



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee

September 22, 2022

Meeting Minutes

On Conference Call:

Everett Skipper
Sarah Bolenbaugh
Mora McLaughlin
Dan Duffy
Israel Gray
Christine Maloni-Hoover
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis
Sarah Viszneki
Sarah Stoner
Julie Barg
Barry King

Welcome and Introductions

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

- Fifth/Forbes
 - Work is mostly complete, minor restoration activities remain.



- 2 miles of water mains replaced, 200 service lines
- 2021 SDWMR
 - Two contracts that began in mid-March,
 - 6.3 miles of main, 950 service lines
 - Graphic showing progress in active neighborhoods
 - Work in Lawrenceville and Highland Park is mostly in the restoration phase , work ongoing in Oakland.
 - Service lines upcoming in Point Breeze, Hazelwood water main replacement has just started.
 - Approximately 65% of water main complete across two contracts, 84% of service lines verified.
 - 39% public lead and 36% private lead
 - Closer to anticipated percentages than other active contracts.
 - 496 public side replacements completed, 205 private sides
 - 2 service lines abandoned

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: What is the process for abandonment/condemnation at a site?

- **If the building is officially condemned by the City we leave private side disconnected from old water main and do not install a new public or private service line.**
- Other Water Main Work
 - Thomas and McPherson – mostly complete
 - Centre Avenue – complete
 - Fuchsia Way Sewer Project - service lines being replaced in the first phase
 - Waterline Relay Project
 - Dearborn (ongoing), Ligonier (late 2022, early 2023), Logan (upcoming), Brereton (upcoming), Garfield (upcoming).

Future Lead Activities

- 2022 SDWMR
 - Design work complete
 - Contingent on PENNVEST funding
 - Three contracts: 10 miles of water main, 1,900 service lines
 - Anticipated start in March/April 2023
- 2023 SDWMR
 - Starting process by acquiring design consultant
 - Anticipated start of design work: January 2023, start construction: early 2024.
 - Two contracts: 12 miles of water main, presently undetermined service lines.



- Contingent on PENNVEST funding
- At last meeting, mentioned we would approach PENNVEST in August 2022 about extended funding package for three years of work. They informed us we'd be ineligible for grant funding for LSLRs with this approach. Decided to stick with annual applications.

Christine Maloni-Hoover: Is PENNVEST's decision an internal SOP, or is tied to the financing requirements? I know some financing is federal, some is state.

- **We are unsure. We know grant dollars are part of IAJA allocation for PA. This may have something to do with it since it's not standard SRF funds.**
- **Sarah Bolenbaugh: Also unsure why it was done this way. Perhaps it's because they can't guarantee funding beyond one year?**

2022 LSLR Active Construction

- Priority LSLR – PENNVEST-funded
 - \$4.7M: grant (\$2.875M) / loan (\$1.83M)
 - One-off LSLR at daycare facilities and locations with elevated lead levels.
 - Construction started in March.
 - 413 agreements mailed including all day care facilities
 - Locations with lead test results > 5 ppb (September 2019 to December 2021) and > 15 ppb between January 2018 and September 2019, along with any recent result > 15 ppb.
 - Finding more lead than other contracts.
 - Contractor progress is slow but should complete on-time.
 - Not much lead found at daycares.
 - Agreement return-rate is excellent, very little outreach needed.
- Neighborhood LSLR – American Rescue Plan Act-funded
 - City-allocated \$17M for replacements
 - Funds will allow for work at about 1,400 locations to replace approximately 725 lead lines.
 - Work will expand due to lack of lead found so far.
 - 22% public, 17% private lead found to-date
 - This means we are spending funds on sidewalk replacements, but this will be the case until there is better technology to be able to detect service line materials without excavation.
 - Have 8 neighborhoods slated, agreements sent.
 - N. Oakland, S. Oakland, Crafton Heights/Elliott complete.
 - Working in North Shore/E. Allegheny.



- Crews will move to E. Liberty next
- Squirrel Hill North, Brighton Heights up next.
- May expand to 2-3 more neighborhoods.
- Agreement return rate is lower than Priority Program, having to do more outreach.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Points to need for awareness building, need to determine if there is discrepancy between homeowners and tenant-occupied. Comparing and contracting Homewood area versus other areas -absentee landlords not sending agreements back. How can we help support you better?

- One thing to note on neighborhood contract – sent 690 agreements ~2 weeks ago. For original batch of mailings, had good return rate but it took slightly more work.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Are there any areas where you are seeing more lead? Would be good to ID some patterns.

- Have not looked at it by neighborhood, but we can check. Those in the priority program are already aware and concerned about lead, and are much more willing to quickly sign the agreement to proceed with the replacement.
- Urgent LSLR
 - Replace private lead when encountered by PWSA Operations.
 - Includes contingency for private side in event PWSA staff is busy.
 - Annual contract.

Opt-Out Status

- Majority responders say private side is non-lead – typically what we find when excavating.
- If verification shows non-lead, we will re-engage.
- One person was concerned about the impacts.
- No PWSA-opt outs on any active contracts.

