



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee  
September 16, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

## Welcome and Introductions

On Conference Call:

Gina Miller  
Michelle Naccarti-Chapkis  
Sarah Viznecki  
Dan Duffy  
Mora McLaughlin  
Christine Maloni Hoover  
Erin Fure  
Dominique Nunley  
Jared Thompson  
Barry King  
Noble Maseru  
Sarah Stoner  
Will Pickering  
Everett Skipper  
Israel Gray  
Mike Blackhurst  
Kinsey Casey  
Julie Barg  
Sarah Bolenbaugh

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## Small Diameter Water Main Updates:

### 2020 SDWM:

- Work began in June 2020, wrapping up now.
  - 2019: 97% of water main, 90% of service lines complete.
  - 2020A: complete other than some restoration work.
  - 2020B: contract areas complete, additional section of water main added to scope. Started week of 9/13
- 2,100 locations where we received agreement or agreement not required (non-lead)
- 27 unresponsive locations – all received partial before Termination Policy went into effect.
- 2 locations remain unverified.
- 28% public lead found, 24% private lead found. Lower than what we saw in neighborhood program. We expected this, but not this low.



**Gina Miller: Regarding 2020 progress: Mount Washington is at 108% complete, why?**

- Crews put in more water main than we initially anticipated. Will get back to Gina on the specific additional work we did. Sarah explains it may have been due to extending the main to properly replace a service line, etc.
  - Sarah Bolenbaugh followed up to share that there was a party line we needed to separate, and that required the addition of a section of water main in a location where there was not one previously.

**2021 SDWM:**

- Three projects – one in construction (BRT) and two approaching construction in late 2021 (2021 SDWMR Contract B&C).
  - 2021 SDWMR projects awarded but funding still pending with PENNVEST.
- 2022 SDWMR in design now.
- 64% of BRT water main installed, progressing well.
  - 97% of agreements are in-hand or not required.
  - 8 locations unresponsive, have not been verified yet.
  - Project area has a lot of commercial space, may be contributing to the minimal lead we are finding 15% public lead and 11% private lead.
- 2021 Pending Contracts:
  - 75% of agreements in hand before construction begins, we are happy with these results.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: What do you anticipate the partial report will be for 2021 SDWMR? Do you anticipate many partials?**

- We are banned from doing partials, we will terminate locations with no agreement or declined agreement.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Was that effective in April of this year?**

- Yes, early April.
- Opt-Out Status:
  - 9 have said they already replaced their private side. We have verified 2 of those locations and they did not have private lead. The others remain to be verified.
  - 3 didn't list a reason – we will call them once construction starts to discuss our program in more detail.
  - 2 locations in BRT project where we opted out. One truly vacant, one is gutted for future renovation. They both already do not have water service.
    - Row of 9-10 houses that we had already separated last year, one property doesn't have water service (the health safety issues were present last year). The other property -interior was gutted and there are no stairs to basement.
  - If a property has been condemned, we abandon the service line.
  - We will leave the curb stop shut if the property is vacant.



**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** For vacant properties, where is that info being captured? Does it go onto the larger lead map? If someone buys property, how will they find out this has happened?

- **Dan Duffy** asking Sarah Viznecki to provide insight – when someone applies for PWSA service, we could fill them in on what has occurred. We normally install the private side curb stop and meter pit at terminated site. If a private plumber comes to do private side, there is no further action needed from PWSA other than to turn water on. They would be notified that their water is off and they need to install a private side service line.
- **Dan Duffy:** The lead map should also show that there is a lead line there. We could look into including more specific information on a public map.
- **Mike Blackhurst:** Realtors should be providing a disclosure form as part of the sale.
- **Dominique Nunley:** Notes will be attached to the property for PWSA Customer Service when someone calls in about what transpired at property.

**Noble Maseru:** What do you do if you discover lead on the private side after someone says there isn't.

- If we don't have an agreement, we terminate service to the location, starting with a letter 37 days in advance of the shut.
- Most times, that far out in the construction schedule, we don't know if there is lead or not.
- We send notifications to both tenants and landlords/homeowners.
- For locations where the mailing and service address are different, we post the location 30 days in advance of a potential termination.
- 10 day letter by mail only sent when we've confirmed lead on private side.
- 3 day notice
- Day-of visit.
  
- Outreach update from Mora McLaughlin:
  - Virtual public meetings
  - Robocalls
  - Lead Help Direct phone calls
  - Door-to-Door Canvassing
  - Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
  - Project updates found on our website
- Dan Duffy notes that as the 2021 SDWMR outreach will ramp back up when contract is closer to groundbreaking.
  
- Overall LSLR Status
  - in 2021 to-date, 541 public and 441 private replacements.
  - Program to date: over 8,700 public and over 5,700 private.



- Over 7,000 public and over 8,000 private lines have been verified non-lead, which allows us to update our inventory.

