



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

July 8, 2026

The Strategic Planning Committee met on July 8, 2026, in the Executive Boardroom. The meeting convened at approximately 11:55 a.m.

Members Present:

Director Tyler Antrup –Chair
Director Courtney Scrubbs– Vice Chair
Director H. Davis Cole
Director Kimberly Thomas
Director Jonathan Stewart

Non-Members Present:

Director Ariane Greenidge

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

A. Stormwater Fee and Right-of-Way (ROW) Fee Development - Jamie Parker, Chief of Staff

Jamie Parker, Chief of Staff, presented an update on the development of a Stormwater Fee and Right-of-Way Fee. She advised that SWBNO staff, the City, City Council, and Raftelis, SWBNO's stormwater fee consultant, continue to meet regularly and work collaboratively on policy and legal research, data collection, and rate structure development and refinement. The exploration and development of a Right-of-Way Fee is underway pursuant to a Raftelis contract amendment, requested by the City's administration and recently approved by the Board of Directors. The expanded scope of work is expected to take roughly 8 weeks to complete, with a Right-of-Way fee proposal anticipated around mid-August.

Directors were advised that any comments or concerns about the development of either fee could be brought to the attention of Ms. Parker or Director Antrup, who can share them with the working group. Director Antrup also requested a status update from Raftelis at the next committee meeting.

B. Green Infrastructure Initiatives Update - Jillian Croci, Infrastructure Project Manager

Ms. Croci provided an update on the utility's community-focused green infrastructure (GI) initiatives. SWBNO is hosting quarterly workshops around the city, providing live demonstrations and in-depth information to residents, neighborhood groups, and other community organizations. These workshops meet



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the requirements of the Consent Decree and MS4 permit and align with the utility's Green Infrastructure Strategy. A draft of the GI Strategy was previously presented to the committee, and staff are working to share a final version soon.

In March, the GI team hosted a workshop in Hollygrove on bioretention in partnership with Groundwork New Orleans. The workshop provided community members with an opportunity to learn about the Olive Street community garden and see its bioretention features in action. In June, the GI team held a workshop on permeable pavement with Groundwork New Orleans and Marais Consultants at the SWBNO Bayou St. John green infrastructure site. This workshop addressed maintenance protocols for permeable pavement installations.

In September, the GI team will host a rain barrel workshop. They also plan to host a tree planning workshop during the last quarter of this year. Ms. Croci also shared an update on tree training sessions organized by GI team members, which will educate roughly 200 SWBNO staff on how to protect trees and the tree canopy while performing SWBNO-related work. Staff and committee members discussed the limited funding for GI projects and opportunities to pursue grant funding or private sector support.

Director Scrubbs asked how the team tracks success and metrics. Ms. Croci advised that metrics are based on participation, with events primarily consisting of collaborative efforts with community partners and non-profits. The team has considered participant surveys. Director Scrubbs suggested surveying residents on whether they see a local drainage improvement after the installation of green infrastructure, such as rain barrels, permeable pavement, etc. This would enable SWBNO to collect data and use that data moving forward. Director Scrubbs also discussed the importance of community buy in, community engagement, and funding for GI projects. She suggested that the GI team make SMART goals regarding attendance and engagement in each council district. These metrics could help the team share the good work they are doing and identify areas where outreach and engagement could improve.

Director Greenidge asked how neighborhoods were selected to conduct community workshops. Ms. Croci shared that the team currently looks at locations where there are demonstration areas or specific projects they can use to educate residents. For example, the Hollygrove neighborhood was selected because Groundworks NOLA has a good example of a bioretention project. The team is primarily using pro bono non-profit and community partners to help educate residents about green infrastructure.



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Director Thomas suggested putting out a non-profit GI interest form on the SWBNO website to help allow more non-profits or community groups to volunteer to educate residents with SWBNO about green infrastructure.

Ms. Croci said the GI team is focusing on a decentralized GI model where SWBNO can support residents by providing education and direction about green infrastructure.

Separately, Director Cole is interested to see the assessment of the water quality at the Bayou St. John GI project. The GI team is hoping to get 5 years of data before making a final assessment.

Finally, Director Antrup recognized the good work the GI team is doing and their forward thinking, proactive work to improve the utility.

C. Drainage Consolidation Update - David Cappel, PE, Director of Drainage Networks

Mr. Cappel presented an update on drainage consolidation as of July 2026. He noted an increase in catch basin cleaning since SWBNO assumed responsibility for the minor drainage system in January 2025, with 5,900 catch basins cleaned in 2024 compared to 9,000 catch basins cleaned in 2025. Similarly, in 2025, 10.6 million pounds of debris were removed from the minor drainage system compared to 4 million pounds of debris removed in 2024. So far in 2026, SWBNO has cleaned 2,350 catch basins, amounting to 11.5 miles, and removed 2.7 million pounds of debris. He noted that SWBNO primarily responds to 311 calls, while contractors handle other cleanings.

Mr. Cappel shared that the team is concluding cleanings in Treme-Lafitte, Carrollton, and the Lower Garden District. They are pre-assessing the Bywater and Marigny neighborhoods and will then move to Audubon and Algiers for pre-assessments. The goal is to target the dirtiest pipes, which can reduce the amount of linear feet cleaned per day but can remove twice the amount of debris. Regarding public information sharing and updates, Mr. Cappel directed the committee to a dashboard that can be found on the utility's website.

The committee also heard updates on funding. Currently, SWBNO receives approximately \$9 million annually for minor drainage system funding. However, this amount is not sufficient to optimally operate and maintain the system. Future goals are for the utility to align with the industry standard of cleaning 20% of the system's assets yearly. Concerns were shared about the sustainability of future dedicated funding sources, such as revenue generated by traffic camera fines, which are controlled by the city. The committee also



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discussed the utility's need for additional funding to support the minor drainage system through a stormwater fee or some other mechanism.

Moving forward, Director Antrup suggested reinvigorating the City's Adopt-a-Catch Basin program. Other committee recommendations included coordinating with neighborhood groups for volunteer cleanings, which can include SWBNO staff and vacuum trucks, and a thoughtful operations and communications-based plan regarding Mardi Gras beads and catch basin cleanings.

Director Greenidge asked why there are not as many catch basin cleanings listed in Council District E. Mr. Cappel said the networks team is currently focusing on catch basins with multiple outstanding 311 requests. Director Greenidge asked how can catch basin cleaning occur equitably if a population doesn't use 311 to report issues. Mr. Cappel said they are currently going after the major 311 hotspots with multiple requests, then going council district by council district and by watershed.

Director Antrup suggested using additional data sources to prioritize catch basin cleanings for a more strategic approach, potentially using City Real Time Crime Center drainage data or other data sources. The committee requested that Mr. Cappel provide a geographic cleaning strategy in the future and asked the team to explore new data sources to help ensure that catch basin cleanings are strategic and equitably allocated across communities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

➤ None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Strategic Planning Committee, Director Antrup called for a motion to adjourn. Director Stewart moved. Director Cole seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.