Outreach

- Outreach consists of:
 - Virtual public meetings – regular meetings will resume as new contracts come on-line.
 - Robocalls
 - Lead Help Direct phone calls
 - Door-to-Door Canvassing



- Lead Help team finding that canvassing is needed less in recent contracts.
- Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
- Project updates found on website, 2023 sites will be added soon.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Would like to lend support of CLRAC team to reducing the number of tenant-occupied unresponsive locations.

Overall LSLR Progress

- Have completed more replacements so far this year than total in 2021.
- Inspections are as important as replacement – we have accomplished a lot of verifications of non-lead service lines this year – double the number of replacements done.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: PENNVEST funding status for next year?

- **On next slide**
- In talks about funding available through PENNVEST with Infrastructure Bill.
- Trying to maximize grant vs loan funding – PENNVEST advises to work in Env. Justice areas, areas of low income.
- Planning to make semi-annual applications in the range of \$10-\$15M. This amount would maximize the grant allocation.
- First application will be in November 2022, go to PENNVEST board in January 2023, start work spring/summer 2023.
- Did not have LSLR plan in Capital Budget for 2023, so these potential grant dollars from PENNVEST will allow our work to continue next year.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Why didn't you budget it? Because of the ARA funding?

- **Had other funding priorities within system. Have it funded in 2024-2026, just not 2023.**
- **This will allow us to fund it, even without it in our budget.**

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Talked with EPA folks recently, discussed “disadvantaged communities”. Indicated that 80% of funding should be allocated to disadvantaged communities. Have we thought about prioritization model and how it meets requirement?

- **Have started planning process with DEP/PENNVEST. Need to get contract documents to DEP in next couple weeks. Ran prioritization model, compared it to an affordability analysis in the**



past. This time, ran prioritization model with newest ACHD/census data and identified Priority level 5 neighborhoods. We then only included Environmental Justice neighborhoods – most of City is within an EJA. We next ranked the results with income data from Census and developed our list of neighborhoods where work will occur.

- This model showed Esplen, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar, Perry South, Bluff, and Marshall Shadeland as top priority. Anticipate finding a lot of private lead. In Marshall Shadeland, particularly, had a lot of unresponsives and opt-outs back when people could still do that. We will go back and ask them to replace again.
- Thoughts on our Process?

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Leads back to discussion of education about program and hesitancy to return agreement. We need to have a presence in the community now that pandemic is cooling off. Need to dig into landlord/homeowner question.

Termination Updates

- 14 total terminations since protocol was instituted.
 - 5 Field Operations replacements.
 - 5 part of Fifth/Forbes work
 - 1 in 2020 (PWSA opt-out), 1 in 2021 SDWMR
 - 2 part of Fuchsia Way project
 - ALL vacant locations
 - Have sent 688 37-Day Termination letters, ultimately only had to send 18 3-day postings, 14 terminations.
 - 231 30-Day Postings sent to tenants, gives idea of how many unresponsive landlords we've dealt with compared to the 688 37-day notices that were mailed.
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Orthophosphate Update:

- 2022a sampling has completed since last meeting – 4.42ppb
- 2022b sampling is underway, bottles have been sent out. Only one sample has been returned so far.
- DEP approved PWSA's request to increase orthophosphate dose in June, implemented immediately.
- Continue rigorous monitoring to ensure proper application.



- Have new Corrosion Control Consultant in April of this year – provides fresh set of eyes on treatment, monitoring, operating procedures.
- Finalizing initial report/recommendations. Don't anticipate any drastic changes. Helping us plan for future Lead and Copper Rule requirements, which will be in effect in 2024.

Reimbursement Program Update:

- The program is approximately two years old now.
- 738 applications, majority are from customers at or less than 300% of FPL.
- 68 locations have submitted estimate and final invoice, have paid them out.
- Sarah Viszneki (Pgh2o Cares Update):
 - Partnership with Dollar Energy Fund will end October 8. Will still process Hardship Grants, fundraising activities.
 - Pgh2o Cares team will verify income and enroll customers in programs. Will be able to weed out accounts that are automatically ineligible, making the process more efficient for Lead Help Desk.
 - Cares team has many one-on-one touchpoints with customers, will be great advocate for lead replacement programs in the community.

General Updates:

- PUC settlement requirements table will be distributed after meeting.
- Web map is updated monthly.
- Customer request sampling program continues.

Israel Gray: Good to see progress being made on these projects, is there inspection happening on all contracts?

- **Every contract has Construction Management firm with inspector at all site. Have tablet application (GIS based) that inspectors use to record data on each replacement. We have high level of involvement with inspection on LSLR work.**

Israel Gray: Are they determining One-Calls are being followed-through on? Hears complaints of damaged gas lines.

- **Contractor makes One-Call request, CM applies for permit from City. That process is the check that One-Call is completed. We have inspectors out at every site. There is host of**



reasons why utilities are struck. Oftentimes because we hit an unmarked line. We have internal process to file PUC, One-Call, and internal safety process when a utility is struck.

- Funding Opportunities:
 - Applied to PENNVEST in August for 2022 SDWMR
 - Applied to EPA program for lead reduction in drinking water in May, waiting to hear back.
 - Applying in November for 2023 LSLR program.
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Housekeeping

- Next meeting would be December 8.
- Mora to send out poll to determine best time of day, seems like morning is still best.
- No planned topics outside of regular updates.