



Water Advisory Council

November 5, 2025

8:00 am

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items
3. Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2025
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Water Advisory Council Background and Member Introductions
6. Updates
 - a. Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward
 - b. Annual Distribution System Materials Inventories (DSMI)
 - c. YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map
 - d. Lead Service Line Construction Projects
 - e. Lead and Copper Rule
 - f. State Drinking Water Advisory Council
7. 2026 Schedule
 - January 14
 - March 11
 - May 13
 - July 8
 - September 9
 - November 4
(moved up a week due to Veteran's Day)
8. Member Updates
9. Public Comment
10. Next Meeting – January 14, 2025
11. Adjournment

Water Advisory Council
September 3, 2025
8:00 am
MINUTES

Members Present

Izamar Contreras (City of GR), Nick Fisher (City of GR), Paul Haan, Wayne Jernberg (Chairperson, City of GR), Doug La Fave (East GR), Julius Suchy (Ada Township), and Jennifer Williams (GRPS)

Others Present

Kolene Allen (City of GR), Jameela Maun (Healthy Homes)

Call to Order

Mr. Jernberg called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Haan, seconded by Mr. La Fave.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Haan.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of adding an update for *Membership* approved by Mr. La Fave, seconded by Mr. Suchy.

MOTION CARRIED.

Updates

Membership

Mr. Jernberg introduced Nick Fisher as a new member. Mr. Fisher was recently promoted to Assistant Water System Manger. He also stated that the council still needs to fill a position from one of the neighborhood associations.

Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward (Healthy Homes)

Ms. Maun reported that Ms. Lykins has left Healthy Homes. They are hoping to have her position filled in the next could of weeks.

In addition to canvassing, Healthy Homes outreach efforts included:

- Shoes Help Our Elementary Students (SHOES) program at DeVos Place

- Tabling at DHHS
- Continued weekly tabling at SECOM during water kit pickup times

She reported that 508 water kits have been delivered between October 2024 and August 2025. A map with those locations was included in the agenda packet.

She reported that Eastown Neighborhood Association distributed approximately 50 kits last month. The Health Department has also started to help distribute kits and they are currently working on a partnership with the Hispanic Center to also assist.

The increased distribution in the Baxter Neighborhood can be attributed to canvassing in the area as well as attending events in Garfield Park.

Mr. Jernberg suggested that at some point it might be a good idea to set a goal of 1000 kits, and present to the City Commission at some point which could help get some commissioners involved.

Ms. Izamar added that she has also been coordinating with Healthy Homes to let them know when lead replacement projects occur at specific locations so that those areas can be targeted. It has helped with getting agreements in place.

YTD Lead Service Line Replacement map

Mr. Jernberg presented the latest Lead Service Line Replacement map. 1099 replacements have been completed so far. The target goal is 1900 so we are in a good spot to hit that goal.

Lead Service Line Construction Projects

Mr. Jernberg reported on lead service line replacement projects. 96% of all agreements have been completed for FY2025 capital projects. Getting agreements for FY2026 capital projects are in progress. We anticipate that getting agreements in place for the Burton (Division to Kalamazoo) project may be difficult since it's a larger project

For DWRF Resurfacing Projects, Ms. Contreras stated that for part of the Groundhawk project, we have had a bit of difficulty getting contracts in place. A large portion of the residents are Latino and do not respond to phone calls, door hangers, or in-person visits by staff. In an effort to engage with these residents, we left invitations for a meeting at their location and set up a table in the area asking them to visit with staff. Two residents delivered their signed agreements at that time. Two others came by with questions. Staff visited some homes at that time and could hear people inside but no one would answer the door.

Ms. Williams said that GRPS has been struggling with this issue as well. She said that using pastors in those areas has been helpful. She will connect with Ms. Contreras to see if they can assist in making some connections. Ms. Maun said that she has some connections that she will reach out to as well.

FY2024 projects have been completed. 93% of these agreements were signed and completed. We are hesitant to shut the water off for private-only projects so currently we aren't.

Mr. La Fave reported that East Grand Rapids has inventoried all but 250 of approximately 4000 properties to identify lead service lines. While this has been ongoing for several years, they have also been replacing around 200-250 lead service lines a year. This means they should be completely done with their lead service line replacement program within two years.

Lead and Copper Rule

Mr. Jernberg reported that the Water System completed its annual lead and copper sampling for 2025. The City is required to sample 50 homes with Tier 1 service lines. We expect to certify at 7 parts per million (ppm) for lead and non-detect for copper. Four locations tested between 8 – 12 ppm for lead, which is the City's internal threshold for replacement. With the state's lead action level dropping to 12 ppm, we may drop the threshold to 6 ppm.

