



MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers
From: CURO
By: Shannon Blanks
CC: Paul Harang and Anita Curran
Date: January 18, 2022
RE: SWBNO Meeting 12.15.2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met Wednesday, December 15, 2021, via video and teleconference. In addition, the Board received updates on the general standing of the SWBNO. The complete packet for the meeting may be found [here](#).

Mayor Cantrell opened the meeting. She reported that several federal programs are available to provide financial resources to improve municipal infrastructure. Conversations with local, state, and federal partners are underway.

Inauguration for the mayor and the New Orleans City Council (NOCC) is scheduled for January 10th. Potentially two new SWBNO board members will join with the new incoming council. One member to represent Council District B and one member of the NOCC.

The City of New Orleans, NOCC, SWBNO, and Entergy New Orleans (ENO) continue to meet and develop the funding strategy for SWBNO's power stabilization.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Korban gave an end-of-year presentation highlighting some of the accomplishments of the utility and the status of the power and drainage assets.

A. Water Distribution Services-

- [1] *Network Maintenance* - Over twelve thousand maintenance work orders have been addressed, reducing the backlog by 20 percent. The work orders include servicing water meters, hydrants, and valves.
- [2] *Water Treatment* - SWBNO treated 56 billion gallons of water for drinking,
- [3] *Water Quality Testing* - Over one hundred thousand water quality analyses were performed on over 20 thousand samples citywide.

- [4] Lead Testing - Over 100 lead testing kits were distributed to customers across the city. Lead testing kits are distributed by request, and customers may request a kit by emailing Waterinfo@swbno.org.

B. Wastewater Collection and Treatment

- [1] Network Maintenance - Over ten thousand maintenance work orders have been addressed. The work orders include cleaning and inspecting sewer mains and repairing manholes.
- [2] Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) - A \$275 million federal WIFIA loan was secured, saving customers approximately \$100 million in interest costs.

C. Joint Infrastructure Recovery Roads Program (JIRR)

SWBNO has been working collaboratively with the Department of Public Works, advancing 16 sewer and water replacement projects to their subsequent phases. Mayor Cantrell reports that over 50 percent of the projects are complete.

D. Power

- [1] Turbine 1 "T1" - Offline due to vacuum issues. The repair is underway.
- [2] Turbine 4 "T4" - Successfully rehabbed in 2021 and is online and available for use.
- [3] Turbine 5 "T5" - Successfully rehabbed in 2021; however, it is offline due to a valve issue covered under warranty.
- [4] Turbine 6 "T6" - Online and available for use. The unit has been winterized and is available for use below 45° F.
- [5] Turbine 7 - A request for proposals (RFP) was issued on December 15, 2021.
- [6] Frequency Changer - The frequency changer for T7 is procured.
- [7] Substation - The site preparations for the substation are 90% complete.

E. Drainage

- [1] Green Infrastructure - Green infrastructure installations retained over 304,600 gallons of stormwater in each significant rain event.

Four drainage pumps are offline for repairs.

- [2] DPS 6 (Carrollton/Lakeview)-
- "I" pump (1100 CFS) - Offline and will be out of service for several months.
 - "F" pump (1100 CFS) - Repairs are complete. The unit is being tested and is expected to return to service in December.
- [3] DPS 12 (Lakeview) - D pump (1000 CFS) the unit is being tested and is expected to be in service in December.
- [4] DPS 14 (NO East) - Number 4 pump (300 CFS) is under repair; the return to service date is not yet determined.

F. Customer Service

[1] *Restructuring* - Customer service functions were elevated to the executive team. SWBNO created and filled the chief of customer service position with Mr. Rene Gonzales.

[2] *Plumbing Department* - The plumbing department is now under the purview of the customer service department.

G. Strategic Plan

The five-year strategic plan is complete. A presentation to the Board is forthcoming.

H. Smart Metering Program

A system-wide water meter inventory is complete. SWBNO issued an RFP to acquire smart metering infrastructure-related products, software, and citywide installation and implementation services. The RFP may be found [here](#).