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## Priority Lead Area Updates

- Since last analysis, there is new BLL data from ACHD and the latest inventory update results. The data from the 2020 census is not available yet.
- New mapping shows more priority 5 & 4 neighborhoods since last iteration.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Are you saying there has been shift in priority due to changes in BLL data and inventory?**

- It's likely being caused by BLL data, since inventory is only being weighted at 10%. Demographic data is still from 2010 Census.

**Noble Maseru: What determines low priority? Is there some scale? Is ACHD using 5 g/dL for baseline lead levels? Is there a plan to test residents who have had lead lines replaced to see if there is still lead remaining? Is there a report where you share results and how you followed up?**

- The darker the color, the higher priority. Model has four factors: BLL data (40 % weighing), number of children under 6 and women of child-bearing age, (40) income (10), number of lead lines found (10)
- ACHD is using that standard of 5 g/dL.
- Part of our protocol is to leave post-construction sample kit for the customer to collect and return after flushing and a stagnation period. We do this as part of construction (it was noted that the revised LCR requires this sampling but 60-90 days after construction). We also leave a lead pitcher and 6 months of filter cartridges at all locations (not required by regulation but we do it). When we see elevated post-construction samples, we call and remind them to use the pitcher and ask them to take another sample 3 months later. We continue to track and sample until lead levels decrease below the action level. If it persists we'll circle back and try to find out what the issue is.
- We don't have a report – the sampling data gets entered into our GIS, and read by our Lead software. Based on series of coding the software generates an action item that tells Lead Help to order a new test kit to have the customer test again, so no formal report is generated or needed.

**Mike Blackhurst: Do you anticipate pressure from customers to release post-construction data? Don't know if there is good understanding in the public that there are short-term spikes even with full replacements. There may be misunderstanding out there. Our data may shed light on this. Appreciates efforts to share filters and pitchers, but don't want methods questioned because of misunderstanding. Should questions arise, we should prepare for how to answer them.**



- If it's associated with a customer, we share it with them. We have not made this type of data public, only on a redacted block-level data from voluntary kits and LCR is on our website.
- We proactively provide pitchers and filters to mitigate against these spikes
- Have tracked and monitored all exceedances and provided mitigation where necessary but don't publish that data.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** In priority 5 zones, are these work areas that we will plan with next year's funding?

- We will address in next slide

**Noble Maseru:** Per Mike's comment – for filters and kits, do we track how many are distributed?

- Yes, all inventory distribution and sample results of all kinds are tracked.
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## Termination Updates

- 3 locations terminated to-date as mentioned in previous slides.
    - 1 was emergency ops replacement in May with unoccupied house, no response to offer to replace private side.
    - Other 2 were part of BRT project where we had already done work on party line last year. Both unoccupied and for one of them we cannot get in contact with property owner. Neighbors haven't seen anyone there in a long time. Other location has sewage in basement, not addressed since we were there last year.
    - While they already are without service, we wanted to complete the termination process correctly.
  - 259 37-Day letters sent.
    - 84 were sent to tenants as well. Those sites got postings.
  - 232 of the 259 sites we received an agreement or the private sides were determined to be non-lead and no agreement was needed.
  - 27 locations where agreement still needed
  - 19 10-day letters
  - 3 3-day postings
  - 3 day-of shut visits and terminations
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## Orthophosphate Update:

- Orthophosphate Optimization Plan complete in August 2021
  - Maintain pH at 7.7 and ortho dosing at 1.7 mg/l
  - Started 2021b compliance sampling – bottles mailed out and robocall schedule for 9/18
  - Sampling period ends in December 2021 with results in January 2022.



- Will need to do 2022a before we can set Water Quality Parameters – involves working with DEP to determine long-term testing locations.
- Evaluating additional, ongoing monitoring to ensure proper application of orthophosphate. If there are changes or concerns, we can take action before there is issue in peoples' homes.

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## Reimbursement Program Update from Julie Barg:

- Since we last met, there has been a lot more interest in program.
- There is some level of reimbursement for everyone, from full reimbursement to \$1,000 stipend.
- 299 people verified at 300% FPL or below.
- 301-400: 34
- 401-500: 13
- 500+: 43
- TOTAL: 392
- 23 locations have totally completed the process.
  - We need plumber invoice and County health inspection to reimburse.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: In terms of invoices, have you seen numbers comparable to what you expected? If a customer came to you or a community organization and wanted to participate, are there plumbers identified that can quickly onboard? Are plumbers utilizing trenchless method?**

- **Costs of reimbursement replacements is something we can summarize and share. Dan Duffy says there have been a few that were pricy with long service lines.**
- **We have a list of plumbers on our Reimbursement website. Any licensed plumber can do the work. Those on our website have agreed to our conditions: no deposit, will accept co-written check for reimbursement amount. Any other costs can have separate conditions with homeowner.**
- **Trenchless is more prevalent because they are plumbers, not excavators. Don't believe we are currently collecting that data for installation method. We can look back to see if it's collected.**

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## General Updates:

- PUC Settlement Requirements Status included in files
- GIS continues to be updated at the end of each month.
- Customer request sampling continues – we receive anywhere between 10-30 requests per week.



