



# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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*Figure 1: CEO/Executive Director Andrew Smith of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority*

## **WAPA Governing Board Moves Forward with Approvals**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority’s (“WAPA” or “Authority”) Governing Board met yesterday and approved several items. Under the Planning and Economic Development Committee, the board approved a no cost time extension of twelve months and amended payment schedule for the Hannah's Rest Rehabilitation Project SC-02-23. The board also approved a change order cost increase of \$2,690,932.24 and time extension for the Campo Rico Waterline Rehabilitation Project SC-02-213 with an end date of April 28, 2025. Lastly, the board approved the Authority to award the Northside Road Waterline Rehabilitation Design contract to Stanley Consultants for \$6,450,000.00.

Under Finance and Audit Committee items, the board approved the Authority to amend the Composite Pole Project Contract SC-20-21 with Haugland Energy. This amendment will be for \$7,783,100.61 to accommodate the additional work needed to complete the project in St Thomas. This request also includes a time extension until July 31, 2024, to allow for completion. The board further approved the Authority to move forward with renewal of the 2024 Employee Benefits package.

Of note, the Governing Board has welcomed its newest board member, Lionel Selwood, Board Director and Chief Operating Officer at Auto Motive Power (AMP), who brings extensive experience in energy management and over 15 years of experience in the energy domain. “Mr. Selwood’s extensive industry experience will be a great benefit to the Authority, and I, along with the rest of the WAPA team look forward to working with Director Selwood as we build towards a better energy future for all Virgin Islanders,” noted CEO/Executive Director Andrew Smith.

“I am excited for the opportunity to partner with fellow board members and the leadership team at the Authority to further improve WAPA, and ultimately achieve a major reduction in rates for the people of the Virgin Islands,” stated Board Member Lionel Selwood.

Action was taken on Communication Matters. The votes are as follows: Chairman Fleming – Yes, Member Turnbull – Yes, Member Selwood – Abstained, Member Boynes-Jackson – Yes and Secretary Young-Abstained Vote: Three- Yes, Two – Abstain Vote: Motion carries.

*The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication’s department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.*

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**About WAPA:** The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.

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