# Lead Service Line Planning Task Force

# Meeting Minutes

June 23rd, 2022

Meeting Called to Order at 2:00 p.m. by Kenley Farmer, appointed Chair.

1. Roll Call of Task Force Members

* Kenley Farmer, designee for Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
* Matthew Nestopoulos, designee for Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)
* Stephen Varga, designee for District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
* Randy Speck, public representative appointed by Council
* Valerie Baron, public representative appointed by Council
* Maureen Schmelling, designee for DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

**Guest Panelists**

* Apera Nwora, DC Water
* John Deignan, DC Water
* Paul Schwartz, DC Water Alliance
* Michael Porcello, DC Council

1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The meeting agenda was adopted and meeting minutes from the 6/17/2022 meeting can be adopted.

1. Timeline Review of Council’s Independent Cost Assessment

Michael Porcello:

* Specific numbers are not available currently, as contractors are working to finalize the first draft of their report. I will reconvene with Council staff on 6/27/22 to get a briefing on what their recommendations and findings will be in the draft report.
* Council staff is hoping to have their report issued by the end of June. The Councilmember is hoping to have a roundtable in September to hear from both the contractor and other parties to converse about the contractor’s assessments and findings of the report.
  + Q: Does the contractor anticipate having the final report by next week?
  + A: That is what Council staff has discussed but we won’t know an exact date until we meet on Monday.
  + Q: Can they add an addition later with the independent cost assessment?
  + A: Yes, there aren’t any strict requirements preventing additional items being added by the task force. Although, if the task force looks at the authorizing statute and determines that they’ll need Council staff to pass emergency legislation to give authority to send an addendum, it will be allowed.
  + Q: Can we send our draft timeline to Council staff and receive feedback on what a final draft could look like, and have a final published report that meet deadlines collectively?
  + A: Yes, I will send to Council staff and receive feedback on what their views of the timeline are and how we can collectively agree on exact dates to meet deadlines.
  + Q: How does Council staff’s timeline fit in with the legislation that has been proposed by Councilmember Janeese George?
  + A: I don’t believe the committee intends to move forward any legislation until we unpack what’s in the two reports and understand what the recommendations are.
  + Q: Will the roundtable be open for the public to testify?
  + A: Yes
  + Q: Can Council staff members attend the public listening sessions?
  + A: Yes, they will be extended an invitation.
  + Q: Can Councilmember Janeese Lewis George be invited to present her plan to the task force and the public?
  + A: We will reach out to her, although this is our last scheduled meeting as of now.

Recommendations:

* Use the public commenting period to collaborate with council staff to ensure all ward members feel as though the stakeholders in their ward will have a chance to engage with the draft report
* Get a sense from each ward to see what parts of the report may be most sensitive and walk away with an understanding of how to socialize the input during the public commenting period so the roundtable can be used to present the best possible solutions for the district
* Have an opportunity for engagement that takes our findings into account to get a sense of what the flexibility is regarding the needs of the district and the council

1. Reactions to Proposed Sections of the Draft Report

John Deignan:

* The interagency section is still in the process of being finalized as the spending report/proposals are under review by DC Water.
* DC Water planned to compile redline edits and send to the task force but the process has taken longer than expected.
* MOAs formulated by DC Water in April speak to a lot of the coordination and the task force will have time to review.

Randy Speck:

* The draft report should consist of sections detailing our responsibility as a task force and what we are mandated to do.
* Draft report may consist of proposals by public representatives and comments from DC Water.

Valerie Baron:

* The policy section is a synthesis of the other pieces of the report; a draft is being compiled with what has already been submitted by the task force.

