

**City of Dearborn**  
**Minutes from the Meeting of the Water System Advisory Council (WSAC)**  
**January 26, 2021**  
**9:00 AM**

**Location of Meeting:**

Electronically, via Zoom

**WSAC Members Present:** Kassem Allie, Sheila Kreza, Marie McCormick, David Norwood, and Yunus Patel

1. The meeting of the Water System Advisory Council of City of Dearborn was called to order at 9:10 AM on January 26, 2021 by Chairman Allie via zoom. Roll call was taken and each of the Board members was present, as well as other City staff participants and members of the public.
2. The proposed agenda was revised and approved by consent of all Board members.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting on January 6, 2020 were approved by consent of all Board members.
4. Update on how the pandemic is affecting our current efforts  
Chairperson Allie discussed how the pandemic temporarily halted our forward movement; all board members agreed that the unprecedented pandemic had an effect on our ability to progress, but we are all committed and dedicated to move forward. Kreza stated, and echoed by Eric Witte, that in person lead inspections have been paused in the interest of safety.
5. Discuss ways to increase public awareness about water quality  
Chairperson Allie guided the Board through discussing the importance of water quality. Kreza updated the progress relating to lead service line replacement; inspected and identified the services in over 1,300 homes and Patel confirmed that 512 lead service lines were replaced in 2020. This number meets our goal of replacing at least 5% each year. We don't have previous numbers to compare to because the EGLE mandate took effect in June 2019.

Funding, budget and potential grants were all discussed. Patel stated we did not qualify for some of the grants that we applied for, but the City is actively seeking funding through other avenues such as EGLE and SEMCOG. Eric Witte added that it is a bigger challenge to get federal help because we do not exceed the action level. The City is challenged with verifying all lead lines by January 2025. Allie inquired as to getting an extension due to the temporary suspensions of activity due to the pandemic to which Witte responded that will be up to EGLE. Suggestions were made to increase the ways in which the survey can reach more residents to increase service line identification; currently it is on the City's website and published in the Back Fence. Allie suggests adding inserts with the water bills and utilizing social media platforms.

McCormick suggested partnering with the University of Michigan to do mapping and GIS database information that could be accessed by the residents and engage the public. Norwood states that DPI can put information in the Back Fence and in the City calendar. Allie suggests social media platforms create opportunities to publicize our efforts and create awareness, while showing the importance of resident participation. Possibly utilize the City's emergency

notification system and neighborhood associations to get information disseminated. McCormick suggested creating a social media tool kit to reach the various social platforms, and look into budgeting for paid stipends to groups to aid in distributing the information to residents. Norwood will reach out to the City's Department of Information. Doug Feldcamp can send an app with texting features for service line identification.

6. Meeting schedule

The WSAC members decided unanimously to meet before March and reassess the frequency of meetings periodically, with a tentative next meeting in February 2021, to be confirmed.

7. Other business items

Kreza discussed our annual lead testing results, which were below the state action level and are published in the City's annual water quality consumer confidence report on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Allie would like to publicize this information more to increase awareness of our accomplishments.

8. Public Comment

Ken Paris, 1633 N. Lafayette St., expressed appreciation of our efforts. He also spoke of the costs associated with replacing lead service lines such as new equipment and personnel, and how that information needs to get to the public. He also spoke of not only centralizing our focus on delivery and getting the information out to the public, but the importance of the context and accuracy of information so as not to be discredited by the public. Allie and McCormick agree with Paris' opinion that we need to discuss water quality as a whole, not exclusively lead and copper. Residents want to know where their tax and water bill money is going; flooding, CSO projects, other water testing, etc.

Leslie Herrick, Councilmember, supports the discussion about utilizing social media, but also feels the Back Fence is more reliable and has historically been successful in getting information to the residents. She agrees that residents are looking closely at where the City is spending money. Our favorable lead testing result is a good story to tell and share with the public that the City's water quality is good.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Norwood, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 AM.

**Next Meeting**

The next WSAC meeting is to be determined and will be via zoom.

The agenda for the next meeting is as follows:

To be determined

Respectfully submitted,

SHEILA KREZA  
Secretary to the Water System Advisory Council