



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee

June 9, 2022

Meeting Minutes

On Conference Call:

Christine Maloni Hoover
Mora McLaughlin
Dan Duffy
Dominique Nunley
Israel Gray
Julie Barg
Lauren Burge
Gina Miller
Sarah Viszneki
Tyler Hacker
Barry King
Anna Coleman
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis

Welcome and Introductions

- Standard agenda for this session
 - Active and future water main/LSLR construction
 - Termination
 - Orthophosphate
 - Reimbursement
 - Funding opportunities
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Active LSLR Activities:

- Fifth and Forbes (BRT)
 - Construction began in May 2021, almost complete other than restoration.
 - About 2 miles of water main and 200 public service lines
 - Found very little lead – 13.4% public and 11.9% private



- 2021 SDWMR
 - Two contracts awarded in January, construction started mid-March.
 - 6.3 miles water main, 950 public service lines
 - Construction will take one year.
 - Contract B: Making good progress in Highland Park and Lawrenceville
 - Contract C: not as far along as Contract B, but work is proceeding in Point Breeze.
 - 46% (15,433 ft) of water main installed on both contracts
 - About 54% of service lines completed
 - 39% public and 35% private lead
 - Much closer to our estimates in planning
 - 92% of agreements returned/no agreement needed
 - Abandoned the service line at 2 unoccupied homes.
- Other Water Main Work
 - Thomas & McPherson Stormwater Project
 - Began last fall
 - Involves replacing section of water main
 - 71 public service lines
 - 44% public, 55% private lead
 - Service line replacements underway
 - Centre Avenue
 - Replacing portion of water main on Centre
 - 16 public service lines
 - 19% public, 24% private
 - Fuchsia Way Sewer Project
 - Replacing sewer, need to replace water main also
 - Have customers on temporary service while work is being done.
 - 43 public service lines
 - 19% public, 25% private
 - This was part of the 2019 LSLR Program, some customers were unresponsive before but will all receive the replacements.
 - 1 termination – will take old water main out of service next week. We believe it is abandoned home, materials are left on front door, but there is a dog inside that looks healthy.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Can police do a wellness check on the home if you're getting mixed signals on its occupancy?

- Construction team is making 311 call to see what to do next, especially about the dog.
- We knock on the door regularly, have been noticing the dog for 3 weeks.
- Sarah Viszneki noted in chat that the dog has been retrieved from the home.



Future Lead Activities

- 2022 SDWMR
 - Design complete – applying for PENNVEST in August
 - Full project is contingent on PENNVEST funding.
 - Filing in August allowed us to apply with 3 years of construction plans and receive commitment from PENNVEST
 - Three contracts – about 10 miles of water main, about 1,900 service lines to be replaced (may be less depending on actual PENNVEST funding)
 - Anticipated construction starting in early 2023.
- 2023 SDWMR
 - Procuring a designer
 - Design to start in September, construction in mid-2023. Will be able to move to construction faster with 3-year PENNVEST approvals.
 - Size of contract also contingent on PENNVEST
 - About 16 miles of water main, number of service lines still being determined.
- 2024-2026 SDWMR planning to start this summer

Gina Miller: Regarding PENNVEST funding - was optimistic that there was American Rescue Plan Act funding available, is that still on the table?

- **City of Pittsburgh gave us \$17M of their funds for the Neighborhood Program, that is in place now.**
- **May be an opportunity for more if the City is not able to spend remainder of their money in the timeframe required.**

Israel Gray: Is there full time inspection at all jobsites? Have variety of contractors? My experience in gas work made me wonder if there is fulltime inspection.

- **Definitely, we have a Construction Management team, including full-time inspectors, overseeing all aspects of the construction.**
- **Use ARCGIS collector n app to document all work, and any other documentation that would be required on a water main jobsite.**
- **For SDWMR we have one contractor for both contracts – the contractor has consistently bid low, and we have been using them for a couple contracts. It is a public bidding process and we always go with the lowest bidder.**
- **Have two different contractors on other LSLR projects**
- **6 contracts, 3 contractors.**
- **Barry King: confirmed we have inspectors on all contracts, just renewed the contract so there are 9 firms bidding on it now. Has been standard since 2017.**



2022 LSLR Active Construction

- Priority LSLR
 - \$4.7M grant/loan package from PENNVEST
 - One-off contract that replaces lead lines at daycares, locations with elevated lead.
 - Orthophosphate may not be effective at every single address, better to just replace where it is not working. This is in addition to the home inspections that we offer to customers, free of charge.
 - Construction began in March
 - 178 agreements initially sent – all daycares, any elevated lead levels (>10 ppb) from 9/2019-12/2021.
 - 93 additional agreements sent to locations > 7.5 ppb.
 - Finding more lead than anticipated, especially on the private side
 - Progress is slower than other contracts – finding more lead is slowing us down, sites are usually open for multiple days. Encouraging contractor to add more crews.
 - Good news: not finding much lead at daycare facilities

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Regarding Priority agreements - of those two batches, what is the return rate? Since these are one-off replacements, is this contract a higher cost per replacement? The 1000 Hours program is showing low levels of lead in inspections, consistent with our findings. Regarding ortho: what is the process to determine why it is not effective in certain properties?