## 2023-2026 SDWMR Planning

- More data in our GIS now that we've completed more work, dedicated time to our inventory.
- 63 miles in CIP between 2023 – 2026
- Overall evaluation of SDWM which included:
  - # of lead and unknown sites
    - Weighting for lead and unknown
    - Ranked based on number of lead and unknown per mile of water main
  - History of breaks - # per 100 ft.
  - Fire-flow Conditions – ranking based on flow measurements at fire hydrants with emphasis on areas with flow less than 500 gpm and 1,000 gpm
- Weighting assigned to categories:
  - Lead and unknown: 20%
  - Breaks: 40%
  - Fire flows: 40%
- Weighed all three equally and put greater emphasis on lead/unknown to compare prioritization results.
- Next steps:
  - Coordination with sewer and stormwater programs to avoid construction conflicts or do combined work.
  - Coordination with other utilities for same reason.
  - Finalize list of locations to be able to develop annual programs.
- 2022 Priority LSLR:
  - Application made to PENNVEST in August for \$4.7M
    - Day care facilities
    - Locations with elevated compliance/voluntary lead test results.
  - Expect decisions in October PENNVEST Board Meeting.
  - If approved, they want money spent in 2022. Construction beginning in early spring.

### Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Are you considering non-residential sites?

- **Yes**
- City approved \$17.5M to PWSA from American Recovery Act funding for LSLR
  - Finalizing documents for design to work early next year.
  - Funding will allow work at 1,300 locations – will amount to about 725 public and corresponding private.
  - Will only replace private side if we find public lead.
  - Still need to select areas to work (refer back to priority map) – Dan Duffy requesting input from CLRAC members.





**Noble Maseru:** What is our timeframe to respond with recommendations? He asks because of the Lead Summit happening October 28<sup>th</sup>.

- We meet today, then again in December. We want to begin construction early next year. Need to finalize within a month. After we decide on locations, we need to do a deeper diver in inventory, prepare packets, etc.
- Dan Duffy thinks October 28<sup>th</sup> may be late for our process, he will look into it.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** Looking at “720” (shown on priority map) – what is indicated there? Gray (completed) areas indicated High Priority 5’s.

- Location where we have a lot of lead and unknown. If we were to select that location and two more we’d be at capacity.
- Some areas would have been high priority, although some early sites had less of a prioritization model applied.
  
- Dan notes that based on early review of the data, we are interested in Troy Hill, West End, Hazelwood.

**Sarah Visznecki:** Could cross check with Raftelis needs analysis data.

- Dan Duffy agrees this could be helpful.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** Recovery Act funding covers the 1,300 locations. How will we then use the PENNVEST money?

- PENNVEST funds will targeted daycare and locations with high lead test results. The ARP funds will be used for a neighborhood-based program.
- Always looking for more funding.
- Hopeful for Infrastructure Plan funding being discussed in Congress, when it is approved.

**Mike Blackhurst:** What is your feeling about federal infrastructure funding. Has had conversations with colleagues at Pitt to determine ways Pitt could help PWSA secure funding when it becomes available.

- We have very little information, still in legislative process. Won’t know details until it progresses more.
- Will Pickering: Must factor in amount of time it will take to filter from federal government down to PENNVEST. We would then have to apply for funding. Could be a year of more until we have projects funded by that money.
- Due to nature of service line work, we can be agile once money is available to design a contract.





**Noble Maseru:** Must continue to extend testing to daycare facilities, but also identify WIC locations where there may be opportunity to replace lead lines at these sites.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** can discuss 1,000 Hours program that addresses lead issues at childcare facilities.

**Noble:** Why isn't Larimar not showing up?

- Is not priority 5.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** How would you like to receive feedback?

- Send Dan Duffy and Mora McLaughlin an email with your thoughts.

**Noble Maseru:** Regarding insurance and liability for customers after replacement, could we provide some coverage to customers after replacement?

- There has been discussion of service line insurance, not sure where that stands at PWSA. Was some consideration making it part of the monthly bill. That insurance can only be used if there is an issue – the line being lead is not enough reason to use the insurance monies.
- We can get back to him with more info on this discussion.

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## Housekeeping

- CLRAC Membership:
  - Madeline Weiss has resigned. Rep from Pittsburgh United will fill in for her until someone is hired.
  - ACHD member has resigned and does not wish to replace someone for that position.
    - **Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis – this is disappointing. There is a new hire in their lead division, perhaps they would be interested in including that new hire? Will let Dan Duffy know if that person has been hired.**
  - Paul Spence (engineering rep) formally resigned.
  - Pat Bigley (Plumbers Union) formally resigned.
- Next meeting:
  - First Thursday of December
- Next discussion:
  - Water main relay construction updates
  - Water main planning updates
  - Other program updates
  - Reimbursement