

Water System Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2021

Opening

The special meeting of the Water System Advisory Council Water System Advisory Council was called to order at 5:35pm on September 7, 2021 via Zoom by Chairperson Thompson.

Present

Jamie Gaskin, Ben Pauli, Sheryl Thomspson, Gina Smith, Sheryl Thompson, Jaron Houston

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

New Business

Jamie Gaskins made a motion without objection to adjust the agenda to allow DPW Director Mike Brown to move ahead on the agenda to present. Motion was seconded by Lawrence Reynolds.

Secondary Water Line

Flint had been taking water over 10 days. Saturday before saw change in water quality. GCDC is taking a half million gallons per day. There is a 3-day retention time. Brown has not been made aware of any changes or concerns with the system. The EPA, EGLE, and City of Flint met Sept. 7 to review. Meeting was scheduled for Thursday Sept. 9 with EPA, DEQ, and City of Flint to review current data. After Thursday, if there are no concerns, the water supply will increase to 25%. This could happen as early as Monday, Sept. 13. The signal to move to 25% will be dictated by equipment availability (GCDC equipment scheduled for maintenance Sept. 8 & 9. There will be review of data from the previous week in addition to data through Thursday, Sept. 9. Samples taken on Monday will be analyzed and posted Wednesday for review on Thursday, Sept. 9.

MDHHS Sampling

An overview of MDHHS sampling was provided by Qiana Towns Williams. During the week of August 23, DHHS identified approximately 53 homes and residents to participate in their ongoing sampling efforts. MDHHS met with TAC, WSAC, and community partners to provide an overview of sampling plans. MDHHS representative did also attend the Communications meeting and a GHS all-staff meeting to provide an overview of their efforts in Flint. MDHHS planned to return to Flint on Sept. 8-10 for a second round of testing at the preset locations. Chairperson Thompson requested the MDHHS sampling efforts include members of WSAC to support transparency. Towns Williams asked committee members interested in testing to forward their contact information to her so that it could be forwarded to Laura Gossiaux at MDHHS. Dr. Reynolds asked for sampling instructions prior to MDHHS coming to homes.

Service Line Replacement

Vice-Chairperson Pauli opened a discussion of goals of the council. The deadline has passed. Vice-Chairperson Pauli mentioned there were residents skeptical and other challenges for residents to opt into replacement. Outside of homes that did not opt in, Vice-Chairperson Pauli mentioned properties that are currently vacant. Pauli called attention to whether the city has a plan to provide support to residents after the deadline. Vice-Chairperson Pauli asked for clarification on how the city will comply with the state law that calls for progressive replacement of lead lines. Vice-Chairperson Pauli mentioned galvanized pipes as a concern and how the city will respond to them and pondered the city's compliance with laws that require Michigan cities to develop inventory that "identifies materials of all service lines." Vice-Chairperson Pauli questioned how the city intends to complete the inventory (confirmed composition). Vice-Chairperson Pauli also discussed yard restoration and concerns related to the delay of yard restoration and timeline.

Mike Brown explained the contracted service spent \$3,000,000 on yard restoration and did not complete the work. There are approximately 8,000 remaining restorations. NRDC would like restoration completed by Sept. 2022. City is putting together RFP's for restoration and working to identify funds. Brown stated city has been working on developing the inventory. Per Brown, state law required 5% lead line replacement per year. Per Brown, unoccupied houses require inspection and a new meter. The city would complete a preliminary line inspection. City working to identify lines and communicate when residents move into a new home.

Chairperson Thompson mentioned the WSAC might work to support residents and work with landlords to conduct water testing. Chairperson Thompson stated WSAC might look to establish support for residents who need to report water quality issues.

Vice-Chairperson Pauli shared ideas that the council might look at developing ways for

residents to swiftly communicate with the city and communicate with one another about any water quality concerns.

Old Business

By-laws committee update

By-laws are being adapted from Great Lakes Water Authority Advisory Council. Consideration given to specifications of Flint's city charter. The by-laws discussion included talk about how the Water System Advisory Council and the Technical Advisory Council (TAC) might interact. There exists overlap between the WSAC and TAC. The members of each council cannot talk about water concerns with 2 or more persons present without violating the Open Meetings Act. Per Lottie, there has been discussion with City of Flint legal department about disbanding TAC. Another suggestion was to make TAC a subcommittee of WSAC. Update may be provided at next WSAC meeting.

The by-laws committee discussed whether the WSAC has the authority to appoint a replacement on the council without nomination from the mayor or confirmation from City Council. By-laws subcommittee discussed whether the council might make recommendations to the mayor on council appointments. Per Lottie and according to the charter, all members of WSAC must be presented to council by the mayor then approved. Council member Gaskins reminded members that the by-laws are a living document and can be adapted and/or revised.

The by-laws committee discussed by-law related to role of Vice Chair. Amendment was made expand the responsibilities of the Vice Chair to include assisting the chair to organize the work of the council, drafting agendas, and other responsibilities. The work will also assist the vice chair when she/he assumes the position of Chair.

The by-laws committee discussed 50% attendance as the designated quorum. A majority would have to agree with a motion for it to pass.

City of Flint's legal department is awaiting a draft of the WSAC by-laws for review.

Council discussed addition of language regarding meeting attendance including attendance at regular meetings. By-laws would not require the council to expel a member solely based on attendance. Per Lottie, legal may need to be consulted as their may be rules related to attendance in the charter.

Vice-Chairperson Pauli discussed revising the preamble to add language related to affordability and accessibility. Gaskins explained if the TAC is added as a subcommittee of the WSAC, the point may be implied and may already be implied in the by-laws of the WSAC. Dr. Lawrence expressed some uncertainty about affordability and accessibility being under the WSAC's purview. Dr. Reynolds proposed the WSAC could advocate for affordability and accessibility. Chairperson Thompson suggested affordability should be part of the WSAC's ongoing conversation. Dr. Reynolds suggested the charge may be the

responsibility of the City Council and other elected officials. Smith suggested the by-law committee meet to further discuss the wording and follow up with the WSAC in the future.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Council will discuss means by which residents can communicate with the City of Flint and communicate with one another as it relates to water quality issues (including communications re: boil water advisories).

Update from MDHHS water sampling is requested.

Update on TAC requested.

Update from by-laws committee is requested.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm by Chairperson Thompson. The next general meeting will be virtual at 5:30pm on September 21, 2021.

Minutes submitted by: Qiana Towns Williams

Approved by: Name