**WSAC Meeting Notes

12-13-2023**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM**

Faith Groesbeck, Manager of the Office of Public Health, City of Flint, was present to record the audio and video.
Laura Erwin-Hall, Public Navigator and Communications Specialist of the Office of Public Health, City of Flint, was present to take minutes and do roll call.
Scott Dungee, Water Plant Supervisor, City of Flint, was present to provide information regarding the water plant and water testing.

**Council members present:**

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

**Council members absent included:**

* Wendy Braun
* Sherri Hartwell
* Jaron Houston
* Dr. Nancy Love
* Sherri Hartwell
* Yvonne Lewis
* Sheryl Thompson
* Laura Sullivan
* Jamie Gaskins

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

* Diane Russell, EPA Conflict Resolution Community Resource Coordinator
* R.L. Mitchell, Flint Resident

**Quorum: We do NOT have quorum.**

**Old Business:**
**Council Applications:
Dr. Paulie:** Faith and I had agreed to strategize on how to recruit a more diverse membership. We would like to incorporate an actual strategy plan. There has not been any movement on that front since we last met with Mayor.

**Faith:** Mayor Neeley is still waiting for our follow-up regarding the conversation that WSAC should have a strategy in place regarding accepting new members, not just ask our friends to join. The other part is we need to make this Council more diverse and in-line with the citizens of Flint.
**Dr. Paulie:** Both Carroll Kincaid and Dr. Richard Sadler have committed to attending every meeting. They’ve agreed that if they miss three meetings, they are off the Council. I would like to close this out by the next meeting so that we don’t leave them hanging. Mayor Sheldon Neeley is willing to nominate Carroll and Dr. Sadler to WSAC. We just need to have that discussion with Mayor Neeley.  **Commitment to attend meetings.
Dr. Paulie:** I have spoken with Wendy Braun, and she was asking if she is going to be asked to resign. Her husband is still ill and in and out of the hospital. She is committed to being involved. I was going to recommend she resign; however in short, she would like to continue to participate with the Council. The “three missed meeting” rule does not currently apply retroactively, although we could make it do so. I think at this time with her recommitment to the Council, I would like to wait to see if she does attend the next meeting. If she does not, then we can re-evaluate at that time.
**Nayyirah Shariff:** When the Council initiated, the commitment was once per year. Wendy Braun has attended this minimum number of meetings; her commitment has been met.
**Dr.** **Paulie:** Should we ask for a new commitment? For instance, commitment to attend every meeting; however, if you miss three meetings, then you’ll be asked to resign. This needs to be discussed further and a plan made.
 **Water Study:**
**Scott Dungee**: We finished our lead and copper testing early. Preliminary results state we are below 10ppb. We will receive the official results next week.We have added more Tier 1s to the Study. We’re trying to communicate more with the residents and businesses. Hydro-vac allows us to get ID the service line composition without digging, which makes it easier to gain permission from the residents. The latest samples were 62 sites tested and 31 of those 62 sites were Tier 1s. More than 100 Tier 1 sites are scheduled to be added.
**Faith:** Isn’t it the rule that you have to test all the Tier 1s before you test the Tier 2s and 3s? If the residents decline testing in the first place, they must remain on the list and another request is made in six months. People must stay on the list until they allow us to test. There’s a level of fatigue.
**Dr. Paulie:** The protocol is to go back to the Tier 1s who have declined and if they still decline, then test the Tier 2s. There is now a 60-day open comment period for Lead & Copper Rule revisions. Some groups have even suggested the standard be lowered to 5ppb. I’m sure the agency will not agree with that; however, there will still need to be discussions.
**Scott Dungee:** 80% of America will be above 5ppb and out of compliance if the standard is increased to that degree.
**Dr. Paulie:** So, Scott, I take it you think 5ppb is too low, but what about 10ppb?
**Scott Dungee:** 10ppb could be done, but it will be difficult.
**R.L. Mitchell:** But, Scott you have to have engineers, like the one who is going to retire in three months. Who’s going to replace him?
**Scott Dungee:** I don’t know.
 **EPA Proposal Lead and Copper Rule Changes:
Diane Russell:** Currently the maximum amount of lead allowed in drinking water is 15ppb of lead. There is some talk of lowering the limits to 10ppb.
**Scott Dungee:** The Federal Government states 12ppb is the standard. When the standards are increased, there will be actionable items. For example, any faucets built before 2014 could have lead in them and may need to be removed.
**Dr. Paulie:** And there would have been two times in the recent past where we would have been out of compliance if the standard was 10ppb.

