Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
Tracking Tool for Commitments to City Council
August 2015

Status Key | On Target | Not Started | Delayed | Needs Attention

Topic	Commitment	Target Date	Status	Next Steps	Strategic Plan Reference
I. Governance Practices	A. Reduce the length of Board member terms and limiting the number of terms.	October 2013	Completed June 17, 2013. Senate Bill No. 47 reduced the term lengths from 9 to 4 years and limiting members to serving two consecutive terms.	None.	Strategy IV Tactics I.1 and I.2
	B. Establish requisite qualifications for Board members.	October 2013	Completed June 17, 2013. Senate Bill No. 47 requires experience in architecture, environmental quality, finance, accounting, business administration, engineering, law, public health, urban planning, facilities management, public administration, science, construction, business management, consumer or community advocacy, or other pertinent disciplines, with two of the appointments as consumer advocates with community advocacy or consumer protection experience or experience in a related field.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic I.3
	C. Reduce the number of Board members.	October 2013	Completed June 17, 2013. Senate Bill No. 47 reduced the size of the Board from 13 to 11 members.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic I.4
	D. Review function and responsibilities of Board committees.	Not determined.	Completed. Board of Directors revised Bylaws based upon recommended best practices contained in New Orleans Office of Inspector General Guide for Boards, Commissions, and Public Benefit Corporations.	None	Strategy IV Tactic I.5
	E. Appoint Board members from recommendations submitted by university presidents.	October 2013 original *May 2014 revised*	Completed May 22, 2014. New board members appointed.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic I.6
	F. Establish dedicated independent oversight of Sewerage and Water Board determined by the City Council.	Not determined.	Completed May 30, 2013. Staff presents to Public Works Committee of City Council as scheduled on identified questions and concerns.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic M

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II. Customer Service Improvements	A. Acquire and implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Replace existing mechanical meters with new electronic meters and an automated meter reading system that will provide more accurate readings, enhanced leak detection on customer lines, and improved account monitoring. The new meters will be installed for the residential and small commercial customer base.	December 2016	On target. Request for Information issued to potential vendors. Information submitted by ten vendors reviewed by staff and interviews conducted. Requests for proposals issued by other utilities being reviewed. A revised standard for purchasing new meters has been completed. Pilot demonstration of leak detection and automated shutoff capabilities underway. Project will be fully initiated following implementation of new billing system.	Continue replacement of existing manual-read meters with electronic-read meters. Determine if outside expert assistance will be needed in project management. Develop a preliminary implementation plan and issue a request for proposals for change-out of residential and small commercial meters and installation of automated meter reading capabilities. Confirm targeted completion date following implementation of new customer account management system.	Strategy III Tactic B
	B. Open Additional Customer Service Center to provide convenient access to full service capabilities for customers without travelling to the downtown location.	December 2013 original *December 2015 revised*	Delayed.	Identify and evaluate public facilities in New Orleans East for reuse as Customer Service Center.	Strategy III Tactic H
	C. Replace existing billing application with new software that includes online customer account management capabilities.	January 2015 original *March 2016 revised*	On target. Customer Account Management System from Cogsdale Corporation implementation underway.	Project implementation steps for setup, testing, and training underway.	Strategy III Tactic C
	D. Replace existing work order application with new software that includes online work order tracking and appointment scheduling capabilities.	December 2017	Not started.	Next steps to be determined as part of the development of an Information Technology Strategic Plan.	Strategy III Tactic D and E Strategy IV Tactic D
	E. Improve efficiency and reliability of Customer Service processes. Reduce the volume of calls by increasing perceived accuracy of bills. Ensure meter reading and billing edits are worked diligently. Improve the customer experience when questioning a bill and resolve more issues during the first call. Provide more effective appeals process.	Ongoing	Previous Customer Service Improment Plan completed October 31, 2014. New Customer Service Improvement Plant adopted June 17, 2015. Status updates reported to Operations Committee monthly.	None.	Strategy III Tactics A, F, and G

