

UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, March 21, 2024
8:30 – 9:30 am
1300 Market Ave SW
AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2024
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Updates
 - a. January & February Awards – Jeff McCaul
 - b. Filter First Bill – Wayne Jernberg
 - c. Biodigester – Jared Grabinski
5. Public Comments
6. Items from Members
7. Next Meeting – April 18, 2024
8. Adjournment

UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, January 18, 2024
MINUTES

Members Present

James Ouzts, Wayne Jernberg, James Hurt, Darrel Schmalzel, Aric Thorne, Alex Fleet, Kolene Allen, Tim Burkman, Tai Verbrugge, Brian Bradley, Kurt Anderson, Sam Giffel, Jared Grabinski, Jeff McCall, D. LaFave, Julius, Allison Nugent, Jim Kirkwood,

Others Present

Kieran Kelley (City of GR)

Call to Order

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 a.m. by Mr. Hurt—a formal introduction of Allison Nugent, followed by introductions from those present.

Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2023

Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Schmalzel and second by Mr. Jernberg.

MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Mr. Jernberg and second by Mr. Bennett.

MOTION CARRIED.

Quarterly Financials

Due to budget work, the financial team has been unable to pull a full financial report to present today, which is expected to be done within the next week. Sewer, through half of the fiscal year, shows revenue up by 5%, mainly due to RNG sales and the rate increase from last year. Expenses have been maintained and only show an increase of 1%. This results in an overall net income up 12% so far in comparison to this time last year. Water through half of the fiscal year shows revenue is up 6%, mainly due to the rate increase from last year. Expenses maintained about a 6% increase. This results in an overall net income increase of 0% compared to last year.

Sanitary Forcemain Projects

East Paris Lift Station, located outside city limits in Grand Rapids Township, is looking to replace the forcemain. This old pipe has had issues and is only a 6" pipe; the option to line the pipe would cause further restriction in the flow. The best option is a full replacement by way of pipe bursting. This process will have very little effect on traffic. It is budgeted to begin work in FY2026.

Mr. Jernberg asked who is impacted by this (zonegated). Mr. Bradley will check and respond. Mr. Fleet asked if lining would be a better solution; Mr. Bradley responded as the age and integrity of the original pipe are deteriorating, full replacement is the best option.

Eastern Avenue Lift Station – The location straddles the City of Grand Rapids and Wyoming. Looking to replace the 10" asbestos-lined force main. A proactive approach is needed to line this section of pipe to avoid potential breaks in the future. This option is forecasted to be the most effective and cost-efficient and budgeted to begin work in FY2027.

Lincoln School Lift Station—Located in Grand Rapids Township, this is an asbestos-lined concrete pipe. This proactive approach to lining this section of pipe with minimal traffic impact was budgeted to begin in FY2028.

Mr. Hurt asked if we had contacted Grand Rapids Townships about the projects. Mr. Bradley responded that they have not at this time but plan to meet to discuss and plan these projects. Mr. Verbrugge asks how long the pipe lining projects will extend the life of the assets. Mr. Bradley explains that it nearly doubles the lifespan as it is essentially a new pipe within the existing pipe.

Updates

2023 Awards

Awards are primarily acknowledged every month, so the focus was on the year-ending award for December. Water Main replacement on Alma Dr. This was a City of Grand Rapids project, so it was a non-integrated cost project.

Kent County Community Action Quarterly

The numbers from Q2 and Q3 are still being worked. The current update is about \$200,000; we have used about 50% of that amount. A couple of grant opportunities are coming up. Since 2021, we haven't used all our funding. Once the opportunity to update the numbers is completed, Ms. Giffel will share the final number and be able to provide a better update. Mr. Jernberg mentioned a webinar about additional funding that Ms. Giffel attended. Ms. Giffel has pushed for grant opportunities that have not been applied for through DHHS. The State of Michigan authorizes a grant of \$30M for bill assistance and affordability measures. Ms. Giffel has also reached out to Ottawa County to help encourage them to take advantage and apply for these opportunities. The

legislature is back in session. Changes and sidebar conversations are happening currently. There is no solid foundation regarding this to move forward.

