

**Minutes Of  
Engineering And Maintenance Committee Meeting  
Of The Water Works Board  
Of The City Of Birmingham  
March 1, 2017**

An Engineering and Maintenance Committee Meeting of The Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 11:30 a.m., in the principal office of the Board, 3600 First Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama, 35222, to discuss engineering and maintenance issues.

The following Committee members were present: Brett A. King and Sherry W. Lewis. Also present were Board members: Tommy Joe Alexander, Deborah Clark, William “Butch” Burbage, Jr., Brenda J. Dickerson and George Munchus, who do not serve on the Committee.

The meeting was also attended by: Mac Underwood, General Manager; T. M. “Sonny” Jones, Assistant General Manager of Engineering and Maintenance; Darryl R. Jones, Assistant General Manager of Operations and Technical Services; Michael Johnson, Assistant General Manager of Finance and Administration; Mark Parnell and Mary Thompson, Parnell Thompson, LLC; Jerry Jones, ARCADIS; David Merrida and Michael Bell, Birmingham Construction Industry Authority; Theo Johnson, Volkert & Associates, Inc.; Dorian Kendrick and Daniel Rumley, The Lewis Group; John Ray, KHAFRA; L’Tryce Slade, Slade Contracting, LLC; two Birmingham City Police officers; George Anderson, IT Manager; Roger Hicks, Water Resources Manager; Doug Stockham, System Development Manager; Ben Sorrell, Chief Engineer; Terrell Jones, Security Superintendent; Rick Jackson, Public Relations Specialist; Greg Henslee, Water Resources Superintendent; Grace Amison, Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors; Tammy Wilson, Executive Assistant to T. M. “Sonny” Jones and Darryl R. Jones.

Chair of the Committee, Director Brett King called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. General Manager, Mac Underwood opened the meeting with prayer remembering Board member Ron Mims as he recovers from recent surgery. Chairwoman Lewis reminded the Committee that only the Engineering and Maintenance Committee members have a vote, but all are welcome to join in on the agenda item discussions.

Following, agenda item 1 was a request for the Committee to hear a presentation on alternatives for a new Board Room. John Ray, KHAFRA senior architect, gave a presentation outlining possible options for accommodating the newly expanded Board. Mr. Ray identified two areas as potential locations for the expanded Board Room. The first option expands the existing Board Room on the second floor. This location would require significant HVAC, electrical and plumbing work. The second option renovates the existing Training Room on the ground floor to accommodate Board Meetings and Training Sessions. No additional HVAC work would be needed; however some electrical work would be needed. The A/V work required would be equivalent to what would be needed for the first option. Mr. Ray added that a majority of the previous

Board was in favor of expanding the second floor Board Room. Mr. Ray described two design approaches for the Board Room. A flexible design approach with modular furnishings that adapt to the functional needs; and the less flexible and more expensive approach, which would be a permanent design with a fixed, raised dais designed specifically for Board Meetings like you typically see in city council meeting rooms. The latter was the preferred approach of the previous Board. Chairwoman Lewis voiced that she favored keeping the Board Room on the second floor but getting the costs down to accommodate the expanded Board. Additionally Chairwoman Lewis had concerns with the disruption it will cause to Birmingham Water Works Board (BWVB) training if meetings are permanently moved to the ground floor Training Room. AGM, Michael Johnson stated there were significant issues relating to the Board Room being moved to the existing Training Room space as it interferes with the ongoing BWVB training schedule. Additional discussion took place surrounding the number of guests that attend meetings. Mr. Ray stated he had performed an unofficial count of guests at past Board Meetings and there is an average of 20 to 24 guests per meeting. Some more discussion took place regarding possibly moving the training classes to a different area on campus. It was determined that there was not another existing space large enough to accommodate the needs of the Training Department. Board Room expansion diagrams of possible layouts were displayed to the Committee along with examples of modular furniture options. The probable Option A cost using modular furnishings and other upgrades is \$127,500. The probable Option B cost using a fixed dais and other upgrades is \$182,500. More discussion came when Director Munchus stated he did not see anything wrong with having the Board Meetings in the Training Room. Chairwoman Lewis stated again that this interferes with the Training Room's ongoing scheduling which includes outside instructors. GM Underwood explained that a half day is spent getting the Training Room set up for a Board Meeting with 6 to 8 people taking time out of their day and then cleaning up and setting it back up for the Training Room immediately following the meeting. Director Munchus stated the employees were being paid to do this though. Chairwoman Lewis stated it was taking too much time away from their regular job duties. Director Alexander recommended listening to Staff to best determine their needs. Chairwoman Lewis said she is a stickler for not interrupting the day to day operations of employees. GM Underwood added that Staff had looked into possibly moving the Board Room off the Lobby area to the right where considerable renovation would need to be done. AGM Darryl Jones stated there would be several advantages to having the Board Room off the lobby area regarding security detail and using it for bid openings as well. AGM Sonny Jones stated all options are doable. Director King suggested trying the first Board Meeting in March in the existing Board Room to see if it is workable and then re-visiting the issue. The other Directors concurred.

