



625 St. Joseph Street
New Orleans, LA 70165
504.529.2837 or 52.WATER

February 11, 2026

The Governance Committee met on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in the Executive Boardroom.
The meeting convened at approximately 9:53 a.m.

Present:

Director Courtney Scrubbs
Director Chadrick Kennedy
Director Janet Howard
Director Kimberly Thomas

Absent:

Director H. Davis Cole

Non-committee member(s):

Director Ariane Greenidge

PRESENTATION ITEM:

A. 2026 Legislative Session – Jamie Parker, Chief of Staff, SWBNO

Jamie Parker, SWBNO Chief of Staff presented an overview on five proposed legislative changes for the upcoming 2026 Louisiana Legislative Session.

- 1. Repeal language that would transfer SWBNO employees to State Civil Service.** As a continuation of 2025 legislation efforts, SWBNO is seeking a clean-up bill to repeal language that would transfer SWBNO employees to State Civil Service. Keeping employees in City Civil Service aligns with the desires of employees, which has been publicly supported by the Board of Directors.
- 2. Enable SWBNO to use public funding allocated for the lead service line project to replace lines located on private property.** This change would allow SWBNO to use public funds received to replace lead service lines located on private property, enabling the utility to comply with federal requirements that lines on both sides of the water meter are lead free.
- 3. Request the development and implementation of a formal process, based on best practices, for the City Council to evaluate water and sewer rate proposals.** SWBNO is seeking a formal process, developed in collaboration with the City Council, for the Council to hear and evaluate water and sewer rate proposals and make a decision in a timely manner.



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4. **Amend deadline to submit annual financial report to the City Council and allow SWBNO to post the report on the utility's website.** SWBNO seeks to amend the deadline its annual financial report is due to the City Council to align with the completion and publication of its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. SWBNO is also seeking to share the financial report on its website as a more cost-effective measure, instead of publishing in the official journal of the parish.
5. **Amend statutes to streamline and clarify SWBNO procurement procedures.** SWBNO seeks to align its procurement procedures and thresholds, which are specific to the utility, to align with the procurement procedures and thresholds that are applicable to other agencies statewide.

Committee members inquired if there were additional needs that should be raised during the upcoming session and whether SWBNO leadership is aware of any potential bills that may impact the utility. Mr. Randy Hayman, Executive Director, explained that the list was developed considering the time and resources that may be needed to ensure success. He also noted that staff will be monitoring other bills that are filed that may affect SWBNO.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Scrubbs presented a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 42:19 and 42:17(A)(1) to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of Interim General Superintendent and Interim Special Counsel.

Director Scrubbs presented a motion to exit Executive Session. Director Thomas moved for approval. Director Kennedy seconded. Without opposition, the motion carried.

Based on the discussion that took place in executive session, the Governance Committee reports that it has developed and adopted a structured Executive Readiness Assessment Framework to guide its evaluation of interim executives and inform future recommendations regarding permanent appointments, as applicable.

The framework provides a consistent, criteria-driven approach to assessing leadership readiness across operational, strategic, compliance, and organizational dimensions.

The Committee has begun utilizing the framework and anticipates providing a further update to the Board in the first quarter of 2026.

The detailed framework is available for Board member review and will continue to be refined as part of the Committee's governance oversight responsibilities.



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PUBLIC COMMENT

- Angela Kinlaw, a resident of New Orleans, spoke to the committee regarding her opposition in privatization. Ms. Kinlaw also noted the importance for the City to have an effective drainage system.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Governance Committee, Director Scrubbs made a motion to adjourn. Director Howard moved. Director Kennedy seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:41 a.m.