



Minutes

**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
WATER SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, May 17, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

Members Present: Anthony Morgan, Jeff Castro, Kristina Scarcelli, Mike Shaffer, Jerry Evans, Sean Knapp, Scott D. Westover, and Eric Sizemore.

Members Absent: None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Castro called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Water Line Inventory - Verification - Jeff Castro**

Mr. Castro advised that, on January 1, 2020, YCUA's preliminary distribution system materials inventory (DSMI) was submitted to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) as required in the 2018 lead and copper rule. He indicated that, in 2016 and 2017, in anticipation of the new rule, Authority staff began documenting the type of service lines they encountered when working inside homes as well as when sewer excavations and repairs were performed on the property line and in the public right-of-way.

Mr. Castro explained that, since the preliminary DSMI was submitted, YCUA has continued to confirm and evaluate service lines.

Mr. Knapp advised that, when the initial DSMI was turned in, the Authority had 4,426 unknown service lines, 173 were lead, and 36 were galvanized previously connected to lead. He indicated that they are continuing to identify and upgrade their records of the service materials inside homes and underground.

Mr. Knapp explained that, as part of capital improvements projects such as the upcoming MDOT road project, YCUA has assisted OHM in identifying all services in those areas as well. He pointed out that, of the 4,426 previously unknown service lines, there are only 2,834 still to be identified. Mr. Knapp also explained that having identified 1,592 in a year and a half puts the Authority in a very good position with 235 lead and 43 galvanized previously connected to lead. He further advised that, of all of

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the unknowns, four of them are on the YCUA side and rest are all on private side services.

Mr. Knapp stated that, in mid-April, EGLE put out new guidelines for minimum service line verification requirements after completing a study that determined that 20% is the number needed to identify in order to heat map lead services and determine how good your record keeping is. He acknowledged that the Authority's 2,834 number puts YCUA at 338 physical verifications that need to be done. Mr. Knapp confirmed that Authority staff has devised a spreadsheet that will randomly select those 338 locations that will receive either a three-step or four-step verification. He explained that the first point is inside the home and points two and three will be 18 inches on each side of the curb stop (the shut-off valve) or, and if it is a galvanized line from the main to the curb stop, point four will either be identified at the main or will be assumed to be lead.

Mr. Knapp pointed out that EGLE wants this physical verification done by the end of 2022 and then they will provide YCUA will additional guidance at a later date.

Mr. Morgan inquired as to whether the procedure is different for private side services versus the four on the Authority's side. Mr. Knapp responded that the four on the YCUA side will be replaced first, as soon as the MDOT project is complete. Mr. Castro interjected that, regardless of what side the lead service is on, they will all be replaced.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

B. Capital Improvement Replacement Projects – Scott D. Westover

Mr. Castro responded that a large portion of the lead service replacements will occur during capital improvement projects that are forthcoming. He asked Mr. Westover to give a report on those projects.

Mr. Westover advised that staff is currently focused on the MDOT road repaving over the next two years. He indicated that the Authority recently put the project on West Cross between Huron and Summit out for bids, which will be primarily service line and hydrant lateral replacement versus main lines. Mr. Westover explained that there are 24 services between the stop box (the shut-off valve) and the main on YCUA's side and seven on the private side that will be replaced. He pointed out that this is the Authority's first foray into having a contractor replace between the stop box and the meter on the private side, so it will be a bit of a learning experience.

Mr. Westover also explained that the other legs of that project coming up for bid later this year with construction possibly starting late this year or early next are Hamilton, Michigan, Huron, and Washtenaw, which include 102 services between the main and the stop box and another 43 to 45

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between the stop box and the meter that will need to be replaced. He further advised that those projects are currently in design and will be bid later this summer with a construction schedule to be determined, likely starting later this fall.

Mr. Westover stated that the capital improvements plan includes some projects coming in the next couple of years in the city and that the one that might have some involvement is Huron River Drive from Cornell to Forrest. He acknowledged that the others will not include many service replacements because all the work on YCUA's side between the stop box and the main has been done and, since the stop box to the meter is outside the pavement, they will not need to be done as part of those projects.

Mr. Castro commented that some of the improvements are water main replacements and some are not. Mr. Westover concurred, indicating that the only leg of the MDOT project that doesn't involve water main line replacement is the West Cross piece. Mr. Castro clarified that when water mains are replaced on capital improvement projects, the contractor replaces the service line if it is lead all the way to the home. He added that, on particular projects where the Authority is not replacing the water main, depending on how many lead services exist no matter where they are located, YCUA is considering replacing those as well.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

C. Location Eligible for Replacement Letter / Work Plans – Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that certain lead service replacement documents have been generated by OHM and Authority staff. He asked Mr. Shaffer to report on those documents.

Mr. Shaffer advised that OHM and YCUA teamed together on the documents that he will review: customer verification letter, work plan, and service line replacement agreement.

He indicated that the letter is hand-delivered or mailed within 45 days of when a service is verified to be lead. Mr. Shaffer explained that the letter explains to customers that this is a water service replacement on their property and at the Authority's expense. He then outlined in detail the various components of a water service and the 10 steps to the replacement process. A discussion followed.