Biodigester – Jared Grabinski

Phosphorous Recovery is running, but we are still working with the contractor to get it operating as designed. This includes SCADA and programming upgrades and chemistry testing to verify we are where we need to be. Gas production and revenue are up for the year because the RINS program is fully in place, and the system's efficiency has grown. Electrical issues still exist in the biodigester, and the list has been compiled and shared with the contractor with expectations that they will be fixed. Regarding the concentrated waste digester, many people are talking about how to grow this system (manufacturers, the City of Wyoming, etc.). The hope is to grow feedstock, produce more gas, and boost revenue. This will possibly require adding another CNG upgrading skid. This process may need a capital increase, but the benefit is the revenue created and keeping the waste out of landfills.

Public Comments

None.

Items from Members

Tai Verbrugge – The Utility Finance team added two new analysts.

Kolene Allen – Tiffany Berry welcomed her new baby boy.

Kurt Anderson – Sewer use ordinance update. Three local limits exist: toxins (metals), organics, and PFAS. Toxic local limits are submitted to the State and are “approved.” We are resubmitting the compatibles because the State did not like the submitted model. We expect the compatible local limit report from the engineering firm by the end of January. PFAS local limit development has been started but has not yet been completed. Once the local limits are added to the ordinance, the ordinance process can be started back up. There are no changes to the original ordinance; the local limits have just been added. Appreciation and thanks to the wholesale communities for responding to our request for their non-domestic user lists.

Samarhia Giffel – Account reviews will happen in March. Don't hesitate to contact the local assessors to ensure the property is annexed to the correct community. This will help with zoning.

Jared Grabinski—GVRBA is facing potential issues due to one landfill losing its Municipal Solids Contract and not accepting our sludge. We are fine now, but it could become a potential issue. We are looking at adding GVRBA to maintain our sustainability pro-actively.

Next Meeting - February 15, 2024.

Adjournment

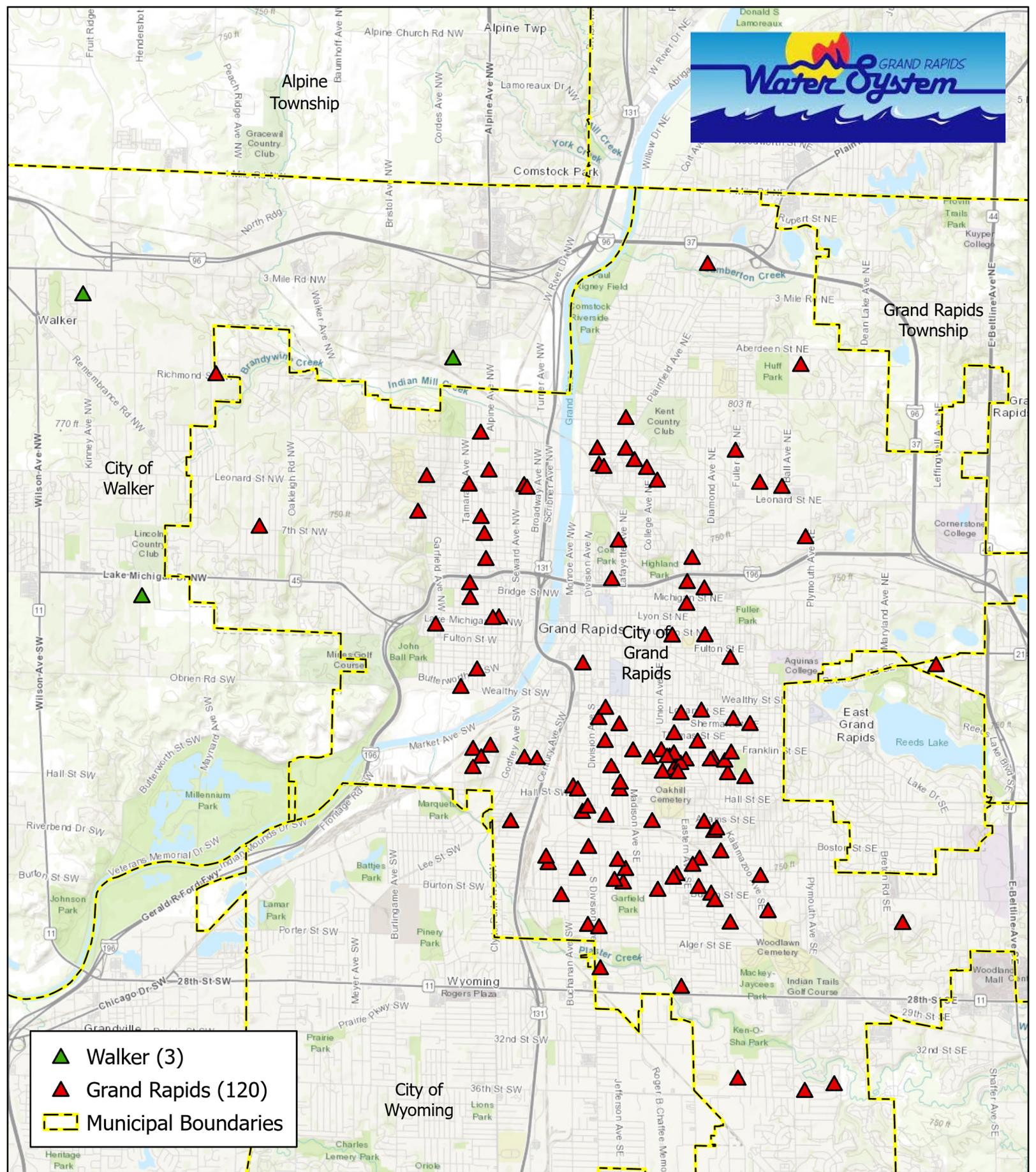
Mr. Hurt adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.

