# Lead Service Line Planning Task Force

# Meeting Minutes

June 9th, 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
* John Deignan, designee for DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

**Guest Panelists**

* Apera Nwora, DC Water
* Paul Schwartz, DC Water Alliance

1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The meeting agenda was adopted and meeting minutes from the 5/26/2022 meeting can be adopted.

1. Timeline Review of Council’s Independent Cost Assessment

Council staff stated that the contractor is committed to providing the draft report by June 24th. The contractor wanted to ensure that Council staff had time to evaluate the report to ensure it meets expectations, and to send it to DC Water for review.

Q: How does this effect our schedule for the draft report due June 23rd?

A: We can follow up with Council staff to get a draft prior to June 24th, or we can incorporate their report while our draft report review is forthcoming.

1. Review of DC Water’s Lead-Free DC Communication and Outreach Playbook

CIPERR Block-by-Block Progress:

* Construction is underway for 90 of the 150 blocks that are planned for 2022 (60%).
* Currently experiencing delays in the completion of blocks, due to homeowners not participating at a 100% rate.
* Completed over 700 replacements as of June 2022, 400 of which were from the Block-by-Block program and 130 from the Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program.

Customer Participation:

* 68% (871/1,288) of the homes where construction has started have returned signed agreements. Less than 1% have declined (5) and 32% remain unsigned (412).
* Q: Can you breakdown the 412 that remain unsigned and confirm how many are tenant occupied opposed to homeowner occupied?
* A: Roughly 20% of the signed agreements we’ve received are tenant occupied homes.
* Q: What does the unsigned no response, no engagement mean?
* A: We’ve done door to door engagement at different times and days, in which no one answered. Phone calls, emails, and texts were also met with no response.
* Q: When you say homeowner, it doesn’t necessarily mean the homeowner lives there?
* A: When we say homeowner, we mean those who have already signed the agreement.

Construction Playbook:

* Customer Outreach for Construction - Execute outreach and communication in tandem with construction to maximize homeowner participation in LSL (lead service lines) replacements.
* Program Marketing - Marketing, promotion, and education to raise awareness and activate community support and understanding of 2030 LFDC goal and importance of LSL replacements.
* Stakeholder Engagement - Engage stakeholders to advance incorporation of equity and prioritization of vulnerable populations in implementation of Phase II LFDC plan.
* Q: Who are the DC Water ambassadors mentioned in the playbook?
* A: Employees who have taken the initiative to get educated about major initiatives that we are conducting at DC Water. We educate the ambassadors, as they are representatives of all the programs and initiatives DC Water offers.
* Q: Are the ambassadors District residents?
* A: The ambassadors are not always District residents, but they take great pride in becoming ambassadors to provide great service to our customers.

1. Outreach and Partnership Opportunities

Public Comment Process:

* Conduct a meeting dedicated specifically to listening to any public comments that the Task Force receives.
* Identify a date and time to conduct a public listening session in response to the Task Force’s draft report.

Q: Typically, in which format does DOEE or other agencies go about conducting listening sessions, are they similar to this webinar?

A: A couple of DOEE’s federal grants require public notice and comments. Previously we invited the public to in person sessions, in which they were able to give verbal comments limited to 5 minutes or they could send more substantial written comments if needed.

Q: Does the Council staff have a different way of collecting public comments that differentiates from DOEE or other district agencies?

A: The Council staff’s hearing processes are more formal.

Q: Did we make significant changes between the first and second draft and if so, would it require us to have another comment period?

A: We will double check with the Office of the General Counsel and Council staff for additional thoughts on that.

Suggestions for the Task Force:

* Determine what we are required to do policy wise and brainstorm following the discussion.
* Solicit feedback from the Office of the General Counsel before publishing a draft for comment.
* Collaborate with interested Councilmembers to conduct a public hearing on cross cutting issues, or if there are pieces of our report that may seem tricky. Council staff may be helpful in resolving the issue.
* Schedule a separate meeting with the NAACP and the Environmental Justice Coalition, who are considering lead issues in Wards 7 and 8.

1. Reports from Subcommittees

Randy Speck: Get feedback on how we can refine the DC Water report on cost and prioritization.

2 Key Focus Areas of DC Water’s Plan:

* Cost Analysis: Cost of removing lead service lines
* Prioritization – Where and what lead service lines will get the highest priority

Suggestions:

* The Task Force should combine all topics they’ve discussed and form a report with the information
* The Task Force should give an overview and general set of recommendations on how the DC Water plan should move forward

Questions:

* How can we make the estimate more accurate, refining the estimate, controlling the cost variables of the DC Water plan?
* Trying to get the lowest possible cost while achieving all the objectives?
* How can the prioritization aspect be more equitable?

Policy Recommendations:

* Statutory language that would mandate removal of LSL’s

Interagency Coordination:

* John Deignan – Spending proposals are in the process of being developed, and will be sent to the task force next week
* Task force should focus on recommendations that were already discussed and how they interact with Councilmember Janeese Lewis George’s policy

1. Question and Answer Session

Q: Can there be a public trust session held to shed light on the history behind lead?

A: We will setup a separate meeting with Kiersten to speak about the plan in general and add it as an action item to see how the meeting can be setup.

Q: Can DC Water start an ambassador program so that people can educate and encourage citizens in their neighborhood to replace their LSL’s

A: DC Water currently has an ambassador program with staff only, but in terms of community mobilization the plan speaks to identifying community leaders and other members of the community to serve as ambassadors of the program

1. Action Items and Future Agenda Items

Action Items

* + Task Force will:
    - Discuss Councilmember Janeese Lewis George’s recently introduced “D.C. Green New Deal” Bill.
    - 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.
    - Work with IT to begin to put the WebEx links together and draft the public notice that can go into the DC register and DOEE’s communications team.
* Valerie Baron will:
* Schedule a separate meeting with the NAACP and the Environmental Justice Coalition, which are considering lead issues in Ward 7 and 8.
* Task Force members will:
  + Familiarize themselves with Councilmember Janeese Lewis George’s “D.C. Green New Deal” Bill that she has recently introduced.
  + 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.
* DC Water will:
  + - Will provide redlines of the documents for review from the Task Force
    - Suggest a follow-up internal meeting
    - Review and provide more information in context of their plan

**Proposed Agenda for 6/17/22**

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