



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee

March 3, 2022

Meeting Minutes

On Conference Call:

Sarah Viznecki
Sarah Stoner
Barry King
Brittany Schacht
Dan Duffy
Mora McLaughlin
Pete DeMarco
Dominique Nunley
Lisa Frank
Israel Gray
Christine Hoover
Julie Barg
Michelle-Naccarati Chapkis Naccarati-Chapkis
Tyler Hacker
Anna Coleman

Welcome and Introductions

- Lisa Frank taking over from Kisney Casey at City of Pittsburgh
 - Tyler Hacker (Cornwell Engineering Group) joining today
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Active SDWMR:

- Fifth and Forbes Water Main Replacement finishing in May 2022
 - 2 miles of water main, 200 public lead service lines.
 - Very little lead found – 14% public, 12% private



- 2021 SDWMR
 - Two contracts awarded in January, PENNVEST closing next week, construction to start in mid-late-March
 - 8 miles of water main, 900 public service lines + any private lead.
 - Will take 1+ years to complete.
 - 84% agreements returned – highest rate of return before construction starts yet.

2022 SDWMR

- Plan to apply to PENNVEST in May
- Project contingent on PENNVEST funding
- 3 contracts – 12 miles of water main, 1,800 public service lines.

2023 – 2026 SDWMR

- Plan for 63 miles of water main replacement
- First 11 miles have been identified within priority lead neighborhoods
- We pull areas out of priority lead neighborhoods where we intend to replace water main and save them for later as to not dig up the street twice in close succession.

Other

- Thomas and McPherson Stormwater Project
 - Replace portion of water main on McPherson
 - 73 public service line replacements – 54% lead on public and private
 - 59% verified to-date
- Centre Avenue Sewer Project
 - Replacing portion of water main on Centre Avenue
 - 14 public service lines
 - Construction to start in April
- Urgent LSLR
 - Will address leaking, old water mains.



Opt-Out Status

- 15 opt-outs currently, all stated that the private side is not lead.
- If lead is found after inspection, we re-engage the customer to get them to opt-in.
- It is rare that the material matches what the customer says.
- 2 PWSA opt-outs, both vacants.
- For condemned properties, PWSA abandons service line.
- For vacants, PWSA replaces public and leave service terminated.

Pete DeMarco – Will there be a formal update to the materials inventory after the 2026 SDWMR is complete?

- We update inventory monthly on our website.
- Once we complete planning for the 2023-2026 SDWMR we will make an update to our 2026 LSLR plan for internal CIP planning.
- Our CIP has LSLR programs from 2024 – 2026, which was based on our plans. When we finalize the SDWMR we want to revisit those estimates.

Pete DeMarco – do you have estimate of when that will be?

- Later this year after planning 2023 – 2026. Not the highest priority in department but we'll continue to work on it.

Pete DeMarco – 63 miles will be ramp-up compared to past years. Is all that work contingent on funding, labor. i.e – do you think you can accomplish it?

- Contingent on funding, no matter the source.
- Not evenly spread over years – based on our past work, we feel we can meet productivity goals.
- We may run into issues with hiring contractors for LSLR and SDWMR at the same time

Outreach

- Virtual public meetings
- Robocalls
- Lead Help Direct phone calls
- Door-to-Door Canvassing
- Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
- While the water main contract is called “2021 Small Diameter Water Main” I am referring to it as 2022 work on public outreach:
 - Project updates found at <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/2021-water-main-replacement-program>



- Upcoming 2022 water main locations found at <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/2022-water-main-replacement-program>

2022 LSLR Construction

- 2022 Priority LSLR – PENNVEST funded
 - PENNVEST approved \$4.7M funding package for one-off LSLRs at daycare facilities and locations with elevated lead level.
 - Construction to start in mid-March
 - 170 agreements sent in early-February consisting of all day care facilities on our list and all sample locations that have exceeded 15 ppb since August 2019, believe we can complete work at 400 locations
 - 42% return rate, which is great with relatively little outreach.
 - If we run out of locations, we will drop lead test level to 10 ppb, from 15 ppb, to include more locations.
 - PENNVEST closing March 14.
 - Canvassing and phone calls continue for outstanding agreements.
 - Work to be completed by the end of 2022

Michelle-Naccarati Chapkis: Are you having daycare facilities take test before their replacement to confirm lead?

- **No, we only removed locations based on evidence that they do not have a lead line (part of large building, service line over 2”). We removed those and sent agreements to the rest.**

Michelle-Naccarati Chapkis: Concerned about premise plumbing that is left behind.