**Water/Sewer UAB Report
February 2024**

Project Name	Contractor	Award Date	Substantial Completion Date	Final Completion Date	Water Fund Authorized NTE Amt	Sewer Fund Authorized NTE Amt	Est. Year for Rates	Integrated (Y/N)
Reconstruction of Cesar E. Chavez Avenue from Clyde Park Avenue to Hall Street.	Wyoming Excavators, Inc.	2/6/2024	8/30/2024	11/3/2025	\$ 2,266,363.00	N/A		
Street Lighting and Telecommunication Improvements in DIVISION AVENUE from Fulton Street to Michigan Street and Reconstruction of DIVISION AVENUE and FULTON STREET Intersection	Wyoming Excavators, Inc.	2/20/2024	11/22/2024	12/6/2024	\$ 605,175.00	\$ 108,645.00		

Kent County Community Action (KCCA)
Water/Sewer Payment Assistance Program
Contract Years 2023 & 2022
Fourth Calendar Quarter - October 1 thru December 31

	2023		2022	
	Q4	YTD	Q4	YTD
City of Grand Rapids				
ICB Authorized		\$ 130,446.00		\$ 132,399.00
Non-Operating Revenue Authorized		\$ 80,000.00		\$ 80,000.00
ICB Total Funding		\$ 210,446.00		\$ 212,399.00
KCCA				
Total Assistance Award(s)	\$ 45,180.29	\$ 97,866.77	\$ 35,741.84	\$ 99,577.52
Total Administrative Fee(s)	4,244.50	9,513.15	3,574.19	9,957.75
Total ICB Used	\$ 49,424.79	\$ 107,379.92	\$ 39,316.03	\$ 109,535.27
Total ICB Reimbursed	\$ 49,424.79	\$ 107,379.92	\$ 39,316.03	\$ 109,535.27
Q1 Reimbursement	\$ (20,485.89)	\$ (20,485.89)	\$ (22,808.08)	\$ (22,808.08)
Q2 Reimbursement	\$ (18,639.14)	\$ (18,639.14)	\$ (13,664.05)	\$ (13,664.05)
Q3 Reimbursement	\$ (18,830.10)	\$ (18,830.10)	\$ (33,747.11)	\$ (33,747.11)
Q4 Reimbursement	\$ (49,424.79)	\$ (49,424.79)	\$ (39,316.03)	\$ (39,316.03)
ICB Remaining Authorized Funds		\$ 23,066.08		\$ 22,863.73
ICB Remaining Non Operating Funds		\$ 80,000.00		\$ 80,000.00
Demographic Summary				
Household(s) Served	123	282	100	295
Person(s) Served	346	767	322	915
Average Household Size	2.81	2.72	3.22	3.10
Single Head of Family Served	62	115	51	166
Average Assistance Amount	(\$367.32)	(\$347.05)	(\$357.42)	(\$337.55)
Failed Screening Process	21	72	0	0
Denied After Completed Process	0	0	0	3
Repeat Household(s) Served	21	26	0	3
Jurisdiction Summary				
Grand Rapids	120	273	97	289
Cascade Township	0	0	0	1
Grand Rapids Township	0	0	0	1
Kentwood	0	2	0	0
Tallmadge Township	0	0	0	0
Walker	3	7	3	4
Wright Township	0	0	0	0



- Walker (3)
- Grand Rapids (120)
- Municipal Boundaries

**2023 - 4th Quarter
KCCA/ICBAP Clients**

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles