terms of the loan arrangement with a goal to release the first funding in mid-2020. The press release may be found [here](#).