



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

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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December 14, 2015

The Strategy Committee met on Monday, December 14, 2015 in the 2nd Floor Board Room, 625 St. Joseph Street, New Orleans, LA. The meeting convened at 1:03 PM.

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Marion Bracy, Chair
Dr. Tamika Duplessis
Kimberly Thomas

Absent:

Kerri Kane
Robin Barnes

ACTION ITEM:

There were no action items.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

1. Customer Communication Strategy on Green Infrastructure

Mr. Silas Lee and Geneva Coleman presented the results of the Urban Water Management Survey performed on behalf of the Greater New Orleans Foundations with these key findings:

- The success of the Urban Water Management initiative depends upon citizens having sufficient knowledge about the concept and benefits of stormwater management and green infrastructure programs.
- The deficiency in community knowledge about stormwater management and green infrastructure is contributing to a loss of confidence that this initiative will be successful.

- Absent an economic valuation of costs and benefits, survey participants indicate that they will probably support investing in these initiatives, but their support remains somewhat soft.

Mr. Miller stated that the results from this survey will be used as a baseline to prepare a request for proposals from consultants to develop a communications strategy to provide information about this initiative to the community.

2. Employee Compensation, Pension, and Health Benefits Strategy

Mr. Miller presented remarks about the intended strategy to update the employee compensation strategy. He noted that there were two key questions to be addressed as this strategy is developed: (1) Where should we be positioned in the marketplace regarding total compensation? and (2) How should we distribute total compensation between salaries, health benefits, and pension benefits? Mr. Miller stated that we are prepared to proceed with a compensation review led by consultants in conjunction with the Civil Service Commission and the City of New Orleans, but many likewise need to be prepared to move forward without their immediate participation. A request for proposals from consultants will be prepared after the start of the new Deputy Director – Administration.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

The information items were received.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Also in attendance were Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director; Robert Miller, Deputy Director; Joseph Becker, General Superintendent; Bruce Adams, Deputy General Superintendent; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Harold Marchand, Deputy Special Counsel; Yolanda Grinstead, Legal Counsel; Capt. Ronald Doucette, Deputy Director/Security; Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management; Kimberly Johnson, Deputy Director/Continuous Improvement; Robert Jackson, Community & Intergovernmental Relations Administrator; Rosita Thomas, Finance Administrator; Willie Mingo, Purchasing Administrator; Steven Klepeis, Risk Management Administrator; Dr. Silas Lee, Silas Lee and Associates; Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.; Ella Delio, Greater New Orleans Foundation; and Tamika Hyde, Planning and Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marion Bracy
Chairperson