



Minutes

**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
WATER SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, July 27, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

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

Members Absent: None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Castro called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Lead Service Line Replacements** Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that lead service notification letters have been sent to the homes on the distribution and inventory list that was sent to EGLE at the first of the year. He indicated that the replacements will be initiated by EGLE in January 2021 but that YCUA has already started replacing lead service lines throughout the system during emergency repairs and road upgrade projects. He then asked staff to elaborate on how the projects are going.

Mr. Westover advised that the West Cross project involved three replacements and that inventory is currently taking place on the US-12 / M-17 project, which should be wrapped up by Labor Day.

Mr. Evans advised that crews have a good start on the US-12 / M-17 project, having been onsite for the last couple of days, and hope to have it completed in the next couple of weeks -- Labor Day at the latest.

Mr. Castro asked for an update on the Cross Street project. Mr. Westover responded that there was one replacement on the homeowner's side and two between the water main and the stop box. He indicated that the work is now complete.

Mr. Sizemore then updated the committee on inventories taken at specific addresses in the area.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

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

Mr. Castro advised that the last meeting of the Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council (DWAC) took place on May 14th and the next is scheduled for August 5th. He indicated that there have been some setbacks in all communities due to COVID-19 because distribution inventory list cold calls could not take place during the Stay at Home Orders. Mr. Castro explained that communities have had to send letters or wait for incoming requests from residents. He pointed out that the months of April and May were difficult but that he hopes customers will get more comfortable with allowing home visits as the pandemic subsides.

Mr. Castro also explained that some important dates to keep in mind are January 1, 2021, when EGLE will initiate its lead service line replacement after review of the various communities' distribution lists as well as January 1, 2025, when the action level changes from 15 PPB to 12 PPB and the completion of all distribution inventory lists is due. He further advised that, at that time, any services listed as unknown will be assumed to be lead.

Mr. Knapp advised that customers are starting to become more willing to allow YCUA staff to enter their homes. He indicated that about 50% are responding by submitting photos via email and about 50% want Authority staff to check their services for them. Mr. Westover inquired as to where that information is being cataloged. Mr. Knapp responded that the data being entered into Lucity as it is received as well as a network spreadsheet and location cards.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

C. EGLE DWAC Outreach – Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that all utilities are continuing to education their customers, especially regarding the reduction of lead in drinking water that went into effect in January of 2014 when the allowable lead in plumbing fixtures was reduced from 8% to .25%. He indicated that it is crucial for customers to know that if their faucets or other fixtures were installed prior to 2014, they most likely contain 8% lead. Mr. Castro explained that it is still a widely-held misconception that there is lead in the water when, in reality, the lead is either in the service line and / or the plumbing fixtures.

He pointed out that EGLE has also been recommending five minutes of routine flushing, which can bring 98% of lead services and fixtures down to 10 PPB. Mr. Castro also explained that there has been some resistance

to flushing as customers may have flow restrictions or feel they are letting water that they are paying for just run down the drain.

He further advised that the EPA and EGLE have determined that the estimated cost of each service line replacement is approximately \$5,200 but that the cost can vary widely due to issues such as finished basements, grow rooms, hoarding situations, etc. Mr. Morgan inquired as to whether an estimated time frame has been determined in addition to the estimated cost. Mr. Shaffer responded that each replacement can potentially involve one or more of the aforementioned variables but that a fair estimate is at least one per day. He added that replacements on the public side of the service line can take longer due to certain procedures that need to take place regarding roads and excavations that involve asphalt and concrete.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

D. 2019 Lead and Copper Results – Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that the new sampling criteria for lead services between the water main and the home involve the filling of five jugs of varying sizes. He indicated that the first and the last samples are used in order to get more of the water content from the service line near the main. Mr. Castro explained that this sampling technique has been successful in identifying lead action level exceedances that would have been overlooked with a single-sample technique.

He pointed out that this sampling technique also brought to light that, in addition to lead serviced lines, action levels can be exceeded in homes constructed prior to July 1988 with copper plumbing and lead solder.

Mr. Castro also explained that YCUA has not exceeded the 98 percentile with its testing so far, but that it has seen level increases due to the fifth liter sampling.

He further advised that 2020 sampling began in June and will be completed in September. He asked Mr. Sizemore to give the committee an update on that sampling. Mr. Sizemore advised that of the 30 samples required in this round, 20 have been completed and 10 sample kits are currently in homes identified with lead service lines. He indicated that staff hopes to have the outstanding kits collected in the next week or so. Mr. Sizemore then outlined the step-by-step process of collecting samples from customers.

Mr. Shaffer inquired as to whether GLWA has been able to improve on its turn-around time for processing samples. Mr. Castro responded that it is getting better after trying to process 16,000 samples last year.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Service Line Inventory (DSMI) – Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that the state is currently evaluating the materials lists that were submitted by all utilities at the first of the year and will be making a decision for each utility on the expected number of replacements per year. He indicated that the biggest concern amongst the communities is the unknowns resulting from poor historical record keeping, especially between the property line and the home. Mr. Castro explained that YCUA currently has about 664 unknowns, another 3,762 unknowns most likely not lead, 36 galvanize previously connected to lead, and 173 confirmed lead services. He pointed out that, by 2025, YCUA will be required to determine what the unknowns consist of. Mr. Castro also explained that the sooner the better, so that the Authority can better determine how many services will need to be replaced and how much it will cost based on that \$5,200 per service estimate that was previously discussed.

Mr. Shaffer interjected that unknowns are first being identified through the US-12 / M-17 project and that the inventory is being cataloged in three places. He added that notification letters are going out and staff is responding accordingly.

Mr. Castro asked Mr. Knapp to give the committee an update on the customer education procedure undertaken after a lead service line has been identified. Mr. Knapp outlined the procedure at length, which includes a meeting with the homeowner to explain interruption of service, reducing exposure to lead, how to clean aerators, and scheduling of a plumbing assessment inside the home. He indicated that a meter technician will then replace the meter and reader and perform a 10-minute flush, which is then followed by re-sampling within 30 days. Mr. Knapp explained that the results are for YCUA's records as well as the State of Michigan and that the homeowner is notified within 72 hours of the result.

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 has been launched after very hard work on behalf of Ms. Scarcelli and OHM with contributions from the committee members. The textual webpage, interactive story map, and homeowner input form were then presented visually for the Board's review.

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Mr. Morgan inquired as to whether the website contains a running report of how many service line replacements have been completed. Mr. Castro responded that the website can certainly include those numbers as they become available but that the program doesn't begin until January 2021. He explained that YCUA will provide the state with a final inventory list in 2023 and then will know how many replacements need to be done per year. Mr. Castro added that all replacements need to be completed in 20 years and the Authority has been proactive in replacing lead services for the last year and a half.

Mr. Morgan then inquired as to how visitor interactions with the website will be tracked. Ms. Scarcelli responded that Google analytics are maintained on the website, with a report submitted to her once per month. Mr. Castro added that the notification letters being mailed to customers will include the website as a source for more information.

Mr. Castro then invited the group to visit the website on their own and provide input. Mr. Shaffer commented that it is easy to navigate and looks good. Mr. Knapp concurred and indicated that he is anxious to start receiving the customer surveys. Mr. Evans added that this is great work. Mr. Morgan thanked Ms. Scarcelli for the presentation and agreed that it looks wonderful.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments for the month.
5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Castro to adjourn the meeting at 3:43 p.m. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)



Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINA SCARCELLI, Public Information Coordinator