



## Community Lead Response Advisory Committee

December 7, 2023

### Meeting Minutes

#### On Conference Call:

Dan Duffy  
Rebecca Zito  
Sarah Viszneki  
Nick DeMarco  
Gina Miller  
Mora McLaughlin  
OCM (unnamed)  
Sarah Stoner  
Sarah Bolenbaugh  
Marcela Gonzalez Rivas  
Jared Thompson  
Israel Gray  
Barry King  
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis  
Julie Barg  
Dominique Nunley  
Michelle Short  
Christine Hoover

#### Welcome and Introductions

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#### SDWMR Updates

- 2022 SDWMR
  - Funding award from PENNVEST in Oct. 2022
  - Originally had three contracts, 1,300 miles water main, 1,900 service lines
  - Bids were over-budget, decided to go with just two contracts.



- Pursued additional funding for the third contract
- B and C contracts are active, recently received funding for the delayed A contract.
- Contract B:
  - Millvale, Stanton Heights, Elliott (just started)
- Contract C:
  - All work on North Side (Marshall Shadeland, Northside, Spring Garden) – all activities have begun here
- 84% of agreements have been returned
- 800 locations have been verified, lower percent of public and private LSLs than we normally encounter.
- Water main work must be totally complete before service lines are replaced.

### Other Water Main Replacement Activities:

- Southside Flats Sewer Separation
  - Neighborhood-based LSLR already happened
  - Water main replacement + LSLR will occur in early 2024
- 2023 Watermain Relay
  - Logan Street was supposed to happen last year, landslide concerns pushed it to 2023 contract.
  - Kennedy Avenue and Zuzu Circle will also be addressed under this contract.
  - Work will start early next year.

### Future SDWMR Activities

- 2023 SDWMR
  - Work will begin late next year
  - 12.7 miles of water main, 2,300 service lines
  - Full project is contingent on PENNVEST funding
- 2024 SDWMR – in planning now

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### LSLR/Future Work

- 2022 Neighborhood LSLR (American Rescue Plan Act Funded)
  - Will have worked at 2,600 locations by contract end – initially planned for 1,400
  - Planned to replace 725 LSLs, replaced almost 700 so far along with 661 private sides as compared to a plan to replace 606 private sides.
  - 95% return rate on agreements
  - We continue to do work to use up available funds
  - 110 more locations were sent packets yesterday, this will get us to the end of our funding.
  - Final restoration will be handled in spring 2024.



**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: has there been another round of ARPA funding released, or just in 2021? Is the City looking out for more earmarked funding?**

- **Finance Director and CEO have been in contact with the City to utilize more leftover ARPA funding, if available, to continue to do LSLR**
- **If we got more funding, we would debate adding it onto the existing contract or bid a new contract.**
- **Any support you can provide to get more funding is welcomed.**
  
- 2023A Neighborhood LSLR
  - PENNVEST approved \$9.7M grant and \$3.7 loan
  - Will work at 1,500 locations
  - Agreements mailed in May
  - Working through neighborhoods now
  - 72% agreements returned, as we enter a neighborhood we creep up to 100% return rate.
  - Verified 1/3 of total locations
  - Have found more lead on this contract than other active contracts.
  - Currently working in LLB, finding a lot of lead. Not much was found in Esplen.
  - Once lead is found, service line replaced in matter of days or a week. Private side replacements are dependent on homeowner schedule.
- 2023B Neighborhood LSLR
  - PENNVEST approved \$10M grant, \$4.6M loan at July board meeting.
  - CM/CI awarded at October PWSA board meeting, construction contract will be awarded in December.
  - PENNVEST closing – mid-February
  - Will address 1,500 locations
  - Work will occur in Homewood North, Larimer, Homewood West, Middle Hill, Fineview
- 2024A Neighborhood LSLR
  - Applied for additional ~\$35M in funding from PENNVEST in Nov. 2023
    - If we do not get this funding, will have to reassess our ability to move forward with contract or will have to apply for the next funding cycle.
    - We will need to apply at this level three more times to achieve our goal of replacing all lead by 2026
    - If awarded, will address 4,500 locations
    - Will know more at January PENNVEST meeting
    - Will start in August 2024 if awarded
  - Millvale and Southside Flats work orders have more locations than can be worked in one contract. They will be broken into two areas to minimize disruptions.
- 2024B Neighborhood LSLR
  - Start planning process for application to PENNVEST in May, potential July award, close with PENNVEST in January 2025.
  - Work will begin in March 2025



- Need to select neighborhoods now so we determine the need for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Neighborhood selection:
  - Determine level 5 and 4 neighborhoods in an EJ area
  - Rank neighborhoods further by income.
  - Data hasn't changed since we ran model for 2024A contract
  - PADEP developed a new EJ Policy in Sept. 2023 – changed modeling in Pittsburgh.
  - We don't have enough category 4&5 neighborhoods in EJ neighborhood to make up a whole contract.
  - There are many more areas in EJ area now, especially with ½ mile buffer zone recommended by PADEP.
  - OPTION 1 (map shown on slides): Use priority level 4 and 5 neighborhoods that are not in an EJ area but are meeting our prioritization standards.
    - Income levels range from \$68K to \$117K
  - OPTION 2 (map shown on slides): Finish level 4 and 5 neighborhoods that are in EJ areas and continue to level 3 by our prioritization model . These are lower income neighborhoods than found in option 1.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Do you have a rep from ACHD on the call?**

- No

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: are you receiving the data via their website or directly from their in-house epidemiologist? They still haven't certified the 2022 data though they said they were going to soon. Don't want us using outdated data, there is new CDC parameters for results. You should be tapping into new data even if it's not certified. Should contact LuAnn Brink**

- We were directed to go to their website. We will reach out to see if they are willing to release the uncertified data to us for use.