Mr. Shaffer also explained that every customer will have their own work plan that will be developed individually, customized to each location. He then reviewed a sample work plan at length.

Mr. Shaffer further advised that it is very important to have homeowners sign a written agreement for the replacement because it is a state law that lead and galvanized previously connected to lead must all replaced and, if a homeowner refuses the replacement, their residence cannot be

reconnected to the public water system. He stated that, to date, that has not happened and everyone has been very cooperative with YCUA and its contractors.

Mr. Morgan inquired as to the average amount of time required for these replacements, understanding that each one is different. Mr. Shaffer responded that 80 – 90% of these jobs can be done in one regular work day or less.

Mr. Morgan then inquired as to why the word license is used in the agreement rather than access. Mr. Westover responded that it is more or less a matter of semantics in that access implies entering the property without necessarily doing any work whereas a license is more all-encompassing.

Mr. Morgan further inquired as to whether before and after photos are taken of each location. Mr. Castro responded affirmatively and advised that the photos will be maintained for the Authority's records and also shared with the homeowners at their request.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

D. Lead and Copper Rule Milestone Deadlines – Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that the lead service line replacement was initiated in January of 2021 and that YCUA and its contractors are making sound progress on the same. He indicated that the lead action level will go from 15 ppb to 12 ppb in January of 2025. Mr. Castro explained that all utilities must complete and submit their DSMIs to EGLE by January of 2025.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update from the Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Board – Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that EGLE has updated the Mi Lead Safe website with new sampling data and DSMIs. He indicated that they are also current reviewing the Federal lead and copper rule but that the Biden administration has put that rule on a temporary regulatory freeze. Mr. Castro explained that it is unclear what that freeze will lead to but that despite potential changes, the Michigan lead and copper rule is still in effect and utilities must move forward.

He pointed out that the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) recently gave a very good presentation on their replacement program at the last statewide water system advisory council (WSAC) meeting. Mr. Castro also explained that he was stunned to learn that DWSD estimates to have approximately 125,000 lead services. He further advised that, under capital funded projects, DWSD has replaced about 1,100 of those since

2018 and has requested an extension to complete the lead and copper replacements since the rule requires that at least 5% of the identified services must be replaced each year over 20 years.

Mr. Castro stated that other large utilities are requesting an extension because replacing large numbers of lead services in that time frame will be very difficult and costly. He acknowledged that those costs could potentially result in increased water and sewer rates.

Mr. Castro confirmed that the statewide WSAC is also determining areas where they can give seminars on how lead and copper violations will affect customers and utilities and what everyone can do to work together to overcome that. He explained that since the new rule and sampling process went into effect, lead levels have increased as a result of how the samples are taken now compared to two years ago.

Mr. Castro pointed out that he makes an effort to forward the statewide WSAC materials to YCUA's council members when he receives them. He also stated that they typically have two meetings per year.

Mr. Castro advised that there is still a great deal of misunderstanding within the public on the topic of lead, particularly in terms of where the lead comes from. He indicated that he is always very careful to explain there is no lead in the water; that the lead is contained in certain service materials, plumbing solder, and some faucets. Mr. Castro explained that the lead is leached out when the water sits in pipes for more than six or seven hours, so it is always a good idea to run a faucet for a couple of minutes before using the water.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

B. 2021 Lead and Copper Sampling – Jeff Castro

Mr. Castro advised that YCUA is preparing to conduct its 2021 lead and copper sampling, which must be done between June and September of the current year. He asked Mr. Sizemore to report on the process used to get these samples.

Mr. Sizemore advised that the Authority is obtaining samples from customers that have a verified lead service line. He indicated that, last year, all of the samples were turned in by August 18th. Mr. Sizemore explained that Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) will be utilized again this year to test all of the samples and provide the sampling materials such as bottles, pitchers, and related paperwork.

He pointed out that, on May 10th, letters were sent out to the customers in the lead and copper sampling pool and, to date, nine have responded that they are willing to participate in the sampling process. Mr. Sizemore also explained that staff hopes to have the sampling supplies prior to June 1st

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and participating residents can then meet with YCUA staff to receive their sampling kits and review the sampling process.

He further advised that things went well last year and he hopes that will continue this year. Mr. Sizemore stated that, because the program is voluntary, there are some participants who are difficult to follow up with and some that neglect to return their samples. Mr. Castro interjected that the participants actually take the samples, not Authority staff, and then he outlined the process at length. He added that the new sampling process allows for a more accurate reading of actual levels in identified lead services and, together with the increase in sampling each year versus every three years previously, this is a good thing.

Mr. Morgan inquired as to how lead service replacements are prioritized over the time period that the replacements must be made. Mr. Castro responded that high-risk situations such as day cares and medical facilities will be prioritized and that YCUA will do its best to get to all of them as quickly as possible. Mr. Shaffer interjected that there are still many services that are of unknown materials but that, as soon as a lead service is identified, customers are given a packet explaining on how to minimize exposure to the lead in their services until their replacement can be completed. Mr. Knapp added that, when locations are identified as lead, if they qualify as a Tier 1A site, they will be added to the sampling pool.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments for the month.
5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Castro to adjourn the meeting at 3:53 p.m. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)



Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINA SCARCELLI, Public Information Coordinator