**WSAC Meeting Notes**

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 pm. on June 14, 2023. **Roll Call:

Council members present:**

* Dr. Benjamin Pauli
* Dr. Lawrence Reynolds
* Nayyirah Shariff

**There was no quorum.**

**Council members absent included:**

* Nancy Love
* Gina Smith
* Wendy Braun
* Jaron Houston
* Sherri Hartwell
* Shawn McElmurry

**Members of the community present who provided public comment were:**

* Dr. Laura Sullivan
* Peterson Cullimore
* Dr. Richard Sadler
* Faith Groesbeck
* Carroll Kincade
* Dr. Richard Sadler

**Staff members who assisted with facilitation and answered questions included:**

* Scott Dungee, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor
* Faith Groesbeck, Office of Public Health Manager, City of Flint

**Air Quality Emergency:**

Nayyirah Shariff made a recommendation regarding the Air Quality Emergency. She suggested we should follow the protocol we followed for Covid. With Covid, Mayor Neely declared an emergency first. Second, Genesee County declared an emergency and finally the State of Michigan declared an emergency.

**WSAC Member Attendance:**

Dr. Pauli stated there are no bylaws, but one member consistently does not attend. A quorum is needed to conduct official business. Nayyirah Shariff stated we cannot approve the agenda.

**Water Treatment Plant Update:**

Dr. Pauli suggested that Scott Dungee speak and go over completed projects. Scott shared photos of the interior of the water tower, one of which showed daylight shining through. In response to questions about why there is a waterline, Faith Groesbeck requested documents be emailed and shared publicly.

Nayyirah asked when this structure was built. Scott replied it was built in 1952. Carroll Kincaid wanted to know if condensation caused the waterline. Scott confirmed and further stated chlorine also contributed. Dr. Pauli stated there are chlorine residuals at 15 sites. When asked about testing frequency, Scott responded that some sites are tested daily, while others are on a schedule.Dr. Pauli asked how the residents can be assured of the tap water’s safety. Scott stated that varies, due to a decrease in population. New mains are “sized properly” and 35 water flushers have been installed in the system to improve water quality. Nayyirah stated there are auto flushers in the system. She requested a map, asking if there were any type of patterns identified. Scott replied there were and gave Fisher Body as an example. Dr. Reynolds interjected he had followed Scott around The City one day; he attested to the process and variables. Scott Dungee stated the flushers can be flushed where there aren’t valves, plus there are water quality monitoring panels throughout The City. Carroll Kincaid pointed out that if a house on the block burned down, that lowers the water pressure. Scott said that Chief Wiggins [City of Flint Fire Chief] are in contact regarding this. Carroll wanted to know if there is a schedule to replace the main lines. Scott relayed that this is mandated through the Arcadis study. There is a plan to address as there is time and personnel available. He responded to a question about additional water testing done because of water pressure changes in the system. He said that it’s harder to do with a sealed system. There are pressure relief valves that are in place to prevent main breaks. Carroll Kincaid asked about the chlorine residuals and Scott explained the expected range. Carroll also wanted to know if the pressure makes a difference and Scott explained that there have been three water main breaks since the tower was taken out of service. Carroll asked if pressure valves were going to be removed after the project was finished and Scott confirmed that this is the case. Dr. Reynolds said the residents can shut the flushers off. Dr. Pauli stated that the residents are concerned when flushing occurs at the hydrants. Scott Dungee said door hangers get put on the whole block when this is done. Carroll said the website needs to be updated. Nayyirah requested that the City posts a photo on social media and a sign at the location.

Dr. Pauli is looking for input on the latest H2O Quality report (distributed). He would like a meeting in early January and is looking up CCR suggestions (EPA). He thinks that this is a feasible project and is excited about taking it on. Scott says that the annual reports are delivered to the residents during the last week of June.

**Lead Service Line Replacement Project:**

Carroll Kincaid stated the lead service line inventory is required within a 10-year period. Dr. Reynolds questioned this, if “Lead-Free Fixtures” were allowed up until 2014. Dr. Pauli said that, even today, the law allows some lead to be in fixtures.

Nayyirah asked if the State is using revolving funds (SRF) and Scott noted that all projects mentioned were through SRF, for example, the water line replacements, the work on the reservoir, and the pump station upgrades. Nayyirah wanted to know if there is a current approval for the State’s intended use plan for the $11.8 million Cedar St. Reservoir and the NW Transmission Line. She discussed some conversations she had with State Officials regarding the definitions and distinctions of “Disadvantaged,” “Overburdened” and “Severely Overburdened,” explaining that the Michigan Shared Credit Rating Act can put a majority black city on a different path.

Dr. Pauli asked Scott if the City had had any contact with our EFC, Environmental Finance Center, which is Michigan Tech, regarding grant applications: Scott Dungee replied we had not; however, he did have a discussion with someone at the EPA.

Faith Groesbeck asked if State revolving funds must be paid back, to which Scott replied that it would depend based on statistics. Dr. Pauli said the people want more grants for “disadvantaged” communities. Scott stated that contractors were less eager to accept grants.

**WSAC Membership:**

Dr. Pauli announced that Dr. Sadler wants to join the WSAC. There are requirements, according to the Statement of Commitment and the Statement of Participation. Lottie’s concern is there will be a conflict of interest. Dr. Lawrence Reynolds said he has no reservations or concerns. He has worked with Dr. Sadler since 2015 and knows that he has geographic knowledge and map skills. Dr. Pauli agreed he has expertise and a presence in the community. Nayyirah stated that following the IRB Guidelines and Ethics is not a problem, as he has worked with this before; however, her only concern is representation by ward. Dr. Sadler said that, regardless of membership, he is willing to help.

Dr. Reynolds said that the Open Meeting Act states that no more than two people can speak without a quorum. Dr. Pauli stated he has heard conflicting info. Nayyirah said that it is okay to allow more than two people to speak if no official business is done. Dr. Lawrence Reynolds stated, “in interest of the residents, we cannot turn people away who have questions.” Dr. Pauli expressed frustration at not being able to make decisions due to the inability to establish a quorum. He further stated a solution needed to be decided upon. The facilitation offer was the biggest decision. Nayyirah said she would submit her questions to Diane Russell, EPA staff person in Flint, but Dr. Pauli said additional questions will be sent to the Technical Director Point of Contact. He said that the EPA’s contractor is Eastern Research Group, under the Office of Environmental Justice. WSAC members wondered how involved they could be in choosing a facilitator, but the only entity who can select a subcontractor is the contractor. However, Diane Russell can influence the State’s decision.

**EPA Facilitation TA Agreement:**

Nayyirah has experience with air quality monitoring facilitators, but that isn’t with the city, so she requested a list of the facilitator’s duties. Dr. Pauli explained that they only do what we ask them to do.
Several members wanted to add “City of Flint” to “All activities are to be carried out in accordance with WSAC and Flint resident priorities.” Nayyirah would like to post the contract publicly, once it is completed. Dr. Reynolds said their [the EPA’s] budget could be cut, so we should expedite.

Dr. Pauli said we can’t force people to attend the meetings. Scott suggested we use Zoom. Dr. Pauli stated that after the Emergency Order ended, he was told Zoom was not allowed without special permission. He stated State Law mandates that the WSAC meet at least once per year.

Nayyirah and Dr. Pauli discussed collaborating with the statewide council to learn more about their approach to these attendance barriers. Dr. Pauli stated he hadn’t had contact with the State Drinking Water Advisory Council. Nayyirah said their next meeting is Monday June 26 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm.

The goal is to convene again in July.