

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

March 3, 2022

Meeting Called to Order at 2:03 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
- John Deignan, proxy for Maureen Schmelling designee for DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

Valerie Baron, public representative appointed by Council joined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

**Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes**

The meeting agenda and meeting minutes from February 17<sup>th</sup> were adopted.

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

The task force will conclude on their reporting extension timeline once Council staff confirms the independent cost assessment due date. Michael Porcello will provide the independent cost assessment timeline to Kenley Farmer via email to disseminate to the task force. The task force will submit the extension request to Michael Porcello no later than March 31, 2022, to be on the agenda for Council's April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for emergency legislation.

**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 subcommittee deadline to submit feedback on the two submitted memorandums of agreement (MOAs) is Friday, March 4, 2022. After final review, the MOAs will be routed for approval.

Draft MOAs covering:

- 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 removing and replacing all lead water service lines by 2030, and propose solutions to reduce or eliminate those barriers.

Identified 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)

Proposed Solutions:

- Legislative mandate
- Positive incentives
- Providing resources to homeowners that will assist with the preparation (storage unit, packing services, etc.) for the lead service line removal

### **Review of DC Water Plan- POC Randy Speck**

**Goal:** Recommend changes or clarifications to DC Water's Lead Service Line Replacement Plan that was released on June 14, 2021.

Three major areas:

1. Prioritization
  - Determine how various factors considered for prioritization are weighed. Are the weights given based on best judgement?

- How will voluntary replacements be addressed? How do they fit into the prioritization model?
  - How will the current lead line removal programs be integrated with the Block-by-Block Program?
2. Cost Estimate
- Randy Speck confirmed with Council's staff that the task force can be a part of DC Water's briefing to Safe Water Engineering, LLC (contractor selected to conduct an independent verification and validation assessment of DC Water's Lead Service Line Replacement Plan) on the cost data analysis.
  - With the proposed water and sewer rate increase on consumer bills, how much of that funding is planned to go towards the DC Water Lead Free DC Plan?
3. Community Outreach
- What will be the procedures for providing community outreach input or feedback to the external stakeholder advisory group (outlined on page 17 of the Lead Free DC Plan)?
  - The Private Property Lead/Galvanized Service Line Replacement Agreement (LSR Agreement) needs simpler language.

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

1. Is there a redline version of the LSR Agreement that includes simplified language?
- No. Is DC Water attorneys open to change? If not, can they provide a cover sheet explaining the agreement in simplified language?
2. What is a WIIN grant?
- The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grant program is designed to help public water systems in underserved communities meet and comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Grantees will provide assistance to underserved communities that have no household drinking water or wastewater services or are served by a public water system that violates or exceeds any maximum containment level, treatment technique, or action level.

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

## **Action Items**

- Randy Speck will:
  - Offer testimony at the Council's Budget Oversight Hearing on March 24, 2022, for the Department of Buildings to explain the need for additional inspection resources to aid in the removal of lead services lines by 2023.
- Randy Speck/Kenley Farmer will:
  - Share the public notice and other relevant materials with ANCs.
- 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.
- Valerie Baron/Randy Speck will:
  - Draft proposed recommendations for the Lead Free DC Plan.
- Maureen Schmelling/John Deignan will:
  - 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.
  - Coordinate a time (mid/end of March) for Paul to join DC Water's door to door outreach event.
  - Draft a one-pager on the processes and efficiency gains between DCRA and DC Water project coordination
  - Confirm if the interagency spending plan will be shared via google doc.
  - Confirm if your attorneys are open to changes to the LSR Agreement. If not, provide a cover letter of the LSR Agreement in simpler language.
- 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.
  - Provide feedback by March 4, 2022, on the Guiding Principles and MOAs.

## **Future Agenda Items**

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

**Proposed Agenda for 3/17/22**

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. Review of DC Water's Lead Free DC Plan and Costs
5. Reports from Subcommittees
6. Question and Answer Session
7. Action Items and Future Agenda Items