- **82% of agreements have been returned for the two batches. Normally rate ticks up once work starts in a neighborhood. Return rate for this contract is impressive given there is no surrounding construction at these locations.**
- **While we expect our costs to be higher on one-off replacements, we received good bids for this contract. Contractor has worked on our SDWMR work, but never just LSLR. Believe that the contractor didn't factor in mobilization fees since they are used to SDWMR.**
- **When we get an exceedance not related to construction:**
 - **Give them info on flushing and offer to do a profile sample. Take series of 12 1-liter bottles, look at lead levels in each liter to find out where the elevated lead is coming from.**
 - **We look at water usage history – oftentimes, customers are not using much water which is not allowing orthophosphate to form scales on the service line and causing exceedance.**
 - **Look at water system – is the home on a dead end of our system where there isn't much flow? Do they have unique plumbing set up inside home? Do they have particularly long service line?**
 - **We conduct a home visit and give them instruction on flushing, cleaning aerators, take field measurements of other chemistry in water.**
 - **Find that often, the exceedance is related to water usage and we just need to replace service line.**
- Neighborhood LSLR



- City approved \$17.5M for PWSA from ARPA (\$17M for LSLR)
- Contract awarded in January, started in early-April
- Funds allow for work at 1,400 locations and replace approximately 725 public and associated private lines.
- Got good bids
- Followed prioritization model, 15 neighborhoods came back has high priority.
- Further ranked neighborhoods based on PWSA Affordability Model (affordability of our water and sewer rates)
- Worked with PWSA engineers working on water main replacement planning to avoid streets where we are replacing water mains in the near future.
- Work began in Elliott/Crafton Heights due to upcoming sewer rehab work this summer.
- First agreements went to North Oakland, South Oakland, and Elliott/Crafton Heights. Sending agreements in phases to lighten the load for Lead Help Desk.
- Construction began in April, will be complete in fall 2023.
- Very little lead being found in Elliott/Crafton Heights
 - 51 public (22%), 34 private (14%) lead lines out of 236 verifications.
 - We are using our best available data so don't see way around needing to dig and complete a visual verification.
 - Participating in WEF study that is kicking off soon, working with tech developers that are creating new tools to develop a non-intrusive method to determine service line materials.
- Wrapping up Elliott/Crafton Heights in next few weeks, moving to Oakland next.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Are you replacing lead with PVC? Some people are concerned with the use of plastic products, do they leech?

- **On public-side, we use PEX plastic. It is a very common plumbing material, meets all NSF and regulatory standards.**
- **Use copper on the private side because many homes use service line to ground electrical system.**

- Urgent LSLR
 - Replace private lead when encountered during PWSA Operations work related to a leak.
 - Includes contingency for public side in the event that Operations doesn't have the staff to respond.
 - Contract started in March, will be annual.

Opt-Out Status

- Almost all locations opt out because they say the private side is already replaced.



- One person did not give reason.
 - 26 of 39 opt-outs have been verified and all verified to date are non-lead.
 - PWSA abandons service line at condemned properties.
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Outreach

- Outreach consists of:
 - Virtual public meetings when we are moving into a neighborhood. Coordinate with community leader or schedule our own meetings and notify residents.
 - Use robocalls to notify of construction activity, follow up on outstanding agreements.
 - Lead Help direct phone calls
 - Door-to-door canvassing.
 - Direct outreach for locations verified private lead.
 - Project updates on website (links provided)
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Overall LSLR Progress

- Recently surpassed 9,000 public LSLRs and 6,000 private LSLRs
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Termination Updates

- 10 locations have been terminated since April 2021
 - 3 were emergency Ops replacements where building was unoccupied.
 - 5 were part of Fifth & Forbes, 3 had public side replaced in 2020. Not reconnected to public side, none were occupied
 - 1 part of SDWMR work and had internal safety concerns, was not occupied.
 - Termination process is a lot of work for Lead Help Team, go above and beyond to notify owner and tenant.
 - 522 termination processes started, 10 resulted in termination.
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Orthophosphate Update:



- 2022A compliance sampling underway.
 - Over 100 samples received.
 - Ends June 30, 2022
 - Submitted Design Engineer Report to DEP to increase ortho levels – still waiting for response.
 - Continue additional, on-going monitoring to ensure proper application of orthophosphate.
 - New Corrosion Control Consultant brought on in April 2022.
 - Fresh set of eyes on our treatment process, monitoring, and operating procedures.
 - Consultant is helping us continue to optimize our system, plan for the future. Our current corrosion treatment may not be the right approach when we get the lead out of our system.
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Reimbursement Program Update:

- Program began in October 2020
 - Income-based, owner or tenant can qualify.
 - 702 applicants since program began
 - 580 are at <300% of FPL
 - 59 locations have completed reimbursement process.
 - 27 of them were at <300% of FPL
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General Updates:

- Settlement Requirement Table will be included in files.
 - Continue to update web map with inventory, construction activities on monthly basis.
 - Customer request sampling continues. Trying to use Priority LSLR to promote program.
 - Now providing 2-year warranty on new service lines, used to be 30 days.
 - Now directly mailing pitchers and filters to any location with a result of > 10 ppb. Previously mailed code for those between 10-15 ppb and mailed pitchers for those over 15 ppb.
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General Updates:

- Applying for PENNVEST funding in August for 2022-2024 SDWMR



- Applied for EPA’s “Reduction in Lead Exposure Via Drinking Water” grant in May 2022, applied for full \$10M grant, noted that we’d be happy with any amount. Application has been acknowledged, should hear response in late-summer, fall 2022.
 - Waiting for guidance on IAJA – money comes in the form of 49% grant. Waiting to hear from PENNVEST when money becomes available. Have a lot of planning complete, which allows us to act quickly for the funding. Will try to apply for multi-year funding.
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Housekeeping

- Suggest September 8, 2022 to avoid Labor Day weekend.
- Next meeting topics:
 - Water Main Relay Construction updates
 - 2022 LSLR Construction Activities
 - Other Programs
 - Reimbursement
 - Other topics? – if any come to mind, group asked to contact Mora.