Next, item 2 was a request for the Committee to approve a bid award from Russo Corporation for a pipeline project for Carson Loop Phase 6C. AGM, Sonny Jones referred to a display map board showing the location of the entire Carson Loop Project which began in the 1990's to move water from the north to the south. The small section referred to as Phase 6C is near The Outlet Shops of Grand River in Leeds. Sonny Jones explained that this is a simple phase which would place 2,735' of 36" DICL pipe in the ground. Some discussion occurred surrounding Phase 6D which is another phase, yet to

be bid and completed, that would cross the Cahaba River. Director Munchus asked if Phase 6C was an emergency project. GM Underwood explained that this project was bid in December of 2016 and is ready to be awarded. Director Munchus stated he was referring to the entire project. GM Underwood stated during a drought emergency it would be an emergency project. Director Munchus stated the project was tabled at the last Board Meeting due to low minority participation at 5.7%, adding that Rast Construction with a bid of \$249,000 more than Russo Corporation should be considered due to their minority participation percentage numbers being higher at 22.2%, due to Tony Jones providing labor for the project. Director Munchus provided a one-page handout (a copy of which is on file with the Committee meeting book) to the Committee members and Staff of System Development's summary sheet on the Carson Loop 6C project. Director Munchus invited Birmingham Construction Industry Authority (BCIA) representative Michael Bell to address the Committee regarding BCIA's program with the BWWB and how it was working. Mr. Bell explained that the program was originally a disadvantaged business program so it had changed slightly. The firmness and commitment is missing from the individual contractors in his opinion Mr. Bell stated. GM Underwood told the Board members if they wanted to eliminate the lowest responsible and responsible bidder and move to the second bidder at a cost of \$249,000 more, it would be the Board's decision. Director Alexander stated he could not support voting to spend \$249,000 more and passing this cost on to the ratepayer. The Shades Mountain Filter Plant project was placed on hold last year, which had similar issues, before the current Board came on and the estimate to re-bid this project could exceed an additional \$4 million according to Director King. Additionally Director King stated he would not be in favor of considering HUB's as a component to a responsive bidder. Director King added that it was his understanding that it is state law to award a contract to the low bidder. Director Munchus stressed the importance of getting young black men back in the work force. Mr. Bell stated he did not believe there was a correlation between contractors and BWWB ratepayers. Chairwoman Lewis said the Board gets all of its money from the ratepayers. Director Burbage spoke to the comment regarding ratepayers that Mr. Bell made. Director Burbage stated that everything this Board does goes back to the ratepayers and it is incorrect to say costs incurred do not get passed on to the ratepayers. Mr. Bell stated this is an economic development program and not a ratepayer program. Director Alexander stated he was certainly in favor of putting people to work. Director Munchus appealed to the Committee to look at his perspective and to consider this as an investment. GM Underwood suggested placing this item on the next Board agenda and if there are problems with BWWB's current HUB program it can be re-written and Staff will comply. Director King recommended that this item be brought before the next Board Meeting even though he would not be present.

Following, Item 3 was a request for the Committee to hear a presentation regarding a proposal for a planned water release from the Inland Lake Reservoir for a kayaking event later in the summer at no cost to the BWWB if the lake level at Inland Lake is at least 90% full. AGM Darryl Jones provided a handout of system data dated March 1, 2017 along with non-potable water rates to the Committee members (a copy of which is on file with the Committee meeting book). Normally the lake is full this time of year, but right now the lake is about 10.9 feet down at Inland Lake according to Darryl Jones. Full