***Michelle likes option 2 best, invests money in areas that need it most.***

***Jared Thompson likes option 2 but will convene with Pittsburgh United to discuss further.***

***Nick DeMarco: OCA contingent prefers option 2***

- 2023 Urgent LSLR
  - Replace private lead when encountered investigating a leak
  - Also includes contingency for public-side replacement when Operations is busy in winter months.
  - New 2-year contract began in August 2023.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: is the goal still 2026?**

- So long as we receive the funding



**Gina Miller: I see that you have requested what is needed vs. the recommended threshold. When will you know how that was received by PENNVEST?**

**We are not sure, we are not privy to those discussion until the board convening.**

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## **Opt-Out Status**

- People continue to opt out because they say they've replaced the private side, have found it to be the case at all 79 opt-outs that have been verified so far.
- If property is condemned, we will abandon the service line.
- If it is vacant and unresponsive, we will replace the public side and leave the curb stop shut.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: are opt-outs on your map?**

- **It's in our internal system. If someone applies for water service, it is in the property notes.**

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: If they reconnect, they'll have a lead line? Is this reflected on your public map?**

- **The new owner will have to incur the cost of private side replacement before getting the water turned back on. Not sure what is reflected on public map, will check and get back to her.**
  - **The web map will show the private service line as abandoned.**
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## **Outreach (Mora McLaughlin):**

- Outreach consists of:
    - Virtual and in-person public meetings
    - Robocalls
    - Lead Help Direct phone calls
    - Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
    - Project updates, including new 2023 water main replacement locations, found here:
    - Water Main Programs: <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/water-main-replacement-program>
    - LSLR Programs: <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/lead-line-replacement-programs>
    - Lead.pgh2o.com retirement will happen sometime in 2024.
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## **Overall LSLR Progress**

- Nearly 10,700 public and 7,500 private replacements
- Over 10,600 public and 12,100 private verifications of non-lead – also important to overall program.



## Lead Spending To-Date

- LSLR and SDWMR combined to reflect total spending.
  - Have spent over \$160M to-date
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## Termination Updates

- 49 locations have been terminated since April 2021
    - All of 49 were unoccupied.
  - 19 of 49 were emergency public-side replacements, almost all structures were unoccupied.
    - We normally put them on temp. service if we have access to the building.
  - 14 of 49 were ultimately turned back on after connecting with owner after the shut.
  - 1,172 37-day letters sent
  - 433 30-day postings (for tenant-occupied locations)
  - 1,077 locations received agreement or replacement not ultimately required.
  - 163 10-day letters sent.
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## Orthophosphate Update

- 2023B sampling underway
  - Just received 100<sup>th</sup> sample yesterday.
  - Sampling will go through December 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Results likely released in mid-January
  - Requested Designation of Optional Water Quality Parameters submitted to PADEP end of July, no response yet.
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## Reimbursement Program Update (Julie Barg):

- No changes to income level since program began
- 1,245 applications to program, to-date
- 100 more applications in 2023 than we had in 2022. Interest in program grew!
- 1,055 of applicants were at or below 300% of FPL
- 134 have totally completed process

**Christine Maloni-Hoover: Have many people who have verified income vs. those who have completed the process. What is the gap? Interested in seeing more granular breakdown of “abandoned” applications.**



- Over past three years, number has stayed at 10% actually completing the process.
- We send reminder robocalls to those who dropped off after income verification.
- Historically when people were onboarded into Customer Assistance Programs, they were often automatically signed up.
- Pgh2o Cares is being a little more judicious in their onboarding process now – checking to see if the service line has already been replaced. This is something Dollar Energy couldn't do.

Jared Thompson: Of the 134 who completed process, what is their income level? Perhaps there is a barrier people at lower poverty levels that are causing them to drop off.

- 55% are at the 100% reimbursement level.
- Of the other 45%, most are at the stipend income level.

Marcela: Also interested in what Jared requested

### Testing and Pitcher/Filter updates:

- Testing services currently out to bid, currently working with 120 Water.
- Test kits will now be mailed 3-6 months after LSLR, per new DEP guidance. Used to leave them with customer on day of replacement.
- Will now be collecting and analyzing 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> liter samples per new guidance.

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### General Updates

- All files will be shared after meeting.
- Web map updated on monthly basis.
- Customer request kits continue, volume remains consistent.

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### LCRI Updates

- LCRI released last week.
- Still reading through the full document
- Inventory and school sampling provisions generally remain the same as LCRR
- We expect minimal impacts to our program.

### School sampling:

*Marcela Gonzalez Rivas: good it's offered to high schools*

*Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: doesn't like rule, concerned about variability of testing and results, how will we communicate to schools for remediation. How is PWSA going to do better?*



## LSLR Plan

- LSLR plan requirement of LCRR/LCRI and PUC's Act 120
- PUC will require LSLR plan after rate case is settled in February 2024
- LCRI will likely require submittal in 2027 – the requirements are not expected to be very different from LCRR

## Service Line Inventory

- Updated inventory due to DEP by Oct. 2024
- Working with Blue Conduit to update machine learning model
- Implementing self-ID program for internal service line materials. Post cards and emails will go out to approximately 20,000 customers.
- Will follow up on outstanding sites with a consultant who will do some form of canvassing.
- Will be prepared to submit inventory in October 2024.

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## Housekeeping

- Suggest next meeting be held on March 7, 2024.
- Will have better understanding of LCRI by then.
- Let us know if there are other topics you would like us to cover.