



625 St. Joseph Street  
New Orleans, LA 70165

504.529.2837 or 52.WATER

November 12, 2025

The Strategic Planning Committee met on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, in the Executive Boardroom. The meeting convened at approximately 10:54 a.m.

**Present:**

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

**Members Absent**

Director Kimberly Thomas

**PRESNTATION ITEM:**

**A. Tree Planting/Training for Municipal Workers- *Dr. Angela Chalk, Healthy Community Services and Grace Vogel Sanders, SWBNO Environmental Affairs***

Ms. Sanders and Dr. Chalk provided an overview of tree planting and training for municipal workers. This presentation began with a video, highlighting the significance of building relationships and trust between water utilities and community-based organizations.

Dr. Chalk and Ms. Sanders explained that a multi-agency discussion took place earlier this year with participation by Healthy Community Services, SWBNO, Parks & Parkways, the New Orleans DA's Office, and Councilmember Green's Office. The discussion introduced a path forward, focusing on training and educating SWBNO employees on tree planting and protection, the development of new policies, low maintenance solutions, and a PSA campaign to help employees better serve the community.

The Committee and SWBNO staff were appreciative of Dr. Chalk's efforts with this initiative and her continued support as a SWBNO community partner.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. House Resolution 305 of the 2025 Regular Session, Task Force on Southeast Louisiana Regional Water Purification Operations- - *Steve Nelson, General Superintendent***

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Mr. Nelson gave an update on recent task force meetings. Representatives from the surrounding five parishes – St. Bernard, St. Charles, Orleans, Jefferson, and Plaquemines – participate in the meetings. Each parish utility, including SWBNO, has shared their challenges with the group, with aging infrastructure being a primary concern.

While the initial focus of the task force was on the development of a regional water purification facility, this idea comes with significant costs and does not address the underlying issue of aging infrastructure. Mr. Nelson shared that, following a series of pragmatic discussions, the task force has expressed interest in exploring ways to address saltwater intrusion, with plans to meet with the Army Corps of Engineers to review their saltwater intrusion initiatives. In addition, potentially expanding interties between the parishes is also being considered by the task force. SWBNO currently has an intertie with Plaquemines Parish, which the utility has utilized several times in the past two years.

Mr. Nelson plans to attend the remaining task force meetings until March, when a final report is anticipated.

## **B. Strategic Planning Committee Work Plan**

Director Antrup proposed several items to consider over the next year, including a maintenance plan for the minor drainage system and the next iteration of the utility's strategic plan (current 5-year strategic plan expires in 2027). He noted the importance of ensuring the utility has a new strategic plan in place as the current one expires. He also noted that the Board will need to determine whether the existing plan requires only an update or if there needs to be a complete re-evaluation of the strategic plan. Director Antrup shared that now, under the leadership of a new executive director, is an ideal time to initiate these discussions and the development of a new plan. The next annual check-in and strategic planning workshop for staff is anticipated for January 2026.

## **C. Minor Drainage System Maintenance Plan**

Director Antrup shared that developing a maintenance plan for the minor drainage system should be a priority as it will be closely tied to a future stormwater fee proposal. The Committee noted it will be important for SWBNO to adequately determine the maintenance needs of the drainage system and the associated costs. Further, when it comes to funding, the committee shared the importance of transparency, and that staff will need to clearly outline how funds will be used and the positive expected outcomes.

Since the utility acquired the minor drainage system in January, staff noted there is a better understanding of the financial, capital, equipment, and personnel requirements associated with maintaining that system. The

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Committee and staff discussed maintenance progress thus far and plans for outsourcing work or managing it in-house.

Staff will plan to provide the committee with an update in January, as this will be the one-year mark of drainage system consolidation. The meeting will focus on funding for the minor drainage system, maintenance progress made in 2025, and the development of priorities (with committee input) for 2026.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mr. Jessie Perkins, a local resident and former SWBNO employee, shared comments about Tree planting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Strategic Planning Committee, Director Antrup made a motion to adjourn. Director Cole moved. Director Scrubbs seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:58 a.m.