



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

January 14, 2026

The Strategic Planning Committee met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Executive Boardroom. The meeting convened at approximately 9:46 a.m.

Members Present:

Director Tyler Antrup – Chair
Director Courtney Scrubbs – Vice Chair
Director Kimberly Thomas

Members Absent

Director Janet Howard
Director H. Davis Cole

Non-members Present:

Director Joseph Peychaud

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

A. Water Quality Master Plan Update – *Kaitlin Tymrak, SWBNO Deputy General Superintendent and Chris Bergeron, Chief of Engineering*

The Water Quality Master Plan focused on three key tasks: water treatment, the development of 5- and 30-year Capital Improvements Plans (CIPs), and preliminary design development for full-scale replacement or preferred alternatives for water. Based on previous pipe-loop research and testing, SWBNO is ready to move forward with the implementation of zinc and orthophosphate into the City’s water system. Ms. Tymrak explained how the chemical distribution will create a protective coating against corrosion and reduce salt-water intrusion impacts throughout City pipes. Committee members emphasized community outreach campaigns and communication as implementation is set to begin at SWBNO - Algiers water treatment facility.

The development of 5- and 30-year CIPs and preliminary design development for full-scale replacement or preferred alternatives included five alternatives for full replacements of SWBNO’s water treatment system. The GSO team used a scoring process to determine which five alternatives would be most impactful. The outcome was a phased approach that supports pretreatment, clarification, filtration, disinfection, and polishing. By next month, a 5-year CIP will be available for internal review, with committee and public distribution to follow. SWBNO’s 30-year CIP presentation has a projected completion set for Summer 2026.



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B. Drainage System Consolidation Update - *David Cappel, PE, Director of Drainage Networks*

Mr. Cappel’s presentation focused on the transition of minor drainage operations from the City of New Orleans to SWBNO in 2025. Discussion points included: increased duties/responsibilities, manpower, capital/inventory, maintenance, storm drain cleaning, and funding. SWBNO removed a total of 10,603,220 pounds of debris in 2025 - more than twice the amount of debris removed in 2024. Mr. Cappel acknowledged that effective contract negotiations produced cost savings and increased catch basin cleaning with private contractors. Committee members weighed industry standards for system clean-up, whether SWBNO could sustain an in-house team for debris cleaning, and funding concerns. Proposed solutions for drainage involved the purchase of a sweeper/vacuum truck in 2026 and the creation of a drainage fee.

Neighborhoods whose catch basins were cleaned included areas such as Lower Garden, Carrollton, Downtown CBD, and Treme. Mr. Cappel provided priority levels for work orders where safety concerns were raised when crew members assessed local drainage. Out of 336 damaged pipes, nearly 6% were identified as critically damaged. The committee raised the idea of converting critical areas to “No Truck” traffic routes for more prone areas. Next steps for routine maintenance involve masonry repairs to structures and repairs to Vac-trucks. A new asset management tool will enhance SWBNO’s public dashboard to include inspection and assessment data once development and implementation is complete.

Committee members inquired about the City’s “Adopt-A-Catch Basin” program, notification flyers for cleaned catch basins, and resources that will educate residents on how to clean 1.5 ft. past property curblines and eliminate grass to clear catch basins.

PUBLIC COMMENT

➤ None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Strategic Planning Committee, Director Antrup made a motion to adjourn. Director Thomas moved. Director Scrubbs seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:07 a.m.