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III. Service Assurance Program	A. Provide additional funding for bill payment assistance through the Water Help program.	January 2013	Original initiative completed January 31, 2013. Funding for bill payment assistance through the Water Help program increased from $60,000 to $240,000. Working with Total Community Action to streamline the program.	Rollout agreed-upon streamlined methods.	Strategy III Tactic I.1
	B. Expand Water Help program to provide assistance with plumbing repairs.	June 2013 original *March 2014 revised*	Original initiative completed March 31, 2014. Program provides up to $250 for plumbing repairs on the customer's portion of the service line. Working with Total Community Action to streamline the program.	Develop agreed-upon streamlined methods.	Strategy III Tactic I.2
	C. Pursue legislative change to allow adjustments for water lost through customer leaks.	March 2013 original *August 2014 revised* *June 2015 revised*	Underway. R.S. 33:4071(F) enacted in July 2015 authorized Sewerage and Water Board to adopted rules and procedures to adjust water bills.	Develop rules and procedures to adjust bills according to legislation.	Strategy III Tactic I.3
	D. Evaluate waiver of service charges based on means testing for qualifying low-income elderly and disabled customers.	June 2013	Completed July 17, 2013. Staff recommended that the Board not adopt a waiver of these service charges based on means testing. Recommendations accepted by Board of Directors.	None.	Strategy III Tactic I.4
	E. Evaluate reduction in late payment fee, disconnect fee, returned check fee, and deposits.	March 2013 original *June 2013 revised*	Completed July 17, 2013. Because of the significant revenue loss associated with a reduction in late payment fees and disconnect fees, staff recommended that consideration of changes to these fees be deferred until after the first full year of revenues have been received from the new rates in order to ensure that revenues from the new rates are sufficient to allow for this offsetting reduction in fees while still accomplishing other financial objectives. Revenues from the new rates have not been sufficient to allow reduction in fees.	None.	Strategy III Tactic I.4
IV. Operational Reforms	A. Improve operations through performance measures, improved framework, and follow-up reviews to reduce future rate increases.	December 2017	On target. Training program developed and underway for frontline employees. Performance measures being reviewed and developed.	Process documentation, analysis, and improvement objectives combined with cost reduction are included in several senior management goals. Document and report improvement results.	Strategy II Tactic D Strategy IV Tactics B and H Strategy IV Tactic M

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	B. Reduce free water and sewer service provided to municipal accounts by fifty percent from a baseline of 2010 usage.	December 2017		On target. Quantity of free service reduced from 2010 to 2014 by 25.6%. School system billing piloted for consumption beginning July 2013. No changes to related laws were initiated for 2015 Louisiana legislative session.	Continue work with property administrators at municipal facilities to identify opportunities for reduced consumption. Coordinate with revenue-producing agencies to pursue legislative relief from burdensome requirements for free service.	Strategy II Tactic F
	C. Improve coordination between Sewerage and Water Board and Department of Public Works.	Not determined.		On target. A joint team of Sewerage and Water Board engineers and Department of Public Works engineers work together in coordination of planning and construction for the FEMA Recovery Roads program.	Determine feasibility of performing street drainage maintenance work on a fee-for-service basis, subject to identification of funding requirements, establishment of a funding stream, and gaining necessary legislative authorizations.	Strategy I Tactics A.1, B.1, and C.4
	D. Improve ratepayer collections.	Not determined.		Completed December 31, 2013. Plans to improve collections have recently focused on ensuring close compliance with schedules for non-payment turn-offs. The amount written off as uncollectable has reduced from 10.23% in 2010 to 1.15% in 2014.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic G
	E. Develop a long-term staff succession and training program.	Not determined.		On target. A partnership between Delgado Community College, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and the JOB1 Business and Career Solutions Center has launched a worker training program aimed at increasing the pool of certified water and wastewater treatment personnel to meet the anticipated demand for workers to operate the systems. Delgado has applied to become a certification testing site.	In conjunction with the City's JOB1 program and Sewerage and Water Board, Delgado Community College will develop training to increase the pool of certified personnel to meet the needs of the capital improvement program. Knowledge management and succession planning objectives have been added to several senior management goals.	Strategy V Tactic G
	F. Perform annual water audit to measure progress and critical needs.	Ongoing.		Completed September 8, 2015. Water Audits have been performed for 2008 through 2014.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic K
	G. Enhance long range planning by developing a Facilities Plan for 2015-2035.	December 2014		Completed August 4,2015.	None.	Strategy I Tactic F.1

