

Minutes of the 914th Meeting
“Celebrating Over 60 Years of Continuous Environmental Excellence”
AlexRenew Board of Directors
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 16, 2024

On Tuesday, January 16, 2024, the AlexRenew Board of Directors held its regular meeting in the Edward Semonian Board Room at 1800 Limerick Street, and broadcast via Microsoft Teams, with the following present:

Members: Mr. John Hill, Chair
 Mr. James Beall, Vice Chair
 Ms. Adriana Caldarelli, Secretary-Treasurer via Microsoft Teams
 Mr. Mark Jinks, Member
 Ms. Becky Hammer, Member

Staff: Mr. Justin Carl, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
 Ms. Amanda Waters, General Counsel and Deputy General Manager
 Mr. Lake Akinkugbe, Director of Finance
 Mr. Matt Robertson, Director of Communications
 Ms. Lorna Huff, Executive Assistant to the Board

Consultants: Mr. Thierry Boveri, Raftelis
 Ms. Diana Ling, Raftelis

Fairfax County
Representative: Mr. Shahram Mohsenin, Chief
 Wastewater Division

City Representative: Ms. Erin Bevis-Carver, Chief
 T&ES/Sanitary Infrastructure Division

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested that members review and approve the agenda. Mr. Beall moved, and Ms. Hammer seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment Period

There being no members of the public present and wishing to speak, the Chair closed the public comment period.

4. Consent Agenda

Members reviewed the Consent Agenda which contained the Minutes of the December 19, 2023, meeting, and updates to the Board policy on Procedures for the Procurement of Construction Management and Design Build. There being no changes to the Minutes or Policy, the Chair requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Hammer moved, and Mr. Jinks seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

5. Member and Committee Updates

a. Community Meetings

The Chair reported that due to the proposed arena in Potomac Yard, there is not much discussion on AlexRenew items. The Chair noted some discussion in the HOA meetings in Rosemont and Del Ray. The Chair also provided some content to the discussion with the pump station.

b. Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Jinks reported that the February 12 meeting would begin the budget and rates process.

c. Governance Committee

Mr. Beall reported that he and the Finance Committee Chair would meet to discuss the updates to the Financial Policy.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Recap and Action Items from 2024 Board Retreat

The Chair reported the 2024 retreat was excellent in terms of productivity and collaboration. Members' Clifton Strengths survey results have been incorporated into the Board meeting set up. Members developed AlexRenew's 2060 Vision, Mission, and Goals statement. The document is succinct, and the Chair commended the facilitator (Ms. Sally Magee) and the process. The Chair recognized Mr. Beall, who reported no changes from the Governance Committee nor from other members. The Chair requested a motion to accept the 2060 Mission and Vision statement. Ms. Hammer moved and Mr. Beall seconded. The board unanimously approved. Mr. Carl reported on the next steps to bring strategies to the Board to show how the strategic goals will be implemented.

These strategies will be reflected in the documents that come before the Board and the new statement will be included in the Council Board Workgroup package.

7. New Business

a. Review AlexRenew's Winter Quarter Average

Mr. Carl reported that Raftelis would take a deep dive into the AlexRenew rate model at the February Finance and Audit Committee meeting. This presentation is designed to bring the new members up to speed on how the rate setting process works and the current policy for the winter quarter average. Five options for addressing concerns related to the winter quarter average and associated impacts to revenue were presented for Board consideration. Next steps include members reviewing the proposed options and making recommendations for the February 12 Finance and Audit Committee meeting. Changes would begin as part of the FY2025 Budget cycle.

The Chair inquired about whether ratepayers understand AlexRenew's winter quarter average. Mr. Robertson reported that most do not fully understand the policy. Members discussed the options and reported that if the impacts to revenue are minimal, that staff should select the option that provided the most equity among ratepayers. Mr. Boveri reported that changes to the policy will bring changes to the City's billing too.

b. Review Disconnection for Nonpayment Talking Points

The Chair recognized Mr. Carl who reviewed the process and the timing for customer disconnections. Mr. Carl reported that the initial funding goal for LEAP has been met. Staff is

ready to disperse funds and Dollar Energy will administer the program. There is \$15,000 in place with more expected. Mr. Robertson reviewed the policies in place that guide AlexRenew's process. He reported that disconnections have been suspended since 2020 and AlexRenew is behind most wastewater utilities in beginning the disconnection process. He reviewed the total number of delinquent accounts and noted that customers on payment plans would not be disconnected. He then reviewed the process for customer disconnections from the first delinquency notice and robocall. If the customer fails to respond to the notices, AlexRenew alerts Virginia American Water (VAW) who then disconnects service. Disconnection and reconnection fees are \$25 each. The Chair inquired how this would affect customers. Mr. Robertson reported that customers respond more quickly when disconnected. Mr. Akinkugbe concurred that disconnections will have the biggest impact. Disconnections will begin with the most delinquent customers, those that are a year or two in arrears. Mr. Jinks suggested beginning the disconnections in July at the beginning of AlexRenew's fiscal year. Mr. Beall inquired if the disconnection letters have a deadline and mention payment plans. The updated letters will include the LEAP program and eligibility requirements and payment plans. Board members discussed adding information on LEAP to the Council Board Workgroup package.

8. Monthly Outcomes Update

The Chair recognized Mr. Carl who reported on an increase in delinquencies due to delayed billing from the new contractor. Staff are working with the vendor to get caught up.

The funding goal for LEAP was reached.

Senate Bill 372 extending the CSO deadline was reported unanimously by the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

The final SAG (Stakeholder Advisory Group) meeting under the City Council is scheduled for January 18. The SAG then comes under AlexRenew's Board in March. Staff are also meeting with the Council Board Workgroup this month to discuss LEAP, disconnection talking points and the winter quarter average.

The Chair inquired if the end of the SAG should be recognized in some way. Mr. Carl reported that it is the same group moving forward. Ms. Yvonne Callahan left, and staff recognized her service. Her replacement was Mr. Larry Beam.

The tunnel boring machine is currently moving approximately 40 feet per day.

He noted that staff sent out talking points about the work at Pendleton Street which will also be noted in the Council Board Workgroup presentation.

AlexRenew's contractor will occupy the boardwalk between Union and Pendleton Streets. This was always planned but did not occur earlier to minimize impacts to the community. That space is also needed to connect into the outfall. Staff received one phone call about four trees that were taken down.

There being no additional business the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jinks moved, and Ms. Hammer seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



APPROVED:

Secretary-Treasurer