

**Minutes Of  
Engineering And Maintenance Committee Meeting  
Of The Water Works Board  
Of The City Of Birmingham  
May 14, 2019**

An Engineering and Maintenance Committee Meeting of The Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham was held Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 11:30 a.m., at the Birmingham Water Works Board, 3600 First Avenue North, to discuss engineering and maintenance issues.

The following Committee members were present: Brett A. King, Brenda J. Dickerson and Sherry W. Lewis; Ronald A. Mims was absent. Other Board Members present who do not serve on the Committee were: Tommy Joe Alexander, William R. Muhammad, George Munchus and Deborah Clark.

The meeting was also attended by: Michael Johnson, General Manager; T. M. "Sonny" Jones, Assistant General Manager of Engineering and Maintenance; Grace Amison, Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors; Tammy Wilson, Executive Assistant to T. M. "Sonny" Jones; Rick Jackson, Public Relations Specialist; George Anderson, Information Technology Manager; Drusilla Hudson, EnviroLab/Water Quality Manager; Will Moore, Water Quality Superintendent; John Reymann, Electrical and Maintenance Manager; Stephen Franks, Principal Engineer; Doug Stockham, System Development Manager; Mary Thompson, Parnell Thompson, LLC; Kelvin Howard, Kelvin Howard, LLC; Kirk Mills and Theo Johnson, Volkert; Brian Ruggs and Patrick Flannelly, ARCADIS; Tommy Palladino, Agency 54; Chandra Abesingha, CE Associates; Kim Bivins and Michael Bell, BCIA; Melissa Auston, Attorney General Office; Andrei Pettus, E. W. Moon; Mauricka McKenzie, Wayne Hodo and Kang Du, Cornerstone Engineering.

Chair of the Committee, Brett A. King called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. George Anderson, Information Technology Manager opened the meeting with prayer.

Following, General Manager Michael Johnson addressed item 3, which was a recommendation to award bids to the lowest responsible and responsive bidders for 27 light-weight replacement vehicles for a total out-of-pocket cost to the Board of \$708,752.00. GM Johnson stated there was a presentation in Diligent to support the need for replacement of these vehicles. Director Munchus asked if the expenditure was in the budget. GM Johnson responded yes. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board.

Next, GM Johnson asked Will Moore, Water Quality Superintendent, to explain item 4, a recommendation to award bids to the lowest responsible and responsive bidders for 15 sampling station installations for a total out-of-pocket cost to the Board of \$85,200.00. Mr. Moore stated the EnviroLab collects samples used for water quality at these stations. The locations also serve to flush and purify Mr. Moore added. Director

Munchus asked if this was an ADEM requirement. Mr. Moore responded that some of the locations are compliance related, but not all are. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board.

Following, GM Johnson asked the Committee to consider moving a request to take bids for positive displacement meters to be used throughout the Birmingham Water Works (BWW) System to the Board, as set forth in agenda item 5. Director Lewis asked what kind of meter this is. Assistant General Manager, Sonny Jones responded that these are to replace the current stock, adding they are the least technologically advanced costing approximately \$25.00 each. Some discussion occurred regarding different types of meters. AGM Sonny Jones stated Staff is doing an analysis of other meters. Director Dickerson asked how much we are planning to spend. AGM Sonny Jones stated in 2015 the company spent \$514,000.00, adding he expected the cost to be around \$600,00.00 for the 2019 bid. Director Lewis stated the new technology in meters is being talked about at conferences. GM Johnson added that there is a test process for new meters as part of the request for bids from the manufacturers and those results can be shared with the Board at that time. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board.