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	H. Develop new sources of funding other than water and sewer rate increases.	Ongoing.	On target. New revenue stream established for handling wastewater from mobile containers, such as portable toilets and shipping containers.	Analyze opportunities for providing wholesale water service over long distances.	Strategy II Tactic I
	Repay funds owed to Department of Public Works.	December 2016	On target. Sewerage and Water Board repaid $4,763,858.77 to Department of Public Works at year-end 2013. Amount was lower due to lower-than-forecast obligation by drainage system.	Pay remaining obligation owed to the Department of Public Works in annual installments.	Strategy II Tactic E
V. Economic Opportunities	A. Create economic opportunities consistent with City of New Orleans programs for participation by economically disadvantaged and local business enterprises.	Not determined.	On target. For contracts with DBE participation 2014: Goods and Services $256,644 or 22.87%, Construction $14,367,582 or 30.39%, and Professional Services $5,237,764 or 20.35%.	Sewerage and Water Board will continue to create economic opportunities for participation by economically disadvantaged and local business enterprises through Construction Review Committee and Staff Contract Review Committee recommendations and DBE vendor support and training.	Strategy IV Tactics F and L
VI. Capital Improvement Program	A. Water System Improvements Replacement and rehabilitation of water purification plant facilities. Replacement and rehabilitation of water pumping facilities. Replacement of water system transmission and distribution mains. $277,000,000	December 2020	On target. 2014 Spending $46,602,825. 2015 Capital Budget nearly fully funded. Progress on capital projects reported to Board of Directors.	Continue execution of capital improvement program.	Strategy I Tactic A.1 through A.5
	B. Replacement and rehabilitation of sewer system collection pipes required by Federal Consent Decree. $314,000,000	December 2020	On target. 2014 Spending $58,730,088. 2015 Capital Budget nearly fully funded. Progress on capital projects reported to Board of Directors.	Continue execution of capital improvement program.	Strategy I Tactic B.1 through B.3
VII. WaterStat Reporting and City Council Oversight	A. Establish performance measures and targets as well as reporting methodology.	March 2013	Completed March 31, 2013. Measurements framework adopted, initial measurements identified, and measurements training delivered to senior management. Collection of performance data in progress. Additional graphs created.	None.	Strategy IV Tactics A and B

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	B. Implement a systematic approach to process documentation, analysis, and improvement.	June 2013	Completed April 1, 2014. Training program developed and contract for training delivery awarded. Departmental training plans developed in March 2014 and business skills training began in April 2014. Improvement initiatives identified by training participants.	None.	Strategy II Tactic D Strategy IV Tactic H
	C. Perform follow-up reviews to document results and efficiencies achieved.	January 2014 original *December 2014 revised*	Status report underway.	Document and report improvement results.	Strategy IV Tactic B
	D. Provide maps showing maintenance work completed, capital projects completed, and planned capital improvements.	January 2013 and Ongoing	Completed January 1, 2013 for printed maps. Online Tool to Track Road Construction Across New Orleans released on March 10, 2015.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic M
	E. Document FEMA receipts and uses of funds.	January 2013 and Ongoing	Completed January 1, 2013. Summary of FEMA receipts and uses of funds is provided to Board committees each month.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic M
	F. Initiate annual meetings with citizens of each council district to regularly report on organizational performance results.	May 2014 original *December 2014 revised*	Completed December 2014. Sewerage and Water Board staff regularly attend meetings in each council district upon request.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic M
	G. Provided written updates to the Clerk of the City Council.	Quarterly and As Requested.	Completed May 30, 2013.	None.	Strategy IV Tactic M

Statistics	
Completed	18
On Target	13
Not Started	1
Delayed	3
Needs Attention	0
Total	**35**