

DATE: 10/08/2025

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Executive Boardroom

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Chadrick Kennedy, Chair | H. Davis Cole, Vice Chair | Janet Howard | Courtney B. Scrubbs, Esq. | Kimberly A. Thomas, JD |



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING

All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage your attendance.
Those interested can join in person or virtually.

Join In-Person: Executive Board Room, Second Floor
625 St. Joseph St., New Orleans, LA 70165

Join Virtually: <https://www.swbno.org/BoardMeetings>

E-Public comments will be accepted via <https://www.swbno.org/BoardMeetings>.
All e-public comments must be received at least 2 hours prior to the meeting. Comments
will be read verbatim into the record.

I. Roll Call

II. Presentation Items

- A. House Resolution 305 of the 2025 Regular Session, Task Force on Southeast Louisiana Regional Water Purification Operations – Randy E. Hayman, Executive Director
- B. Act 384 Section 2 of the 2024 Regular Session, Transfer of SWBNO Employees to State Civil Service - Randy E. Hayman, Executive Director

III. Executive Session

- A. Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:19, 42:17(A)(2) and 42:17(A)(10), the Governance Committee of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans will meet in executive session to discuss its strategic approach to develop a process to evaluate the character, professional competence, and fitness of its Special Counsel and General Superintendent.

IV. Public Comment

V. Adjournment

Governance Committee



October 2025



House Resolution 305 | Regional Water Purification

- Introduced during the final days of the 2025 regular session
- Co-authored by several members of the New Orleans delegation
- Creates a task force to study the feasibility of building a water purification facility to serve Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles parishes
- Task force consists of 12 members
- First meeting held on Sept. 29, 2025
- Task force must provide a report with findings and recommendations regarding the operations and management of a regional water purification facility by March 15, 2026
- Report must be provided to the Legislative delegation of each parish and the City Services Coalition



Act 384 | Civil Service

- In 2024, Rep. Hilferty introduced House Bill 593 to transfer SWBNO employees to State Civil Service.
- The bill had two parts: 1) it required SWBNO employees to pass a civil service exam administered by State Civil Service and 2) it required the transfer of SWBNO employees to State Civil Service by August 1, 2025.
- During the 2024 legislative session, the bill was amended before it become law (Act 384).
 - The Act maintained that SWBNO employees are subject to civil service exams administered by City Civil Service.
 - However, the Act also kept language that required the implementation of a transfer plan of SWBNO employees to State Civil Service. This transfer language became law even though it was not the intent of the Legislature.
- Rep. Hilferty filed House Resolution 334 to clarify the Legislature's intentions.
 - The resolution states that the Legislature will work to repeal the transfer language.
 - It also instructs State Civil Service and City Civil Service to not follow through with the development and implementation of a transfer plan.



Act 384 | Civil Service

- In 2025, Rep. Hilferty filed House Bill 190, which was viewed as a “clean up” bill to repeal the transfer language.
- The bill failed to move through the Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs committee, and the legislative session ended with the transfer language still included as part of the law.
- Even without the “clean up” bill, SWBNO is of the opinion that the transfer language cannot be implemented because current law still requires SWBNO employees to pass a civil service examine governed by City Civil Service rules. This effectively keeps SWBNO employees under the jurisdiction of City Civil Service.
- The current statute may also be unconstitutional.
- In July 2025, the State Civil Service Commission publicly stated that it has a duty to carry out the law, which requires the transfer of SWBNO employees to State Civil Service.
- At a subsequent meeting, the New Orleans Civil Service Commission passed a resolution opposing the transfer of SWBNO employees to State Civil Service.
- We are currently at a point where the State Civil Service Commission is enforcing the implementation of the transfer plan.

Questions?

