



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

March 11, 2025

The Strategy Committee met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the Executive Boardroom. The meeting convened at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Present

Director Robin Barnes, Chair
Director Maurice Sholas, M.D., Ph.D.
Director Janet Howard
Director Tyler Antrup

Members Absent:

Director Lynes R. Sloss

PRESENTATION ITEMS

Keith Readling, Henrietta Locklear, and Norah McKinley of Raftelis presented the Sewerage and Water Board's Strategy Committee with a Drainage Fee update via an online presentation. Raftelis is a consulting firm that aids local governments and utilities with: stormwater utility development, finance, strategic planning/facilitation, organization, strategic communication outreach, and technology.

Mr. Readling discussed several topics, including the use of drainage fees from a national perspective, SWBNO's goals to change drainage funding, the implementation process, and tactics for successful implementation. Mr. Readling further discussed how the goals of changing SWBNO's drainage funding would improve equity without increasing the burden on current tax paying customers; to collect revenue from tax exempt properties; acknowledge private investment through a credits program; and provide an affordability program for customers. In addition, Ms. McKinley provided the Committee with a demonstration of a Fee Finder website.



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The Strategy members, along with Executive Director Ghassan Korban, discussed the utility's current millages and potential timelines of how and when to move forward with a proposed drainage fee and implementation. The committee agreed that a drainage fee update should be part of all future Strategy Committee meetings and asked SWBNO staff to gather more information relative to the implementation process for review and discussion at the next meeting. Executive Director Korban suggested the creation of an ad-hoc committee, which could include external stakeholders, to help with future development and implementation efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Strategy Committee, Director Sholas moved to adjourn. Director Howard seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:46 a.m.