# Lead Service Line Planning Task Force

# Meeting Minutes

June 17th, 2022

Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 a.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**

* John Deignan, DC Water
* 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 6/9/2022 meeting can be adopted.

1. Timeline Review of Council’s Independent Cost Assessment

 There are no updates from Council staff regarding the independent cost assessment.

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.
* Plan to compile red line edits from DC Water 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 of the report and the task force will have time to review.

 Randy Speck:

* The draft report should include sections detailing our responsibility as a task force and what we’re mandated to complete
* 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
* The task force needs a clear answer when being asked 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: The 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 comment 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: DC Water currently has 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 believe 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 start of 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. Review of Councilmember Janeese George’s Proposed “D.C. Green New Deal”

Public Representatives collaborated with Earth Justice to develop specific legislative language and a proposed chart that compares legislation in Newark, NJ, and legislation that Councilmember Janeese Lewis George has proposed.

Q: What policy strategies are DC Water most comfortable with in terms of reducing refusal rates in comparison to legislation in Newark and Janeese George’s proposed bill?

A: Previously DC Water was against mandates because we were level setting what a mandate could be and how to operationalize that mandate. Some of our barriers early on was that we were not able to get onto private property, but that’s a limited view of everything that must be done. Even if we were granted access to private property there are still social and economic factors that we must think about, and any mandate must be cognizant of that. We’ve looked at Councilmember George’s bill, but we aren’t sure her proposed bill speaks to removing lead in the district and making it less of a burden for residents.

Valerie Baron:

* A better way to approach the mandates would be to explicitly explain what parts of a mandate DC Water would be opposed to.
* Allow no cost equitably prioritized replacements across the district, which is a critical component of having a cost-effective equity driven program that avoids needless rate raises
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 in events on the draft timeline.
* DC Water will conduct a training session on July 8th, 2022, dedicated to displaying how their outreach strategy operates, 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

VII. Question and Answer Session

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

VIIII. Action Items and Future Agenda Items

Action Items

* + Task Force will:
		- Continue to 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:
* Will work with the public representatives to enter in the drafts that the task force has circulated and enter that into the appropriate places and adjust as needed and then recirculate to have a single draft
* Share highlights of the draft timeline with Kirsten Williams and get feedback from tenant advocates to become more inclusive
* Task Force members will:
	+ Finish the policy section of the draft report
	+ Send the task force a chart comparing legislation in Newark, NJ that compares to councilmember George’s proposed bill
		- Draft a community outreach and education section to include in the draft report
		- Share the draft report we currently have with council staff and request an extension, to become technically compliant with the mandate.
* DC Water will:
	+ - 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 pipes in the district

**Proposed Agenda for 6/23/22**

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