Mr. La Fave reported that East Grand Rapids is required to test 29 or 30 homes with Tier 1 service lines. They expect that all Tier 1 service lines will have been replaced by the time sampling is required again next year.

Mr. Jernberg said that this shows that the optimized corrosion control is working. He added that related to that, the City received our final report on a corrosion control optimization study, which was seven years in the making. The resulting recommendation is to make no changes at this time. After the removal of all lead service lines, the recommendation may be to switch from a 50/50 blend of polyphosphate and orthophosphate to 70/30 or possibly 100% orthophosphate. This would primarily be done to reduce mineral precipitates, since the polyphosphate component would no longer be needed.

State Drinking Water Advisory Council

Mr. Jernberg reported that he was unable to attend the last quarterly meeting in August. His understanding is that they completed a survey to gauge interest in what councils would like to see in terms of education, training, and materials they can offer us. He will share the survey with everyone once they send it to him.

Member Updates

- Mr. Jernberg gave an overview as a reminder as to why the Water Advisory Council exists. Since 2018, the state requires any community that serves a population of over 50,000 must have a Water Advisory Council. The council's purpose is educate the public on lead in drinking water and give the City recommendations regarding the water system.
- Mr. Haan asked about the status of federal funding. Mr. Jernberg said that the City applied for an EPA grant for more lead service line replacements but haven't heard back on it yet. In terms of state funding, EGLE hasn't published their draft funding plan for available SRF funds for FY2026 yet. He does believe that the City's lead service line replacement project was tied for the highest score which means we will get loans, but we don't know what the principal forgiveness share will be. The concern is that the State may need to scale back depending on how much they receive from the federal government.

- Ms. Contreras reported that we signed an MOU with the Community Development department so whenever they are doing a lead abate project with either Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Funding or lead hazard control projects, we are going in and replacing lead service lines after the fact. We will be getting those reports every quarter. We'll be doing 11 replacements based off the first report we received from them. Mr. Jernberg suggested adding those to the Lead Service Line Replacements map. She also reported that it has been almost a year since we distributed the Notice of Potential Lead Lines in Your Home letter so it will be going out to our customers again soon.
- Ms. Maun said that Healthy Homes just completed its Screen Before School campaign to promote its free home hazard screening program. She also said that they started a partnership with the City's Economic Development department for their hazard control program. Additionally, they are hosting a fall luncheon on September 23rd if anyone would like an invite.
- Ms. Williams said that she is excited to start working with Healthy Homes again to start the school year strong.
- Mr. Jernberg said that he has been working with Dr. Cornwell and Ms. Simmonds to put together a webinar presentation for the county, colleges, universities and others interested in the technology. The hope is that it will motivate educational institutes to purchase some of the equipment that can help with tracking and remediation of sources of lead in blood, and help form some useful partnerships in the community.

