

**Lead Service Line Planning Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**

February 17, 2022

Meeting Called to Order at 2:11 p.m. by Kenley Farmer, appointed Chair.

**I. Roll Call of Task Force Members**

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

Valarie Baron joined the meeting at 2:17 pm

**Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes**

The meeting agenda and meeting minutes from February 2<sup>nd</sup> were adopted.

**II. Timeline Review of Council's Independent Cost Assessment**

The task force will conclude on their reporting extension timeline once Council confirms the independent cost assessment due date.

**III. Report from Subcommittees**

**Interagency Coordination - POC John Deignan (DC Water)**

**Goal:** Account for the role of each District agency, including agencies not part of the Task Force, in the removal and replacement of all lead water service lines by 2030.

The meeting scheduled for February was canceled to allow members time to review the below documents that will aid in the next meeting discussion.

**Draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for:**

- Capital Improvement Project and Emergency Repair Replacement
- Voluntary Full Replacement Program
- Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program

**Identified Barriers and Proposed Solutions - POC Randy Speck**

**Goal:** Identify barriers to the District with removing and replacing all lead water service lines by 2030, and propose solutions to reduce or eliminate those barriers.

### **Identified Priority Barriers**

- Cost (increase in water and sewer rates or taxes to support the cost of removing and replacing lead water service lines).
- High number of refusals
  - Logistics (e.g., the inability to contact customers and difficulties in returning the agreement)
  - Communication (e.g., residents not understanding the health effects of lead in drinking water and the complexity of the agreement)
  - Lack of authority - DC Water does not have authority to perform work on private property unless an agreement is signed by the property owner.
- Permitting and Inspections (e.g., resources, coordination, and compliance)

### **Funding- POC Kenley Farmer (DOEE)**

**Goal:** Identify potential funding sources for the removal and replacement of all lead water services lines by 2030.

- American Rescue Plan Act - 30 million (10 million per year until Fiscal Year 2024).
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for Lead Pipe Replacement - 140 million (28 million per year until Fiscal Year 2026).
- Based on DC Water's cost assessment, the cost gap from the slated funding (170 million) can be funded by DC Water. However, DC Water adopts water and sewer rates in July of each year, which can change the coverage forecast.

## **IV. Question and Answer Session**

1. How do you plan to coordinate programs to make renovations and repairs run smoothly? Is there a database currently coordinating construction?

There are ongoing meetings (DC Water, District agencies, and utility companies) that assist with monthly project coordination. Also, upon approval, a MOA between DC Water, DDOT, and DOEE that lists expectations and processes to replace lead service lines, maximize public

safety, ensure proper restoration, and protect trees efficiently and effectively. Yes, we currently have a database to help correlate projects.

2. What kind of positive incentives have been explored to get voluntary replacements?

The subcommittee has spoken briefly on possible incentives for residents. To note: The best positive incentive is removing the lead from your drinking water for free or reduced cost, but other proposed solutions include a monetary payment or establishing a mandate.

## **V. Action Items and Future Agenda Items**

### **Action Items**

- Randy Speck will:
  - Send the revised Guiding Principles to the task force.
- Randy Speck/Kenley Farmer will:
  - Share the public notice and other relevant materials with ANCs.
- Kenley Farmer will:
  - Receive clarification from Council staff on what data will be used by the 3<sup>rd</sup> party to review DC Water's proposed estimates.
- Valerie Baron will:
  - Receive confirmation from Council on if the plan for the removal and replacement of all lead water service lines in the District by 2030 can include protective measures of recommendations that will aid in the protection against lead in drinking water.
- Valerie Baron/Paul Schwartz will:
  - Identify lead service line replacement expert(s) that can join one of the task force meetings to talk about their experience.
- Maureen Schmelling/John Deignan will:
  - Define in writing how lead service lines are identified in the District.
  - Provide a detailed report on how the lead removal estimate was derived or schedule a subcommittee meeting with their financial officer(s).

- Identify the procedures used to identify lead service lines (historical data, current records, inspections, etc.).
- Clarify the metrics used to determine the priority scoring list. (area deprivation index/vulnerable population, partial replacements, and geographic areas) and if it's appropriate for the plan.
- Define the Block-by-Block Program geographical space (1 block, multiple blocks, etc.).
- Coordinate a time (mid/end of March) for Paul to join DC Water's door to door outreach event.
- Stephen Varga/Matthew Nestopoulos/John Deignan will:
  - Provide historical data from the accelerated replacement projects in the mid-00's.

Task Force members will:

- Continue to identify District agencies that can aid in the development of the lead service line plan to the Council.
- Share related documents (memo of agreement, studies, etc.) to help with the formulation of the plan via the Lead Service Line Planning Task Force Box.com account.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Meet with Safe Water Engineering, LLC to review their assessment.

### **Proposed Agenda for 3/3/22**

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. Report from Subcommittees
5. Question and Answer Session
6. Action Items and Future Agenda Items