



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Councilmembers  
**From:** CURO  
**By:** Shannon Blanks  
**CC:** Paul Harang and Theresa Becher  
**Date:** April 26, 2021  
**RE:** SWBNO Meeting 04.21.2021

---

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors (the Board) met Wednesday, April 21, 2021, via video and teleconference. The complete packet for the meeting may be found [here](#). The Board received updates on the general standing of SWBNO.

The agenda was read aloud by SWBNO Counsel Yolanda Grinstead.

Mayor Cantrell opened the meeting with an update to announce the ribbon-cutting event for the Pontilly Neighborhood Stormwater Network project on April 21, 2021. This project includes interventions throughout the neighborhood and enhancing Dwyer Canal to increase storage capacity and improve drainage. The project will reduce flooding and subsidence and improve stormwater water quality. Additional information may be found [here](#).

### Executive Director Report

#### **A. Meter Reading**

SWBNO collected actual readings on 79 percent of meters in April 2021. The increase is a result of the expansion of the meter reading department and the mobilization of the recently trained staff.

SWBNO has filled 58 of the 60 positions in the meter reading department. SWBNO continues to advertise to fill any vacant positions in the department.

Citywide water meter surveys will begin in May 2021. The survey will support the advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) project. SWBNO intends to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to furnish and install AMI at the end of 2021.

#### **B. Power**

Substation Site Prep – The site work continues to progress and is on schedule for completion in November 2021.

Turbine 4 ("T4") – Out of Service. The unit is undergoing testing and is on schedule to return to service in May 2021.

Turbine 5("T5") – Out of Service. The unit is on schedule to return to service in June 2021.

According to SWBNO, the anticipated completion of T4 and T5 will significantly reduce the noise near the Carrollton Water Plant and provide relief to the neighboring community.

### **C. Severe Weather**

Between April 10 and April 17, the National Weather Service issued several severe thunderstorm and flood warnings for Orleans Parish. The weather system produced virtually continual rain, and rainfall intensity reached more than 6 inches per hour during some of the heaviest storms. No widespread flooding was experienced, and minimal localized street flooding was reported during the events.

### **D. Funding Opportunities**

State –The state legislative session convened on Monday, April 12, 2021, with final adjournment scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2021. SWBNO is actively tracking and communicating with the authors of any bills which may impact the organization.

Federal –The federal government is introducing "The American Jobs Plan," which includes significant investments in infrastructure. SWBNO continues to communicate with municipal, state, and federal partners to take advantage of any funding opportunities. The American Jobs Plan fact sheet for Louisiana may be found [here](#).

### **E. Communications**

SWBNO is contracting with HDR Engineering Inc. to support public relations. The firm will be responsible for communicating the SWBNO's efforts to the public and running education campaigns.