



# Minutes

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**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
WATER SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, December 16, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.  
YCUA Administration Building  
2777 State Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-9112**

**Members Present:** Anthony Morgan, Jeff Castro, Kristina Scarcelli, Mike Shaffer, Jerry Evans, Sean Knapp, and Scott D. Westover.

**Members Absent:** Eric Sizemore.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Castro called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council (DWAC) – Jeff Castro**

Mr. Castro provided a brief update of the statewide DWAC's activities as of August 2019. He indicated that the council has been developing plans for continuing public awareness about lead in drinking water and advising and consulting with the municipal water system advisory councils. Mr. Castro explained that they are beginning to formulate a strategy to assist both the general public and the water system advisory councils who must inform and educate their residents on the often complex issues of lead in drinking water.

He pointed out that, in June, the DWAC distributed a survey to the 27 municipal councils that have formed across the state. In the survey, one overwhelming response is the hope and expectation that the DWAC will provide resources that can create clear and accurate messaging for water users, including explanations of the difference between the statewide Lead and Copper Rule versus the EPA's.

Mr. Castro also explained that the MI Lead Safe ([Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe](http://Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe)) website is an excellent, central resource containing variety of flyers, pamphlets, and web sources on the topic of lead in drinking water.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**B. EGLE DWAC Outreach – Jeff Castro**

1. Reducing Potential Lead Exposure from Drinking Water – Mr. Castro outlined the document, highlighting the importance of replacing older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead. He indicated that older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked “lead-free.” Mr. Castro explained that faucets, fittings, and valves sold after January 2014 are required to meet a more restrictive “lead-free” definition but may still contain up to 0.25 percent lead.
2. Particulate Lead in Drinking Water – Mr. Castro summarized the document, indicating that an important item of preventative maintenance in the home is to clean faucet aerator at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.
3. Galvanized Service Lines – Mr. Castro outlined the document, explaining that galvanized pipes are iron pipes that have been dipped in a protective zinc coating to prevent corrosion and rust and were commonly installed in homes built before 1970 as an alternative to lead pipe for water supply service lines. He indicated that, over time, galvanized pipes develop tubercles that can capture lead released from upstream lead service lines and this stored lead can be released into the home over time. Mr. Castro pointed out that, starting in 2021, community water supplies will be required to start replacing lead service lines and galvanized lines that are, or were, connected to lead.
4. Partial Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement – Mr. Castro summarized the document, indicating that the Michigan LCR has banned partial LSL replacements, except as a result of an emergency repair.

Mr. Morgan inquired as to how this information will be disseminated to the public. Mr. Knapp responded that his crews are communicating directly with customers in the field. Mr. Castro added that potential candidates for service line replacement will be notified beginning in 2021.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**C. 2019 Lead and Copper Results – Jeff Castro**

Mr. Castro advised that the lead and copper tap sampling pools must be reviewed, updated as necessary, and submitted to EGLE by January 1, 2020. He indicated that Tier 1 and Tier 2 sample site criteria no longer

include sites with copper pipes soldered with lead and installed after 1982 and that Tier 3 criteria have been modified to include sites with copper pipes soldered with lead and installed before July 1988.

Mr. Castro explained that YCUA's initial lead and copper sampling process occurred June through September and involved samples from 37 participants. He pointed out that YCUA conducted five draws at each sample site in order to determine if lead levels might be coming from inside the home or in the service line. Mr. Castro also explained that lead levels from service lines will present on the fifth draw after water has been flushed through the fixtures include the home. He further advised that the highest lead result and the highest copper result will be used to calculate the 90th percentile.

Mr. Castro stated that one sample was over the 23 ppb action level but was not part of the 90th percentile calculation. He acknowledged that Authority staff will notify the customer and will be replacing the lead service next week then testing again immediately. He further advised that all other sample site customers will receive their results within 30 days.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Service Line Inventory (DSMI) – Jeff Castro**

Mr. Castro advised that, in order to ensure distribution system components and service lines are properly identified and effectively inventoried, a preliminary DSMI, based on available information of services from the home to the street, must be submitted to the state by January 1, 2020, a final DSMI by January 1, 2025, and a comprehensive updated inventory due every five years thereafter. He indicated that utilities with lead service lines must report to EGLE annually on the status of lead service line replacement efforts and must notify residents served by lead service lines within 30 days of determining the service line content.

Mr. Castro explained that YCUA is currently preparing its Lead and Copper Sampling Plan & Preliminary Distribution System Materials Inventory, which will be submitted to the state by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

#### **B. YCUA Quality Water Webpage Launch – Jeff Castro**

Mr. Castro advised that the YCUA Quality Water webpage is under development and will be launched after the first of the year. He indicated that it is important to fully inform the public, as is evidenced by the

number of calls he has received from local media and the level of confusion and misinformation that exists.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments for the month. Mr. Shaffer commented that YCUA is very fortunate that its predecessors kept fairly good records of service lines going back to the 1920s and even the 1800s. He indicated that this level of record keeping, while not perfect, is much better than what most utilities have at their disposal. Mr. Castro commented that YCUA is continuing to stay in contact with the statewide DWAC, which has expressed its gratitude to the local municipalities for contributions that they continue to learn from.

Mr. Morgan inquired as to whether YCUA has a water system emergency plan in place. Mr. Castro responded that protocols are in place in the event of an emergency but there is no backup plan for re-sourcing water. He indicated that YCUA is the third largest authority receiving its water from GLWA and services over 100,000 customers, therefore water stored locally would not last long. Mr. Castro explained that in any emergency at the source, YCUA's water system would remain intact for fire suppression purposes. He reminded the council that the Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh water, so a water emergency of this kind is not likely.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Castro to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)



Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINA SCARCELLI, Public Information Coordinator