**Please see the below link which is a quick synopsis of the EPA’s proposed lead and copper rule improvements (LCRI) and frequently asked questions for States and Public Water Systems. This proposal was written in November of 2023.**<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-12/lcri-faq_statespws_11.28.23-nr>

**Nayyirah Shariff:** MDHHS will replace a faucet if it contains lead, and if there is a child in the home; however, testing is needed. People are more knowledgeable now than they were in the beginning of the water crisis. Every resident now has some understanding of water, lead, and testing. Part of this group’s job is to educate people about the need for testing.
**Dr. Pauli:** We need to develop a process to capture peoples’ attention. There is concern costs will funnel down to the customer. Sometimes the way to get things funded is to set the standards so high the surveillance can be used to advocate for more funding.
**Nayyirah Shariff:** People need to advocate for more funding at the State and Federal levels.
**Scott Dungee:** October 1st through November 15th, the water line and mains will be flushed. There are old lead lines that still need to be replaced; however, we have reached thousands of people.
**Faith Groesbeck**: There were more than 700 households that declined to have their lines checked. After contacting members of these households there are approximately 300 households scattered throughout the city that continue to decline. We do not have unlimited licenses for City Works, to access the data and update the Flint Pipe Map. We also do not have an accurate total on how much money remains.
**Scott Dungee:** Monday through Friday, we test 25 different sites on Survey and Sanitation. We test at the plant.
**Gina Smith:** What is the best way to convince the public that the water is good? Pre 1986, the solder can have lead, but to the public the water is “good.”
 **Shawn McElmurry:** Does the city have additional program/resources to fix it if there are high lead levels?
**Faith Groesbeck:**  No, there are not additional funds available for lead abatement. If we are looking for lead where we suspect lead to be, we will find it. Once we find it, residents need to have funding to abate the lead.
**Paul Simpson**: Someone else’s lines should NOT affect your lines. Consumers Energy is digging for new construction. Do you test for other toxins?
 **Filtration:**
The lines get isolated and then the water treatment folks flush and then conduct routine sampling. Clean your aerator. Filters (PUR) are designed to keep lead to less than five parts per billion.

**Dr. Pauli:** Some of the hydrants that are being flushed have brown water coming out; residents get scared. We need to work on PR as far as what we’re doing. Fires create disruption in the flow and the water will be dirty. What effect does the reverse osmosis have on your typical usage?

**Contract with Skeo for Technical Assistance:**Superfund Sites already have a contract, so we don’t have to wait for a new contract to be written. The contractor would come forward with items they will take care of. We aren’t stuck with anyone. Flint Communications Group has used this group before. EPA does not control how this works; there are several choices.
 **Dr. Lawrence Reynolds:** Motion to accept EPA proposal
 **Dr. Benjamin Pauli** seconded the motion
 **Passed unanimously
Dr. Pauli:** Diane, we need to keep moving forward with a contractor.

 **CCR (Consumer Confidence Report):**
**Dr. Pauli:** It would be great if we could ask the residents what they would like to see in the CCR. How do we present this in a way that is understandable.
**Nayyirah Sharrif:** How can we make the CCR more appealing?
**Dr. Pauli:** This is a requirement by the Federal Government. It tends to lend itself to “What do I absolutely bare minimum have to have?” However, there are other municipalities looking at the CCR as an opportunity to humanize the actual story by putting the pictures of their residents in the CCR. Scott, do you have a budget for changing the graphics on the CCR?
**Scott Dungee:** No, we sure don’t.
**Faith:** Interns!
**Dr. Pauli:** There is a shortage of young people coming up in the water industry today. I’d like to see us use the CCR to excite young people about the water industry as a career.

**January 2022:** No lead or bacteria in the line coming out after schools had been closed for a while.
**July 2022:** Filters replaced 1st time made by 3M. Water stagnant for a month. No lead coming out. Where is the lead coming from? The average age of a school building in Michigan is 45 years. The average age of Flint school buildings is 75 years. **June 2023:** Filters replaced, but not sampling. 76 installed of the 100 purchased.
**Brita-type filter (2):** Membrane filter-carbon block-UV lamp Installation included a line going in and line going out.
**October 2023:** A second sampling will take place in October 2023.

**Dr. Pauli:** It is now 7:30, so I will officially adjourn this unofficial meeting!