



DATE: 04/10/2024 TIME: 10:00 a.m. LOCATION: Executive Boardroom

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Tamika Duplessis, Ph.D., Chair | Alejandra Guzman | Lynes R. Sloss | Robin Barnes | Janet Howard |

Governance Committee Meeting Agenda

I. Roll Call

II. Action Item

- A. Resolution (R-041-2024) Authorizing Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Compliance with Act 393 of the Louisiana Legislature for Americans with Disabilities Act – Renee Lapeyrolerie, Chief of Staff, Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

III. Public Comment

IV. Adjournment

AUTHORIZING RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 393 OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

WHEREAS, Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature (“Act 393”) requires public bodies to provide for participation in their meetings by any member of the public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) or a designated caregiver of such person; and

WHEREAS, Act 393 also requires that a member of a public body who has a disability recognized by the ADA shall be allowed to participate and vote in a meeting via electronic means as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, Act 393 specifically requires that each public body having the capability to allow such participation by teleconference or video conference, to adopt rules, regulations and procedures to regulate and facilitate such participation by any such person who prior to the meeting requests that accommodation; and

WHEREAS, the Board has or can establish the capability to allow participation in its open meetings by teleconference or videoconference by any member of the public having an ADA-recognized disability or a designated caretaker of such person, and for a member of the Board who has a disability recognized by the ADA to participate and vote in Board meetings via electronic means; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Board to conduct its meetings in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, and to make reasonable accommodation for members of the public with a disability recognized under the ADA or their designated caregivers, to participate in its meetings in compliance with Act 393, and for any Board member who has a disability recognized under the ADA to be allowed to participate and vote in a meeting via electronic means as defined by law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sewerage and Water Board hereby adopts the following rules, regulations and procedures for the participation by members of the public with ADA disabilities or their caregivers, in its open and public meetings by teleconference or videoconference and for any Board member who has a disability recognized by the ADA to participate and vote in a meeting via electronic means, in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law as amended by Act 393 of 2023 of the Louisiana Legislature:

**RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION VIA
TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE BY PERSONS HAVING
ADA DISABILITIES AND/OR THEIR CAREGIVERS**

“Teleconference” shall mean a method of communication which enables persons in different locations to participate in a meeting and to hear and otherwise communicate with each other.

“Video conference” shall mean a method of communication which enables persons in different locations to participate in a meeting and to see, hear, and otherwise communicate with each other.

The Board shall provide reasonable accommodation to persons with ADA disabilities or their caregivers, to participate in open meetings of the board of directors and its committees, by teleconference or video conference.

Each such meeting shall be accessible by teleconference or videoconference by hyperlink posted on the meeting notice and the Board website.

Detailed information shall be posted on the Board’s website and each meeting agenda, regarding how persons may participate in the meeting by teleconference or videoconference including submission of comments regarding matters on the agenda.

All documents to be made available to persons in physical attendance at the meeting shall be made available electronically to persons participating by teleconference or videoconference, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting (preferably with the posting of the meeting notice and agenda).

There shall be a mechanism for submission and receipt of public comments on each item on the posted agenda within the submission deadline (but no less than one (1) hour prior to the start of the meeting) and, to the extent practical, during the meeting

Each person participating in the meeting, including by submission of comment(s), must be properly identified including name and whether acting on personal behalf or behalf of another (whether as ADA caregiver or otherwise) who shall be identified as being represented.

Comments may be limited to three (3) minutes per item commented upon.

Any Board member who has a disability recognized by the ADA shall be allowed to participate and vote in a meeting via electronic means, provided that no less than (advance timing?) prior to the meeting for which such accommodation is necessary, such Board member submits a written request therefor including (how much documentation does ADA permit Board to require?).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the technical staff of the Board is hereby directed and mandated to develop the technical procedures and mechanisms necessary to implement the foregoing rules, regulations and procedures no later than May 1, 2024.

I, Ghassan Korban, Executive Director, Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and a correct copy of a Resolution adopted at the Regular Monthly Meeting of said Board, duly called and held, according to law, on April 17, 2024.

GHASSAN KORBAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD
OF NEW ORLEANS