

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 6, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) was held on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at the Sewerage & Water Board, 2nd Floor Board Room, 625 St. Joseph Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The following members were present:

1. Paul Flower, Chair
2. Neil Abramson, Secretary
3. Bill Hammack
4. Karen Raymond
5. Elisa Speranza
6. Lewis Stirling
7. Casey Tingle

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Agenda

The agenda was presented and unanimously approved.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 5, 2019 regular meeting were presented, and no corrections were offered. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentations

Robert Turner, General Superintendent, Sewerage & Water Board (S&WB), reported on the status of Turbine 5 (T5). T5 suffered an explosion in the combustion chamber on December 14, 2019. S&WB is in the process of evaluating the damage and has hired a consultant to determine the cause of the explosion. The investigation could take up to a year to complete, and there is no expectation T5 will be placed back into service anytime soon. S&WB has increased inspections of other turbines and plans to rely on Turbine 6 for backup power generation. In order to ensure sufficient electricity is available at all times, the purchase and installation of frequency converters has become a priority for S&WB.

Chris Saucier, Project Analyst, City of New Orleans, updated the IAB on funding expected as part of the Fair Share Agreement. As of February 6, \$35.6 million in one-time funds had been transferred to the city, and the 1% hotel tax had produced \$2.5 million in recurring revenue in its first four months of implementation, with lower-than-projected numbers reported for December due to the cyberattack. Local privilege tax revenues that currently go to the New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation (NOTMC) were expected to be redirected to the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund. However, following in-house legal analysis, the Administration determined that the local privilege tax must be used for tourism promotion and decided to reconstitute NOTMC as the New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund. NOTMC is scheduled to vote on the necessary changes to its articles and bylaws on February 10. The Downtown Development District (DDD), which approved \$2.5 million for infrastructure projects, is still in negotiations with the city of New Orleans on a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to govern how the funds will be accessed by the city. An ordinance governing collection of the Short-Term Rental equalization tax has not yet passed City Council.

S&WB Proposed Projects and Priorities

The IAB reviewed a list of proposed projects to be funded through the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund. The list included: automated water metering infrastructure, underground drainage canal inspection, development of a Master Plan, continuing renovations to the Sycamore Filter Gallery, and eliminating the cross-connection between turbine cooling and drinking water. Which projects are funded and to what degree is contingent upon the revenues received into the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund as a result of the Fair Share Agreement.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.