Interagency Comments:

* DOEE, DDOT, and DCRA do not have any comments at the present time but are in the process of implementing them regarding the draft report.
* The preliminary draft report’s formatting and headings look clear, but to know what to put in the text, we need meaningful feedback between members of the task force and the public.
* Summary documents can be helpful in terms of giving access to a broad range of the public that may not want to read all the verbiage.
* We need to understand what all the input is and arrive at some decisions about the text that we can derive the shorter document out of, in which both processes can form the underlying document. Putting together a shorter document will require more time for the task force.
* Task force needs a clear answer when responding to why more time is needed. Also, the task force needs to agree on how much time is needed and what the process is going to be to get the report completed
* Q: How much time do we have to meet deadlines of the legislative session or what council has asked of us?
* A: We will reach out to Michael Porcello to see what options we have and if we’ll be granted an extension.
* Q: Is the draft report due to the public or the council by Thursday?
* A: The draft report is due to the council.
* Q: How will the change of due dates effect the public input and comment timing?
* A: We should create a master timeline that includes the public input sessions that we’ve already tagged and add sessions for public input that are squarely within the public comment period. Also, anything that comes before that period can be more of a listening session on a specific topic that may need greater public input.
* Q: Does the council staff or task force compile the comments from the public comment session?
* A: Task force should compile the comments and not rely on council staff.
* Q: How much time will we need to incorporate public comments?
* A: We need as much time as possible to listen to the public commenting sessions and give actual feedback, so the public won’t feel ignored.
* Q: Are there deadlines that we need to be aware of between DC Water and the contractor that will make it difficult to change the plans for FY 2023?
* A: We have two change orders we are currently using to do construction for the block-by-block project that are good through the end of FY 2023. Dc Water does not think the vehicle to do replacements will be the biggest challenge. We believe spending the money and getting homeowner participation is the biggest factor

Task Force Timeline:

* 11/4/21/: First task force meeting
* 6/23/22: Unofficial draft to council
* 7/14/22: Official draft to council and begins public comment period
* 7/14/22 - 8/4/22: 4-week public comment period
* 6/23/22 - 8/23/22: 2-month period prior to submission

1. Outreach and Partnership Opportunities

Reach out to Kirsten Williams regarding meeting with the NAACP DC’s branch:

* Discussions have been held with some faith-based communities (Inner Faith Power and Light) and others about the lead issue in the district and to get their feedback in this process.
* Get feedback from tenant advocates to become more inclusive and to see if there are any problems with being able to participate on the draft timeline
* Conduct a training session on July 8th, 2022, dedicated to showing how DC Water conducts their outreach strategy and how their outreach team is trained on door-to-door outreach
* Participate in door-to-door outreach on July 9th, 2022, to inform the public on the many programs that are conducive to removing lead in the district

1. Question and Answer Session
2. Action Items and Future Agenda Items

Action Items

* + Task Force will:
    - Brief DC Water before sending a draft report to Council.
    - Explore policy recommendations for the lead disclosure section of the amendment act, that will allow landlord’s written consent allowing tenant’s authority to have a private side replacement during a potential DC Water Block-by-Block project.
    - Schedule a public listening session on Thursday July 28th
  + Kenley Farmer will:
    - Reach out to Council staff in hopes of receiving a draft report before June 24th.
    - Send follow up email with the upcoming public meeting dates and update DOEE website
* Valerie Baron will:
* Speak with Michael Porcello regarding mapping policy proposals from the task force that are like other legislative vehicles such as Newark, NJ lead service
* Task Force members will:
  + Share related documents (memorandum of agreement, studies, etc.) to help with the formulation of the plan via the Lead Service Line Planning Task Force Box.com account.
    - Put together a separate plan that lays out the timeline and make it readily available to the public.
    - Reach out to NAACP and Kirsten Williams
    - Will gauge how lead action in the district wants the information regarding past lead data accounted for in the lead task force process
* DC Water will:
  + - Will provide redlines of the documents for review from the Task Force
    - Review and provide more information in context of their plan

**Proposed Agenda for 6/30/22**

1. Roll Call of Task Force Members
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes and Meeting Agenda
3. Timeline Review of Council’s Independent Cost Assessment
4. Reactions to Proposed Sections of the Draft Report
5. Discuss Outreach and Partnership Opportunities
6. Reports from Subcommittees
7. Question and Answer Session
8. Action Items and Future Agenda Items