



"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

LATOYA CANTRELL, PRESIDENT

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November 9, 2021

The Operations Committee met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, via the virtual Microsoft Teams program. The meeting convened at approximately 9:30 AM.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Director Janet Howard, Chair
Director Maurice Sholas
Director Tamika Duplessis
Director Joseph Peychaud

Members Absent:

Councilman Jay H. Banks

Other Directors Present

Director Lynes "Poco" Sloss

2. PRESENTATION ITEM –

Mr. Jason Higginbotham, SWBNO's Chief of Security and Mr. Austin Feldbaum, the City of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Administrator, made a presentation on the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Feldbaum presented the purpose of the plan:

- I. To reduce long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event in order to:
 - A. Save lives and reduce property damage
 - B. Reduce the cost of disasters to property owners and government
 - C. Protect critical facilities and minimize community disruption
- II. Outline a strategy and identify specific actions that can reduce the risks and potential impacts
- III. Comply with Federal requirements for post-disaster aid

Mr. Feldbaum also presented the action goals of the plan:

- Goal 1: Reduce risk and vulnerability to the human environment including cultural resources, homeowners, renters, visitors, and transient populations.

- Goal 2: Reduce risk and vulnerability to the built environment including current and future structures; critical facilities; historic structures; and infrastructure, including communications infrastructure.
- Goal 3: Reduce risk and vulnerability to the natural environment including wetland restoration and recognition of New Orleans as a coastal city.
- Goal 4: Maximize the involvement of individuals, businesses, and groups in risk reduction measures through education/outreach on hazard mitigation appropriate to all groups, particularly vulnerable populations.
- Goal 5: To promote, implement, and sustain mitigation measures in Orleans Parish in order to reduce and manage risks to human life, the environment, and property.
- Goal 6: To protect Orleans Parish and the surrounding region from the effects of natural and manmade hazards, ensuring community continuity in the event of such hazards.

The committee members expressed concerns about:

- whether the utility, in moving from a stand-alone to a multi-jurisdictional plan, would lose the flexibility to address hazards arising in the future that are important to it, but not necessarily to other plan participants
- the plan's failure to name the SWBNO as a participant in actions that clearly fall within its purview or affect it, such as SELA projects, improving drainage, and various green infrastructure projects.
- the designation of the City, rather than the SWBNO, as the lead agent for a drainage fee.

3. **ACTION ITEM**

- Resolution (R-120-2021) Approval of the Updated Sewerage and Water Board Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - **Director Howard asked for a motion to amend the resolution for the City of New Orleans' plan in lieu of the 2018 SWBNO plan. Director Psychaud moved. Director Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**
 - **Director Howard asked for a motion to adopt the amended resolution. Director Duplessis moved. Director Psychaud seconded. The motion carried.**

Mr. Higginbotham informed the committee that the changes addressing their concerns could be made without going through a formal revision process.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Operations Committee Meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Howard, Chair