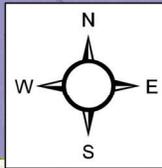
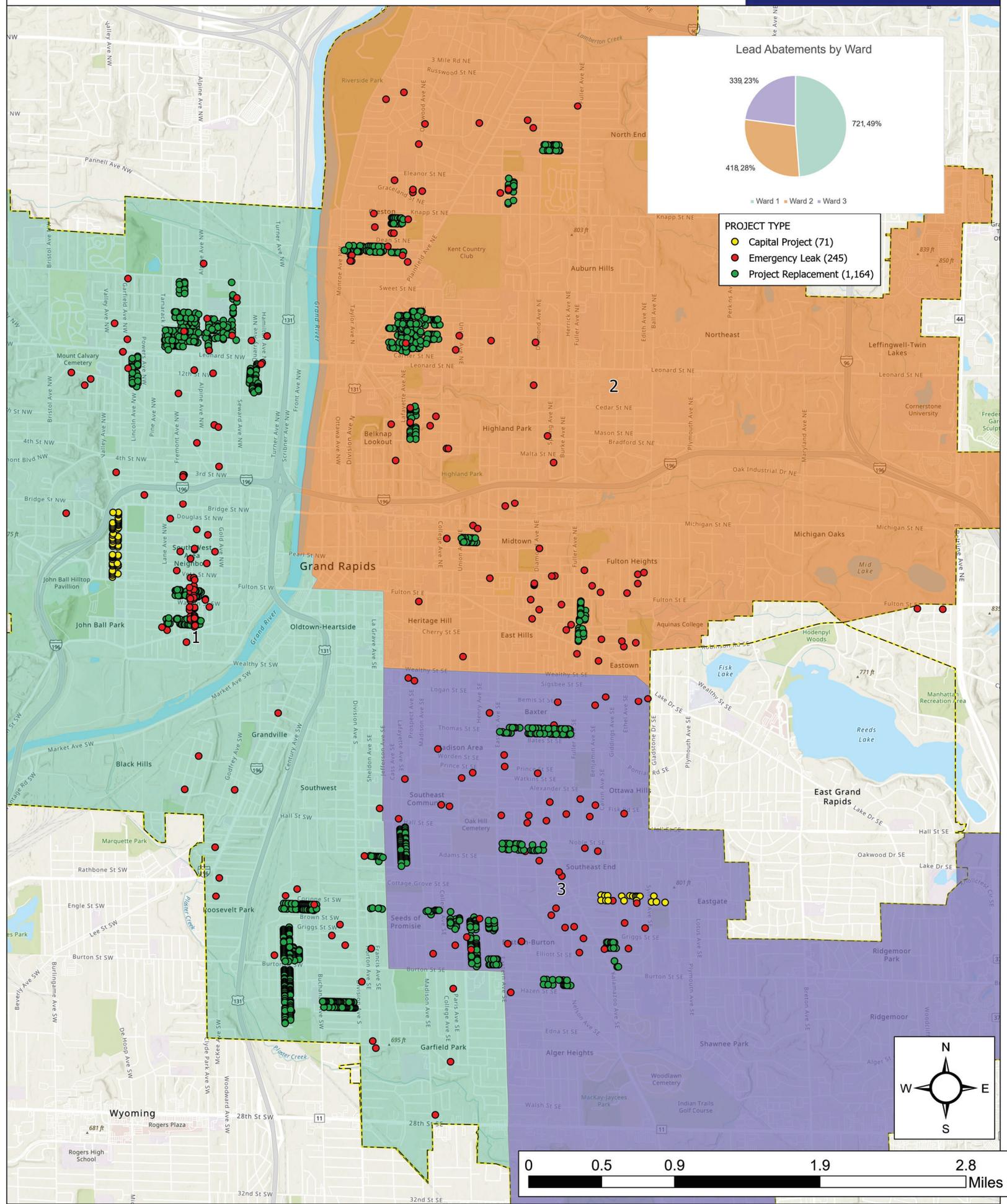
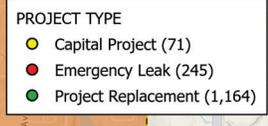
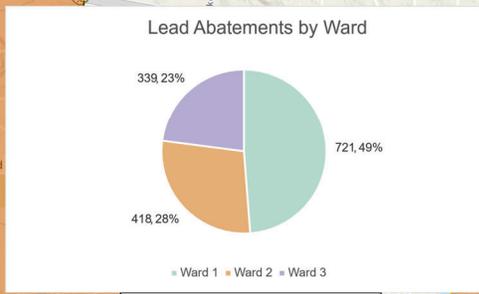
Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025.

Adjournment

Mr. Jernberg adjourned the meeting at 8:55 am.

January 1st - October 31st, 2025 Lead Service Line Replacements



Lead Service Line Replacements

November 04, 2025

Project	Fiscal Year	Private-side LSLRs	Agreements in Hand	Outstanding Agreements	% Agreements in Hand	Contacts per Agreement	Total LSLRs	Neighborhood	Ward	Contractor/Notes
Capital Projects										
2026 Construction Season										
Buchanan (Corrine to Hall)	2025	6	5	1	88%	5.86	8	Southwest, Garfield Park	1	
Burton (Division to Kalamazoo)	2025	110	41	69	37%	0.00	141	Garfield Park, East Burton, Alger Heights, Southeast End	1,3	Kammaing & Roodvoets Inc
Cesar E Chavez (Hall to Tenhaaf)	2025	22	22	0	100%	2.00	25	Grandville	1	
Garfield (Butterworth to Fulton)	2025	15	14	1	93%	0.00	23	John Ball Park	1	
Valley (Bridge to 4 th)	2025	17	5	12	29%	0.00	17	Shawmut Hills, John Ball Park	1	
Wealthy (Richard Ter to East City Limits)	2025	16	10	6	63%	3.22	16	Eastown	2,3	
TOTAL		186	97	89	51%		230			
DWRF Resurfacing Projects										
Resurfacing Public CY2025-1	2025	362	282	80	78%	1.86	352	Various	1,2,3	SPS Pro
Resurfacing Public CY2025-2	2025	322	254	95	79%	1.72	348	Various	1,2,3	Miller Pipeline & BriK
TOTAL		684	536	148	78%		711			
Private-Only Projects										
LSLR CY2025-3 Private-Only	2025	146	85	61	58%	0.58	146	John Ball Park	1	Brik Plumbing
LSLR CY2025-4 Private-Only	2025	132	86	46	65%	1.02	132	John Ball Park	1	Groundhawg
TOTAL		278	171	107	62%		278			