Next, AGM Sonny Jones asked the Committee to consider moving a request to approve expenditures with WEG Electric Corporation/Electric Machinery Company, Inc. to repair a motor at the Cahaba Pump Station, which is Sole Source with legal having reviewed it. John Reymann, Electrical and Maintenance Manager, explained that this pump is critical to pumping water to the Shades Mountain Filter Plant (SMFP). Director Munchus asked where this company is located. Mr. Reymann responded, Minneapolis, MN. AGM Sonny Jones thanked Mr. Reymann noting that he is retiring next month after 30 years of service with the Board. His replacement will be Casey Rogers, who has been in training for some time. Director Lewis thanked Mr. Reymann for his expertise and years of service. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board.

Following, GM Johnson asked the Committee to consider moving a request to approve the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus and applicable accessories from Municipal Emergency Services, at an out-of-pocket cost to the Board of \$153,492.48. GM Johnson stated these are used at the SMFP where the chemical incident occurred. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board.

Next, Director King asked to move into the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program presentation, as set forth in agenda item 2. Director Lewis suggested the presentation be given in full and all questions be held until the conclusion. A handout was provided to the Committee (a copy of which is on file with the Committee meeting book). GM Johnson pointed out the "Message Platform" document in which the major themes are: 1) Supplier Diversity programs improve our local and regional economy, 2) Economic Diversity and growth in Birmingham means increased prosperity for our region's residents and businesses, and 3) BWWB is committed to working with local and regional companies

that promote inclusivity. GM Johnson stated when the program is finalized it will be shared with vendors who attend the pre-bid conferences. Ed Travis, Purchasing Manager gave an overview of the BWWB's HUB Program which includes Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) and Veteran Owned Business Enterprise (VBE) categories. Goals of the HUB Program include ensuring nondiscrimination in the award and administration of BWWB contracts, removing barriers for the participation of HUB firms in receiving BWWB contracts and creating a level playing field on which HUB firms can compete fairly for BWWB contracts. Percentage reports are produced quarterly GM Johnson stated. The bid solicitation process was briefly discussed as well as the design phase, pre-bid and bid phases for each department. Doug Stockham, System Development Manager talked about strategies System Development has implemented to enhance HUB participation. In advance of projects hitting the newspapers the project is shared with Birmingham Construction Industry Authority (BCIA), so they can begin compiling a list of sub-contractors. Any of the sub-contractors at the per-bid conference can talk with contractors during that time according to Mr. Stockham. The low bidder must adhere to the bid requirements. Mr. Stockham added that System Development determines if any additional HUB opportunities exist after the bid is opened. Steve Franks, Principal Engineer stated that the Engineering Department stresses heavily that all HUB documents are to be completed. If the vendor does not contact BCIA, the Engineering Department will get them involved. Rick Jackson, Public Relations Specialist stated Staff worked with Agency 54 to give the HUB Program a face-lift. The Public Relations Department strategies to enhance HUB participation include advertising on radio, social media and various newspapers. Mr. Jackson stated BWWB has introduced the HUB brochure to introduce or reintroduce the public to the program. Kim Bivins, with BCIA talked about coordinated strategies to enhance HUB participation including the receipt and evaluation of scopes of work from System Development, Engineering and Purchasing before the projects are advertised, identifying HUB contractors and subcontractors best qualified based upon BWWB project requirements, receiving hard copy of bid packages the day of advertising, reaching out to potential contractors to encourage participation prior to the pre-bid conference, encouraging HUB subcontractors to attend the pre-bid conference to let prospective bidders know of services offered by their company, working closely with GCs and HUBs who have expressed interest in a project and working with apparent low bidders prior to the award to determine if there are additional HUB opportunities based on the scope of work. BCIA reviews and monitors BWWB bids for HUB compliance, provides support to Board and Staff, identifies and certifies contractors, provides technical assistance to contractors for compliance, advertises all BWWB construction opportunities, monitors BWWB HUB utilization data per projects via internal and external reporting, reviews bids for "good faith effort" to comply with guidelines and works with providers to deliver training and educational workshops to enhance business skills. Types of workshops BCIA offers free of charge were highlighted. Ed Travis talked about determining responsible and responsive bidders. GM Johnson stated there is an Audit Clause included in all contracts that will give BWWB the ability to go out and verify the HUB participation. Mr. Travis shared the various resources used to identify HUB participation and HUB workshops and events that are held throughout the year. Organizational memberships BWWB uses to advertise projects were talked about. Recent BWWB legislative measures

