



MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers
From: CURO
By: Shannon Oldfield
CC: David Gavlinski, Eric Granderson, and Theresa Becher
Date: September 5, 2019
RE: SWBNO Meeting 8.21.19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met Wednesday, August 21, 2019. The full packet for the meeting can be found [here](#). The Board received updates on the general standing of the Sewerage and Water Board.

The board of Liquidation met August 20th and approved the sale of \$25 Million in Sewerage Service Revenue Bonds for 2019. A \$500 Million Bond Authorization for infrastructure, drainage, affordable housing, and capital improvements for 2020 was also approved and the initiative will go before voters on November 16, 2019.

The Executive Director's Report

A. Drainage Pump Station (DPS)

SWBNO owns and operates 120 drainage pumps throughout the City of New Orleans. 21 pumps are constant duty pumps which manage the groundwater in the canals during dry weather. 99 pumps are drainage pumps and are used to transport storm water. 98 of the 99 drainage pumps are fully operational. One pump located in New Orleans East remains offline and is under evaluation. The date this pump is to be returned to service is to be determined.

B. Power

SWBNO is able to self-generate enough power to meet and exceed peak demands. The additional power generation capacity provides redundancy in the system in the event of an unscheduled outage. Turbine 6 was possibly struck by lightning at the beginning August but was returned to service August 21, 2019.

C. Elevated Water Towers

The second elevated water tower at SWBNO water plant located on Claiborne Ave is complete. The tower operations are undergoing final testing procedures. The towers have the ability to provide an additional 20 to 40 minutes of system pressure, depending on the severity of the pressure drop. This additional pressure allows time for modifications to be made in efforts to avoid "boil water" advisories. SWBNO will announce when the tower is fully operational and in service.

D. Flood Events

Executive Director Ghassan Korban presented slides showing flooding in other urban cities in the country. He went on to explain that New Orleans requires all storm water be mechanically removed via the drainage network and pumps and therefore New Orleans is able to drain its storm water much quicker than other cities in the country.

SWBNO is assessing portions of the drainage network to evaluate possible obstructions. On August 20, SWBNO evaluated a portion of the subsurface drainage canals located at Jefferson Davis Pkwy and Conti. This assessment revealed large amounts of debris including but not limited to a vehicle. On August 22, this vehicle was removed. SWBNO has continued canal assessments and cleaning. According to the press conference on September 3, 2019, Korban reported that 500 tons of debris had been removed from approximately 3 miles of a canal extending from S. Jefferson Davis Pkwy toward City Park; however, an estimated 20,000 tons of debris remain.

The Army Corp of Engineers and SWBNO are collaborating to evaluate the functionality of the new drainage canals constructed in the city. Analyses are being conducted to determine the benefits of the projects and if any adverse effects from these projects are contributing to localized street flooding. The results of the evaluations are expected to be shared at the September 18, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

Currently, the Administration is developing building code ordinances to evaluate construction practices related to storm water management. These studies will evaluate the impacts of construction of University Medical Center and the VA hospital.

E. Cross Connection Pump Modifications

Potable water Pump B has been changed to operate on Entergy supplied power. Pump A has undergone modifications and is scheduled to operate on Entergy power as well. SWBNO has changed policy and has elected to reduce the use of power turbines T1 and T3 with the intent to make them obsolete. In an effort to reduce the cross connection at T4, cooled water will get recirculated back for treatment and testing. Turbine 5 cooling bundles are detached and spent water gets discharged to the storm drain. The cooling of T5 may be modified in the future to use an air cooling system. These modifications to power and cooling will eliminate the cross connection issue.