



## Community Lead Response Advisory Committee

July 11, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

#### On Conference Call:

Israel Gray  
Dan Duffy  
Rebecca Zito  
Mora McLaughlin  
Sarah Viszneki  
Gina Miller  
Marcela Gonzalez Rivas  
Sarah Stoner  
Michelle Short  
Julie Barg  
Pete DeMarco

#### Welcome and Introductions

- Standard agenda today, with additional updates on plan to replace all residential lead lines by 2026 and further updates on the LSLR Plan.

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#### SDWMR Updates

- 2022 SDWMR
  - 3 contracts
  - Contract B&C are ongoing, almost finished.
    - Work consists of punch list items and restoration.
    - B contract is ahead of schedule – was anticipated to finish in Oct./Nov.
    - C contract is on schedule – service line and restoration work is ongoing.
  - Contract A starting in a month
  - Lead map found on website shows finished, active, and planned future work including SDWMR and LSLR work.
  - Finding 27% lead on public side, 22% on private side – this is consistent with past work.



## Other Water Main Replacement Activities:

- South Side Flats Sewer Separation
  - Just kicked off in past month.
  - Did lead line replacements in the area last year.
  - Two streets where we will replace water main and lead – this is upcoming.
  - Entire project duration is about two years, unclear when water main work will happen within that time period.
- 2023 Water Relay Contract
  - Work to occur on Blenheim Court, Logan Street, Kennedy, Avenue, Zuzu Circle
  - Work began in May, water main installed on Blenheim Court, Logan Street and Kennedy Avenue, Zuzu Circle is on hold for budget considerations.
  - Not finding much lead in these streets. Primary goal of this project is replacing problem areas.

## Future SDWMR Activities

- 2023 SDWMR
  - Design completed
  - Pennvest application being submitted later this month
  - Anticipated to begin in early 2025 – three separate construction contracts
  - 10 miles of pipe, 1600 service lines
  - Full project is contingent on PENNVEST funding (6 miles accounted for in capital budget).
- 2024 SDWMR
  - Design contracts being awarded now
  - PENNVEST application to go out in early 2025
  - Anticipated to start fall 2025
  - About 12 miles of pipe – full work contingent on funding.

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## LSLR/Future Work

- 2022 Neighborhood LSLR (ARPA-funded)
  - \$17 million in grant money
  - Had gone back to City to ask for leftover funds. Appreciate everyone on call who sent letters of support. Received word that they will not provide us additional money.
  - Work began April 2022, contract is totally complete.
  - Ended up working at 2,600 locations (had anticipated 1,400). Did additional ~90 private side replacements.
- 2023A Neighborhood LSLR
  - \$9.7M grant, \$3.7M loan
  - Work began about one year ago



- Anticipated working at 1,500 locations.
- 5 neighborhoods to start
- Sent additional agreements to 6<sup>th</sup> neighborhood of Allentown, about to add ~200 more final locations in Manchester neighborhood.
- Have been finding less lead than anticipated -23 % on public and private side
- Agreement return rate has been good.
- We are terminating more locations than we have historically – due to fact that we are going back to neighborhoods where we were before. We used to just skip unresponsive locations. Now, we do not skip anything and are encountering same locations. These sites are all unoccupied. Termination protocol has allowed us to be confident that we have gotten all lead out and do not have to return to area.

**Gina Miller – OCA is happy to hear water has not been terminated at any occupied locations. What happens when someone occupies the property in the future? Is it safe to say they “missed the boat” on a free replacement?**

- **It won’t be shown on our lead map, but internal record will show service line is abandoned. They will have to sign up for service with PWSA, which is standard procedure for any new owner, and we would let them know it’s an abandoned line. They would need to work with plumber to install new private-side and utilize our Reimbursement Program.**
- **Yes, they missed the opportunity for a fully free replacement installed by PWSA’s contractor.**
- 2023B Neighborhood LSLR
  - \$10M grant, \$6.4 loan at PENNVEST July Board Meeting
  - Construction began in March 2024
  - 1,400 locations, 6 neighborhoods
  - Experiencing similar unresponsive issues as 2023A contract. Many vacant locations
  - Have terminated 50 locations, all unoccupied.
  - Finding a lot of lead in these areas – 43% public lead, 52% private lead. While it’s good to update our inventory via verifications, our goal is always to replace lead.
  - Work in first three neighborhoods almost complete.
  - Will likely not have to add additional sites to this contract since we’re finding so much lead.
- 2024A Neighborhood LSLR
  - \$14M grant, \$18M loan. PWSA will add \$3.3M in non-reimbursable paving costs to contract from our rates.
  - Work will begin August 5.
  - Agreements to be sent in two batches.
  - Work will be split into 3 contracts.
  - Work should be complete around July 2025
- 2024B Neighborhood LSLR
  - Application to PENNVEST submitted in May. Their board will make decision in July 17.
  - Ask is approximately \$16M, 1,500 locations.
  - Hazelwood, Spring Garden, West Oakland, California-Kirkbride, Crawford Roberts, East Liberty.



- Construction planned in early 2025.
- 2023 Urgent LSLR
  - No updates
  - 2-year contract, awarded last year.
  - Utilized when ops crew finds a private lead line, ops crews are busy, or site is too complex for internal crews.

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## Opt-Out Status

- Majority of people opting out think private side is non-lead.
- Lead Help reaches out and gives option to opt-in
- 37 declined agreements, 23 found to be non-lead – remaining have not been verified yet.
- PWSA abandons service line at condemned properties.
- For vacant/unresponsive sites, we replace public side and leave curb stop shut.

