



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

October 7, 2025

The Strategy Committee met on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in the Executive Boardroom. The meeting convened at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Director Tyler Antrup – Chair
Director Janet Howard – Vice Chair
Director H. Davis Cole
Director Kimberly Thomas
Director Courtney Scrubbs

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

A. Green Infrastructure Strategy - *Jillian Croci, Environmental Affairs*

Ms. Croci presented the committee with a comprehensive overview of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. SWBNO recently completed its 2014 Green Infrastructure Plan, which dedicated \$2.5 million toward 10 demonstration projects and public facing technical tools. The Environmental Affairs team is now seeking to initiate a new Green Infrastructure Strategy that focuses on enhancing stormwater management and quality, fostering a positive impact on the community and building trust, and utilizing green infrastructure to improve public spaces.

The Environmental team recommended four priorities:

1. Build programs and support tools to promote decentralized infrastructure. Staff will focus on supporting residents through tools and resources to install GI on their own property to create a network of stormwater storage and filtration infrastructure.
2. Prioritize partnership efforts and address barriers to partnership. Staff will work to increase partnerships with other City agencies, community groups, local businesses, non-profits, workforce development efforts, and schools to install, maintain, and educate about GI.
3. Document high-level plans to incorporate GI into the capital improvement program. Staff will create high-level GI project designs to match with existing capital improvement projects to create more competitive projects for grant and loan applications.



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4. Monitor for opportunities to take on multi-component GI installation. Staff will continue to seek funding for multi-component GI projects, such as underground water storage or large bioretention ponds.

The Environmental team also shared its next steps and noted that the continued refinement of the new GI strategy will provide guidance and support for the development of stormwater fee credits.

Committee members noted the importance of coordinating closely with the City's Office of Resilience & Sustainability (ORS). Staff agreed and shared that while there is no formal relationship with the office, SWBNO meets regularly with the ORS team. The committee also requested that staff further develop the idea of incorporating green infrastructure initiatives into the utility's capital improvement plan.

B. Water Quality Master Plan Update - *Steve Nelson, General Superintendent*

Mr. Nelson provided an update on the Water Quality Master Plan, which will be completed in Q4 2025. Mr. Nelson shared that the plan includes an operational and risk-based analysis of systems and alternatives. He also discussed several short, medium, and long-term initiatives, including operational (pilot) projects and equipment replacements and upgrades. SWBNO's lab study of pipe loops was also discussed.

Additionally, Mr. Nelson explained the plan's next steps, including plan adoption, operational pilot implementation, and funding pursuits and initiatives for both Year 1 projects and long-term upgrades.

The committee discussed several issues, including the importance of ensuring that security is addressed in the plan. The committee also supported the idea of meeting at the Carrollton Water Plant to officially adopt the plan, with the inclusion of a tour of the system. The committee voiced support in using SWBNO's pipe loop study as a topic for a potential scientific publication. The committee also suggested using this work as a community engagement and educational opportunity, possibly using a video that explains corrosion control and SWBNO's efforts to promote public health.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Director Antrup reviewed the role of the committee, the scope of the committee's work guided by the bylaws, the development of a work plan for the committee, and the frequency of meetings. He noted that the committee can begin its discussion and development of a work plan at its next meeting.



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PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Angela Kinlow, a local resident, commended SWBNO's staff who were present at the Fall Garden Festival. Those who participated were engaged and well informed. She was pleased to hear about the utility's Green Infrastructure Strategy but expressed opposition to a potential stormwater fee. She also raised questions about budgets and funding.
- Mr. Jessie Perkins, a local resident and former SWBNO employee, shared comments about employee safety.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Strategy Committee, Director Scrubbs made a motion to adjourn. Director Howard seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.