



SWBNO Task Force

Final Draft Recommendations

City of New Orleans
January 16, 2019

Next Steps

- Refine recommendations
 - What legislative needs are there to accomplish goals?
- Present final draft recommendations 1/16
- Distribute draft report for review 1/22
 - Review and provide comments by 1/25
- Final report approval and distribution 1/28

Recommendation Timeline

Our recommendations should support a long-term vision

Short Term (1-2 years)

Medium Term (2-5 years)

Long Term (5+ years)

Short Term Strategy

Immediate actions to show action

■ Management

- Undertake internal strategic planning process
- Reorganized management structure for efficiency and performance
- Flexibility in optimized staffing and hiring

■ Customer Service

- Continue improvements in billing and making staff available to interface with ratepayers

■ Establish Citizen Advisory Board

- Stakeholder in
 - Strategic and Master Planning processes
 - Rate cases
 - Capital Plan Review

■ Finance

- Investigate available State or Federal sources of funding for Water and Drainage improvements
- Immediate short-term emergency turnaround financing to replace post 8/5/17 spending on drainage

■ Oversight

- Continue some form of this Task Force
- Particular focus on overseeing Emergency Financing

■ State Control

- Undertake a Special Study on the State Legislative control of the Sewerage and Water Board by the House Committee On Municipal, Parochial And Cultural Affairs

Medium Term Strategy

Intermediate actions to improve service

- Consolidate Drainage System
 - Renegotiate 1992 CEA to unify the Drainage system under a single entity and share existing funding
- Fund Drainage With Stormwater Fee
 - Based on impervious area, no exemptions
 - In addition to existing millages
 - Responsible for all drainage and groundwater (shallow subsidence) management / green infrastructure
 - Inclusive of affordability/grant programs
- Develop System Master Plans
 - 100 year vision
 - Water
 - Sewerage
 - Drainage (combined)
 - Power
- Rate Setting
 - Explore use of an external public advocate to represent ratepayers in rate setting cases

Long Term Strategy

Aspirational actions to ensure success for the next Century

■ Governance Review

- Explore reorganization under the City Charter rather than the State
- Determine if a governance change is needed
 - Public Benefit Corporation?
 - Regional Utility?

■ Systems Integration

- Levees, PCCP, drainage - now all connected but governed separately