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## Outreach (Mora McLaughlin):

- Virtual and in-person public meetings – 12 meetings to be scheduled in the coming months across five construction contracts
- Robocalls
  - Unresponsive locations
  - Packet mailing notice
- Lead Help Direct phone calls
- Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
- Project updates, including 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>
- Work on retiring the lead microsite continues – our main website developer is ready to help us go forward, content will be integrated into main site over coming months. We are still on track for an end-of-year completion of this project.
- Dan Duffy - PWSA's main website has an integrated feature where you can translate the page into top eight languages spoken in Pittsburgh.

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## Overall LSLR Progress

- 667 public, 577 private this year to-date



- Verified 13,104 public services and 14,558 private services to be non-lead to-date which is also crucial to our program.

## Lead Spending To-Date

- 2022 SDWMR received \$3M grant
- Will add 2024B award at next meeting.
- \$207M spent overall.

## Removing Lead by 2026

- Had goal of replacing all lead by 2026
- Recently began making bigger PENNVEST requests, but percentage of funding package that was a loan became bigger than our smaller asks which is not optimal for us.
- Have had recent meetings with PENNVEST officials to discuss our funding strategy to get to 2026.
- **Inventory**
  - Has been iterative process for many years.
  - Have submitted several inventory updates to state over years.
  - DEP has recently provided new standards for inventory, we had to reassess and ensure we are meeting their new standards.
    - We can no longer rely on a record showing non-lead from before 1991 (when PA banned lead lines). Must collect second data point.
    - We would inspect service line where it enters the basement – now need second data point for private-side.
  - Have worked with Blue Conduit since last fall to run machine learning model. We feel confident this is a good way to collect a second data point.
    - Provided data to them in February, going to send any new data we’ve collected since then to calibrate model – we have verified over 2,000 locations since Feb.
    - Have used draft results in newest inventory update.
  - Majority of lead lines are being replaced by SDWMR and LSLR projects – Reimbursement, Operations, Waterline Relay, and Urgent projects aren’t meaningfully contributing to the effort.
  - Our CIP isn’t likely to change in next couple years.
  - CONCLUSION – Neighborhood program must carry us to finish line.
  - Have about 25,000 locations where we require a verification.
  - ~12,000 locations where we need to observe material inside. This work will not be part of a construction contract – different effort to complete.
  - Anticipate about 5,600 public lead left to replace.
  - Anticipate about 7,600 private lead left to replace.
  - Draft plan is broken down in 6-months periods.
  - Have concerns about how much work we’d have to do in 2026.
    - Most active year to-date was 2019, worked at 4,000 locations.



- Will have to work at 12,500 in this time period based on draft plan.
- **Costs**
  - \$189,139,101 (this includes two contracts that have already been awarded). \$137M still needs to be secured.
  - Our early estimates that replacing all lead would cost \$400M will likely be accurate.
  - Much of cost is digging and replacing sidewalks.
- **Alternative Verification Approach**
  - Looking into tool called Swordfish to verify without digging.
  - Water is shut off, probe sent down service line, verify material of pipe every 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a foot.
  - Entire process would take about 30 minutes.
  - Would be of great benefit to us if it is effective – could save us \$10-15M (conservative estimate). Would also reduce impact to neighborhoods.

**Marcela Gonzalez-Rivas – Quick question, how accurate are the results using this method? What is the measurement error? Are there reports of where it is being used about the lead levels resulting from interventions using this method?**

- PA DEP approved this method after 1.5 years of work with the manufacturer.
- LCRI will require any inventory method that does not include visual observation (like this, predictive models, testing, etc) to conduct traditional verification methods at a statistically significant number of locations. We would follow these requirements to confirm the accuracy of this method.
- Company just signed contracts in New York State and Baltimore. Work is just starting but our intent is to try it and follow up with verifications.
- Work in Allentown involves locations under streetcar tracks, this is a great place to test it.
  
- Are going to be meeting internally to set plan for how to complete final replacements, including staffing and refining internal processes.

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## Termination Updates

- 206 terminations since April 2021, all unoccupied.
- 28 were emergency public-side replacements.
- 24 locations allowed us to complete work after termination.
- Have send over 2,000 37-day letters, which is a time-intensive task for Lead Help Desk staff.
- 809 30-day postings
- 440 10-day letters



## Orthophosphate Update

- Compliance will now consist of 50 locations, every 3 years.
  - We are doing a voluntary sampling event now – don't want to wait three years to test again.
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## Reimbursement Program Update (Julie Barg):

- About 1,200 open applications
  - 548 review letters sent
  - 534 sent over one year ago
  - 97 estimates approved.
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## PWSA Assistance to Others (Mora McLaughlin)

- Project team has provided technical assistance and lessons-learned to 29 entities since 2021
  - Interested parties include utilities, municipalities, state governments, EPA, and policy centers responsible for EPA Technical Assistance.
  - Share packet after meetings that includes communications materials, Board-approved policy, IFB examples, Lead Help Liaison job description.
  - Most interested parties come to us through word-of-mouth or research about most successful lead programs.
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## General Updates

- Will be updating our web map to reflect new inventory terminology.
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## LSLR Plan

- In discovery phase with PUC, have responded to a few interrogatories
  - Will report to ALJ in September.
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## Housekeeping

- Will share some potential dates in September with this meeting's packet.

**Gina Miller – thank you for the comprehensive updates.**