- **Dan mentioned release form that was shared with WFHE team, Michelle confirmed she had some edits and will get it back to us.**

- 2022 Neighborhood LSLR – City ARP funds
 - Funding from American Recovery Plan - \$17.5M
 - Contract awarded in January, late March construction start.
 - Fund allows for work at approximately 1,400 locations, replace 725 public lead lines.
 - Construction bids look good, hopefully can do more than 725.
 - Areas selected using our Prioritization Model, and then ranking Level 5 neighborhoods using affordability matrix + EPA Environmental Justice areas.
 - First mailing batch is approximately 500 areas – sent last week.
 - Elliott/Crafton Heights will go first since we have a sewer rehab project starting in June.
 - Program will replace private lead if found – this is different from past Standard LSLR contracts.
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- Unsure of return rate yet.
- Will send more agreements after 2023 -2026 SDWMR planning is done.
- Work will be complete in fall of 2023.

Michelle-Naccarati Chapkis – Thanked City administration for funding. Other communities have received similar funding, are having a hard time kicking off. Michelle has suggested reaching out to us – has anyone done this?

- **No, we have not received recent meeting requests.**
- 2022 Urgent LSLR
 - Renewal of current contract.
 - Will replace private lead when encountered during PWSA Operations work related to emergency public service line replacement (i.e. leaks).
 - Operations crews become overwhelmed by other repairs during busy cold months, our Urgent crews can step in.
 - Contract starts this week.

Michelle-Naccarati Chapkis – because many other agencies have received PENNVEST money, do you see concerns getting contractors?

- **We bid these in December, got positive responses.**
- **Got really good pricing, even compared to 2019 contract bids.**
- **Larger concern is supply chain issues. Bigger issue for water main projects, which needs large lengths of pipe. Also seeing shortages of fittings.**
- **Not a lot of flexibility in materials buying while using state/federal funding – must be US steel/materials.**

Overall LSLR Progress

- Replaced over 600 public, 500 private LSLR in 2021
- Verified 862 lines as non-lead.
- Due to winter conditions work is slow in 2022 thus far.

Termination Updates

- 8 locations since April 2021



- All locations were vacant/unoccupied.
- 2 were emergency operations replacements.
- 5 were part of BRT project – all unoccupied.
- 1 part of 2020 SDWMR, PWSA opt-out for safety concerns.
- 272 37-Day letters sent. 87 30-day postings for tenants.
- Nine 3-day postings

Pete DeMarco – Do you think the terminations are motivating people?

- Seems like it is helping. Termination language is included in initial agreement package.
 - Procedure will be used for LSLR sites, we used to just skip over unresponsive sites.
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Orthophosphate Update:

- 2021b compliance sampling complete
 - 136 samples received
 - 90th percentile = 7.1 ppb
- Preparing Design Engineer’s Report for DEP submittal to increase orthophosphate level.
 - Asking DEP to revert back to previous levels that were keeping ortho lower than recent results show.
- Continuing additional, on-going monitoring to ensure proper application of orthophosphate.

Michelle-Naccarati Chapkis – ortho usage was based on analysis. Are you saying that you want to switch to a different dosage?

- April 2019 – late 2020 had ortho dosage at the same level. Studied the impacts of lowering pH+ortho to reduce lead. When we completed that, results weren’t beneficial as we had hoped.
 - Want to do additional pipe loop studies to test different dosages of orthophosphate.
 - We’ve learned that corrosion control is not a “set-it-and-forget-it” process, you have to continuously monitor.
 - We are harvesting lead pipes in our system to test scale inside pipes.
 - Major effort that we’ll never be done with.
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Reimbursement Program Update:



- Tenant or homeowner can qualify.
- 503 customers (vast majority) applied that are 300% of FPL or below.
- 52 locations have completed full process.
- We reach out to customers who have verified income but didn't continue the process.

General Updates:

- PUC settlement requirements status included in files
- Web map continues to be updated at the end of each month.
- Customer sampling plan continues – will promote it in relation to Priority LSLR
- We now provide 2-year warranty for private LSLs (used to be 30 days)
- Now mail those with test result of 10 ppb or less a free pitcher and filter (used to mail a coupon for results between 10 and 15 and only mailed the pitcher and filters for a result over 15 ppb).

Funding Opportunities

- Applying to PENNVEST funding in May 2022 for 2022 SDWMR contract
- Applying to EPA's recent "Reduction in Lead Exposure Via Drinking Water" grant.
- Continuing to wait for guidance on Infrastructure Bill funding. PA's share is \$87M for LSLR.

LCR Revisions

- LCRR finalized in December 2021
- Main topic in industry is inventory, required in October 2024
- PWSA presented to ASDWA symposium
- EPA asked PWSA to be a case study in their future inventory Guidance Document.
- Our next inventory submittal is due to PA DEP in December 2022 – will look to PA DEP to determine if there will be revisions to our procedures.

Housekeeping

- June 2 meeting
- Discussion topics:
 - Construction updates
 - Reimbursement