scheduled to be submitted for action in Montgomery are provisions for local preferences and increases in the Competitive Bid Laws and Public Works Law threshold. Director King asked how the Committee wanted to address any questions, adding that Director Dickerson would need to leave the meeting early and there would not be a quorum. Director Dickerson stated she would like to review all the material first. Director Lewis stated we could get some questions answered today. Director Muhammad asked who is going to verify HUB participation. AGM Sonny Jones stated the project department and BCIA would be responsible for verification. Director Muhammad asked who would verify the work is actually being done by the HUB. Director Lewis asked who at BWWB is reviewing this information. GM Johnson stated Staff is proposing an Audit Clause to verify the information and BCIA is working for us in conjunction with that. Some discussion occurred regarding someone internally being held accountable for verification. The Assistant General Manager of Engineering and Maintenance and the General Manager would ultimately be held responsible GM Johnson stated. Director Clark asked how long Staff has been trying to achieve 30% participation. Mr. Travis responded, that the program was initiated in 2015. Director Clark stated this is unacceptable. Director Clark stated this gives the impression that the entire program needs an enema. Director Dickerson departed the meeting at 12:28 p.m. Director Clark stated possibly job performance needed to be tied to this because there has not been a “good faith effort”. Director Muhammad stated he could do this internal job in lieu of his disability lawsuit. Director Muhammad stated it was his opinion that the previous General Manager did not care about the HUB program. Director Muhammad stated he was willing to give GM Johnson an opportunity to build this program and it seems the current program is benefitting white-women, so it is not working. Director Muhammad stated he is willing to flush it. Some discussion occurred regarding what a HUB is. Director Clark stated the program needs to be reviewed. Director Lewis stated the Board has specialized work and our Training Department should be expanding to help others that are disadvantaged. Director Lewis suggested reviewing other cities plans to see how they are doing things. Director Munchus stated the key is to have joint ventures because black and white make green. Director Munchus also stated that he believed internal Staff did not have the intestinal fortitude to do the right thing therefore; he believed an outside entity would be better. Director Lewis stated she noticed BWWB and BCIA are doing duplicate work. GM Johnson stated Staff is measuring where we are, and we are making efforts to consistently apply what is in the document to yield the results we are looking for. Director Munchus asked if we have an agreement with BCIA. GM Johnson stated BCIA is being paid \$2,000.00 per month. Director Lewis stated at one time it was more than that.

Following, Mauricka McKenzie with Cornerstone Engineering, LLC (Nehemiah Engineering in Alabama) gave a presentation, as set forth in agenda item 1. Mr. McKenzie stated his company is based in Clinton, MS. Over the past 4 months Mr. McKenzie stated he had met with Ben Sorrell, Michael Johnson and Sonny Jones. Director Alexander exited the meeting at 12:47 p.m. Mr. McKenzie stated his firm would like to have the opportunity to do business with the BWWB. Qualifications of Mr. McKenzie’s staff were mentioned. A company history was given along with their top 10 clients. Director Alexander re-entered the meeting at 12:54 p.m. Cornerstone Engineering is licensed to do business in 8 states. Cornerstone is built on honesty and integrity Mr. McKenzie stated. Staff photos of

employees were shown to the Committee. The City of Jackson is their top client Mr. McKenzie stated. GM Johnson thanked Mr. McKenzie and stated some Committee members may want to ask him questions after the meeting.

As there was no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Johnson  
General Manager

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda J. Dickerson, Ph.D.  
Second-Vice Chairwoman/Second Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett A. King, Esq.  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry W. Lewis  
Director