

Next Meeting: March 22, 2021

Meeting Highlights and Discussions

1. Call to Order – Ed Haapala, Chair
 - a) Roll Call
 - i. Bob Belair – present
 - ii. Jerome Bivins – present
 - iii. Ed Haapala – present
 - iv. Maggie Hughes – present
 - v. Cheryl Porter – present
 - vi. Tim Sikma – present
 - vii. Bill Turner – present
 - b) Quorum was reached
2. Approval of December 2, 2020 Agenda – Ed Haapala, Chair
 - a) Moved: Tim Sikma
 - b) Seconded: Bob Belair
 - c) Motion Passed
3. Approval of November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Ed Haapala, Chair
 - a) One correction was received: Jerome Bivins was inadvertently marked absent at the 11/7/2019 meeting, this will be corrected in the finalized version.
 - b) Moved: Bob Belair
 - c) Seconded: Jerome Bivins
 - d) Motion Passed
4. Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council Update – Madison Merzlyakov, GLWA
 - a) Information Sharing:
 - i. Have hosted a variety of webinars in the last year on things like Introduction to the council, flushing related to buildings being vacant due to COVID-19, support of MDHHS, case studies from communities (Lansing & Grand Rapids)
 - ii. Plan to host 2-3 webinars in 2021 to a broader audience
 - iii. Newsletter is typically published after the council meetings, that highlights the efforts of the council
 - iv. Plan to share any regulatory updates and compliance alerts by partnering with EGLE to support local councils
 - v. Governor Announcement of a \$207.1 million investment in drinking water quality, including:
 1. Lead Service Line Replacement in Disadvantaged Communities Program, Lead and Copper – Drinking Water Asset Management Grants, PFAS and Emerging Contaminants - Contamination and Consolidation Grants, Non-Lead Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants, Affordability and Planning Grants

- b) Public Education & Outreach
 - i. Working to compile a centralized site with existing public education materials and resources regarding Lead & Copper
 - ii. Goal of creating their own public education and outreach materials
 - iii. Have received funding to hire a consultant to create a public information and outreach program to serve local councils, RFPs are expected in early 2021
- c) Other Items:
 - i. Working to draft an action level exceedance template for communities to use
 - ii. The SDWAC website is: [EGLE - Drinking Water Advisory Councils \(michigan.gov\)](http://EGLE-DrinkingWaterAdvisoryCouncils.michigan.gov)

5. Current and Future Initiative

- a) LCR Sampling Videos – Madison Merzlyakov, GLWA
 - i. GLWA Public Affairs with review from the Communication & Education Work Group created a series of informational videos designed to help Member Partners comply with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) without entering private homes.
 - ii. The videos inform community members how they can keep themselves safe from unacceptable levels of lead and copper in their drinking water.
 - iii. GLWA has encouraged all Member Partners to share these videos with their residents.
 - iv. The first video demonstrates how residents can determine if their service line is made of lead, galvanized steel, or plastic. The other videos provide instructions for how they can properly collect drinking water samples from each type of service line.
 - 1. [Determine Your Home's Service Line Type](#)
 - 2. [Collecting Water Samples to be Tested for Lead and Copper \(lead service lines\)](#)
 - 3. [Collecting Water Samples to be Tested for Lead and Copper \(copper, galvanized steel, or plastic service lines\)](#)
- b) Corrosion Control Optimization Study – Nichole Sajdak, GLWA
 - i. One of the ways GLWA delivers water of unquestionable quality to the region is through corrosion control treatment.
 - ii. An initial study done in 1996 focused on identifying the type of corrosion control treatment to use and identified the optimal water quality parameters. GLWA consistently monitors those parameters.
 - iii. GLWA wanted to take a proactive approach and revisit the original assumptions in that study and is now conducting a study to determine if there is anything else GLWA can do to optimize the system.
 - iv. The first step is to look at historical data available and a consistent downward trend in lead levels has been observed.
 - v. The next step is to look inside the pipes, and GLWA is working with Member Communities to obtain and test pipes from their systems that are being replaced and would otherwise be discarded.
 - vi. This proactive project is ongoing, and information is shared through the Member Outreach Program.
- c) Other Suggested Initiatives:
 - i. None.

6. Other Business

- a) Water Asset Management Plans – State is encouraging utilities to submit any updates when changes are made.

- b) Cheryl Porter, Vice Chair emphasized the focus educating the public regarding lead and copper for this council a. She encouraged council members to pass along any suggestions or ideas for materials as other council members are closer to the end user than GLWA is.
- c) Email outreach@glwater.org with any suggested needs, topics or ideas for education.

7. Public Comment

- a) Elin Betanzo (Beverly Hills): Regarding the Corrosion Control Study and the historical data over the last two decades. Great to be evaluating that. There was new sampling data in 2019 for lead service lines, and there were new action level exceedances in the service area, which is completely new data. How does that factor in with the conclusion that there was a consistent downward trend in lead levels in the service area?
 - i. Response from Cheryl Porter, Vice Chair: Since the change to the sampling protocol just happened, we likely won't have any historical data relevant to it. GLWA plans to keep track of this type of information moving forward. This is also one of the rationales behind doing a corrosion control study, so that we can be prepared to address these changes to ensure GLWA is providing water of unquestionable quality.

8. 2021 Council Meeting Dates

- a) March 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
- b) August 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

9. Closing Remarks

- a) Bob Belair: Thankful for the PFAS educational information. Encourages other communities to share that info with their residents and post it on their website/social media.
- b) Ed Haapala: Water Utilities from the regional level to the local level are essential workers. We are always here for our communities and continue to appreciate being able to provide those services.

10. Meeting adjourned

- a) Moved: Bob Belair
- b) Seconded: Cheryl Porter
- c) Motion Passed