capacity at Inland Lake is 20.4 billion gallons according to Darryl Jones. Data in the handout on Inland Lake was discussed. Birmingham is in Zone 2, the Appalachian Mountain Division, within our state, and 7.86 inches of rain is needed to fully move out of the Stage 2 Drought Advisory. Darryl Jones stated if we have an eight-hour release based on what was requested that would be about 65 million gallons of water. Darryl Jones said if it is a ten-hour release it would be about 81 million gallons and if it is a twelve-hour release it would be about 97 million gallons. If Inland Lake is within 5 feet of being full that means the BWWB lacks about 1.95 billion gallons of water which could be anywhere from 37 to 65 days of capacity. It is uncertain how much rainfall there will be in March and April this year. Water was actually released from the Inland Lake Reservoir in 2012 to conduct inspection testing for possible failure. Chairwoman Lewis asked everyone to remember that we are in a drought now and in 2012 we were not in a drought situation. Darryl Jones stated the target is for the lake to be full by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairwoman Lewis asked what the cost is to do this, as there has to be a cost associated with it. Director King suggested this could be used as a part of our valve exercise since the valves are exercised on a regular basis. Some discussion occurred surrounding the 2016 – 2017 Drought Advisory with Darryl Jones confirming that the low levels at Lake Purdy, not Inland Lake drove the drought conditions during this period. Inland Lake never drove that crisis. Director King explained that a draft resolution (a copy of which is on file with the Committee meeting book) states that the BWWB Engineering Staff will coordinate with Board Member King to facilitate a four-hour test release of water on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at various flow rates from the Inland Lake Reservoir into the Blackburn Fork of the Warrior River. Should no problems be encountered, the BWWB will release water at optimal rates on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> for periods of time not to exceed eight hours each day. Releases will only occur if the reservoir is within five feet of full pool prior to beginning discharge and these releases are subject to cancellation based on any emergency conditions. Chairwoman Lewis asked about the cost again. Jerry Jones of ARCADIS stated he wanted to make two points; you can do a quick probability of the lake refilling and it is \$1,200 per million of raw water that would be associated with the value, as Darryl Jones shows on his handout. Chairwoman Lewis asked the Committee to consider that we are asking customers to conserve water right now and for the BWWB to release water is counter to that. Director Dickerson asked AGM Darryl Jones for his expert opinion. Darryl Jones stated he preferred that Inland Lake be full before a planned release of water. It is very probable that Inland Lake will recharge according to Director King. Some discussion occurred surrounding the proposed exercise as a Public Relations event. Darryl Jones stated for Stage Two of the Drought Advisory to be lifted Lake Purdy has to be full. The Committee agreed to discuss this issue further and to watch the Inland Lake levels closely in the next two weeks. It was confirmed that the proposed test date would be April 22, 2017 and the proposed release dates would be May 6 and May 7, 2017 at Inland Lake. Chairwoman Lewis suggested that something be placed in the resolution regarding Lake Purdy levels as well. Darryl Jones reminded the Committee whatever BWWB does in May 2017 that the results of these actions may not show up until November 2017. Director King stated the Board could address the proposed resolution at the next Board meeting, March 16, 2017; however he would not be present for that meeting. Mac Underwood stated one of the next couple of Board Meetings should provide an opportunity to address the issue again.

Next, Item 4 was a request for the Committee to hear a presentation regarding sinkholes at Lake Purdy. Chief Engineer, Ben Sorrell provided a handout with diagrams and photographs to illustrate the sinkhole issue at Shephard Branch (a copy of which is on file with the Committee meeting book). Mr. Sorrell explained that this is the general area where wells were drilled in the past, adding that a low spot in the ridge is where the sinking is taking place. Director Munchus asked Staff to include Jerry Jones of ARCADIS on these types of issues. Ben Sorrell explained how the sinkholes are formed. The area was discovered by BWWB's raw water personnel and it has been blocked off so there is no danger to the public. Ben Sorrell stated Staff would be hiring a Geotechnical Engineer to determine the extent of the damage. Chairwoman Lewis reiterated what Director Munchus expressed, that ARCADIS, the Board's independent engineer be involved with the issue. Ben Sorrell stated that the BWWB engineering staff of 15-18 people along with the geologist on staff, Geoff Goodwin have been investigating and will be reporting to the independent engineer for his opinion; however Staff wanted to bring this to the Board as soon as possible. Chairwoman Lewis asked them to work together as a team.

Following, Item 5 was a request for the Committee to hear a presentation regarding the on-call contractor bid. AGM Sonny Jones addressed the Committee concerning current Board policy regarding outside leaks and on-call contractors. AGM Sonny Jones explained that after 2014 under past Chairman, Jackie Robinson, a resolution was passed to rotate the on-call contractor work between three contractors, with each receiving a third of the work. Sonny Jones stated it is very hard to keep three contractors busy. Chairwoman Lewis concurred adding that this method causes confusion and the Board needs to get the best work at the lowest price. Chairwoman Lewis stated if a company is the lowest bidder yet higher bidders are awarded the same amount of work, it is not fair to the low bidder. Director Munchus stated that rotating the contractors promotes competition and economic development though. Chairwoman Lewis stated the Board cannot award higher bidders contracts because the Board has to look at costs. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the ratepayer, Chairwoman Lewis stated. Chairwoman Lewis suggested that BCIA schedule a meeting with her to discuss any concerns they have. Director Munchus suggested leveraging BWWB dollars with private sector dollars for needed HUB training. Director Munchus stated that we have access to people in Washington that he believed would help with this cause. Chairwoman Lewis recommended that BCIA be proactive and keep up with what is going on adding that it is not Staff's responsibility to keep them informed all of the time. Director King suggested another Engineering and Maintenance Committee Meeting be called next month.

As there was no further business to be brought before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

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Mac Underwood  
General Manager

/s/

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Brett A. King, Esq.  
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/

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Sherry W. Lewis  
Chairwoman/President