

Good morning. Thank you, Madam President and all of Detroit City Council for the invitation to speak with you today.

My name is Suzanne Coffey. The Great Lakes Water Authority's Board of Directors appointed me as Interim Chief Executive Officer on August 11, 2021.

As the newly appointed Interim CEO, I'm glad that I could be here today to introduce myself to you and provide you with an update on regional system operations.

I am a licensed, professional engineer who has deep roots in southeast Michigan. I have worked in the region in the water sector since 2003, including for the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner. I came to work with DWSD in 2015 and was a part of the executive team that stood up GLWA in 2016, serving as the Chief Planning Officer until my recent position change.

In my first appearance before City Council as Interim CEO, I want to start by reiterating my commitment to working with the team at GLWA, as well as with our member partners, regulators, and other stakeholders to improve the overall resiliency of the system.

Resiliency includes better coordination with our fellow utilities, including our external power suppliers. In fact, since the June rain events, we have been meeting regularly with them, and I coordinated a series of meetings with executive staff from DTE Energy and members of our Executive Leadership Team to advance the dialogue about short and long-term improvements to the reliability to our power supply. We are now meeting regularly to advance these high-level conversations.

GLWA has also been highly engaged in the new Southeast Michigan Aging Infrastructure Group that was recently established by the state of Michigan. It meets on a weekly basis to understand what we can do collaboratively to help address the critical issue of flooding in southeast Michigan. We have team members actively engaged on all of the subcommittees and are taking a leadership role where we see it appropriate.

As the region continues to have discussions about the rain events and resiliency, we are seeing a recognition that the level of service that the system provides for environmental protection is likely different than the level of protection that is needed for flood control. This is the right conversation, and it is a conversation that we all need to be a part of. By that I mean us, our local systems/member partner communities, regulators and road agencies.

We are positioned well in the region to lead these discussions, thanks to the collaborative work that has already been done related to our new Wastewater Master Plan.

In fact, a meeting on this topic has already been scheduled with our members partners from the Grosse Pointes, DWSD, and the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District. During this meeting we will talk about current flood mitigation efforts, how we can better work together during large rain events and begin an initial discussion on what level of service design (target) we should be

planning for given climate change and the impacts that are already upon us. We will also be scheduling a similar meeting with Westside communities.

Additionally, I wanted to let you know that last week I participated in the first of a series of Urban Flooding discussions that were convened by the Detroit City Planning Commission. It was an excellent conversation where both DWSD Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Palencia Mobley and I provided presentations on how both the local and regional collection systems work and then engaged in a dialogue with the Commissioners about how we can all work together going forward.

As a part of our ongoing efforts to better inform the public about the regional system, GLWA held a tour of the Freud and Conners Creek Pump Stations for the media on August 30. During the tour, myself and GLWA's COO for Wastewater Operations Navid Mehran guided nearly 20 members of the print and broadcast media through both pump stations and gave them a first-hand look at the equipment, as well as provided a full explanation of how they operate. We also held detailed question and answer periods after each tour stop. I believe this went well and the resulting media coverage helped to provide the public with some good information.

Since GLWA last appeared before this honorable body, we have also begun issuing severe weather alerts when the National Weather Service predicts inclement weather. Not only do the alerts go to the media, but they are also posted on our social media channels and our website and distributed to our member partner communities.

Now, some of the preliminary findings of GLWA's internal investigation:

Operations

GLWA did have team members at both the Freud and Conners Creek Pump Stations the entire event on June 25th and 26th. The team members followed their standard operating procedures and were actively troubleshooting the equipment throughout.

There has been a question of whether the Freud Pump Station can be operated remotely. It can. The storm pumps at the Conners Creek Pump Station must be operated manually due to a complex vacuum priming system. This is one of the reasons that we have decided to completely rebuild that station. The rebuild of Conners Creek and the significant rehabilitation of Freud is underway, will cost in the neighborhood of \$250 million and is expected to take another eight years to complete. So, we must continue to be diligent with regard to staffing and improving resiliency of these facilities until such a time as the new and improved stations are operational.

Power Supply and Power Quality

Regarding the external power supply to the Freud Pump Station, our external energy supplier has repaired the feed that was cut, and we have two power sources to the pump station. We now can energize all pumps. We are still working to have a third power feed into the Freud

Pump Station to provide backup power supply in the event there is another unanticipated external power disruption.

We have installed power quality monitors on the Freud, Conners Creek and Blue Hill Pump Stations. These allow us to constantly monitor both the presence of power to our transformers, as well as the quality of that power. The quality of the power, under or over voltage, is also a serious concern we have identified. We are working directly with DTE Energy and are sharing this power quality information.

We have also upgraded our standard operating procedures, and if there are critical power supply interruptions, notifications are now being sent directly to the Chief Operating Officer responsible for that operating area. This allows GLWA Executive Leadership to better engage in decision making regarding emergency responses.

On September 1, 2021 consultants that GLWA engaged to conduct our internal review shared with our Board of Directors some top-line, preliminary findings from their work to-date:

- First, they commented on the intensity of the storm. You've likely heard this before but I believe it bears repeating; combined sewer systems in Michigan are designed to convey an event that is 1.7 inches of rain in one hour with no rain before and no rain after. For decades, the local and regional systems have been building our pipes and pump stations to meet this target. This is supposed to provide a level of service of 10 years, meaning that the probability that this intensity of rain would occur is one time every 10 years. Multiple times this summer we have experienced rains that have exceeded this target: first on June 25-26, again on July 16, and then again on August 27;
- Based on our consultant Wade Trim's modeling, they have concluded that given the amount and intensity of the rainfall that occurred during the June 25-26 rain event, that there would have been widespread regional flooding even if the pump stations had all external power and all pumps had operated as designed without any interruption;
- Wade Trim further stated that the depth of the basement flooding would have been lessened if the pumps had all operated as designed without interruption and also that the duration of the flooding would have been decreased.

The internal investigation is still proceeding, and we expect it to be concluded in October.

As you may know, GLWA's Board of Directors has also launched its own independent investigation. That investigative team has access to all records and has been conducting interviews of GLWA staff. I don't have a timeline for the completion of that investigation, however, I thought it was important to let you know it is underway.

Finally, I can share some high-level information on claims that we have received; to-date, GLWA has received more than 17,000 claims from the June 25-26 rain event.

Thank you, I am happy to take your question.