



## **Water Advisory Council**

**September 3, 2025**

**8:00 am**

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items
3. Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2025 and July 9, 2025
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Updates
  - a. Lead Reduction Initiative for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward
  - b. YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map
  - c. Lead Service Line Construction Projects
  - d. Lead and Copper Rule
  - e. State Drinking Water Advisory Council
6. Member Updates
7. Public Comment
8. Next Meeting – November 12, 2025
9. Adjournment

**Water Advisory Council**  
**March 12, 2025**  
**8:00 am**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Izamar Contreras (City of GR), Paul Haan (Muskegon River Watershed), Wayne Jernberg (Chairperson, City of GR), Sara Simmonds (Kent County Health Department), Julius Suchy (Ada Township), and Jennifer Williams (GRPS)

**Others Present**

Kolene Allen (City of GR), Kat Lykins (Healthy Homes), Jameela Maun (Healthy Homes), Hannah Napolillo (Kent County Health Department).

**Call to Order**

Mr. Jernberg called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2025**

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Simmonds second by Ms. Contreras.

MOTION CARRIED.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Simmonds second by Mr. Suchy.

MOTION CARRIED.

**Updates**

**Lead Reduction Initiatives**

Ms. Contreras pointed out the map included in the agenda packet, “Lead Reducing Water Kits Distributed in the Third Wards 2024-2025” which shows that about 200 kits were distributed. Many of those were in the Garfield Park and Baxter neighborhoods which we intentionally targeted.

Ms. Lykins stated that while January was slow for kit drop offs, she focused on giving out flyers across the city, which included stopping into several churches in the third ward to talk about the program, other community organizations and three branches of the Grand Rapids Public Library. She also attended a few events, sharing program information and giving out some kits. They also continued their weekly pickup hours at SECOM from 9 am – noon.

To date, Healthy Homes have given out 210 kits, mailed out 345 mailers, and gave door hangers to thirteen residents. She also reported that they have received 33 calls from residents asking about the program. She also gave an interview with WGUV media radio station about the program.

Mr. Jernberg mentioned that Commission Night out is at Union School on March 25 from 4:30 – 7:00 pm and Healthy Homes could table at that event.

Ms. Contreras also stated that she and Hillary Caron will be attending the next Neighborhood Association Commission to report on the program and try to get a new member from one of the Neighborhood Associations in the Third Ward.

Ms. Maun added that Healthy Homes will be attending several events geared towards reading month which is March, and will be handing out material at those events.

Ms. Williams thanked Ms. Contreras for giving her the postcards. They were given out to every family in the Third Ward and she will be working on getting the information to themed schools located in the Third Ward and who are bussed in to GRPS schools.

#### **YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map**

In the last two months, 229 filters have been given out but that will increase as construction projects start.

The green dots are project replacements, and the contractors are working on those when the weather has been good over the winter. Some of them, on Lincoln and north of Ann Street are rotomill and resurface projects, and the contractors are using those opportunities to do lead service line replacements.

He also stated that it has been a challenge for City employees to talk to residents because many people are distrustful of government employees.

#### **Lead Service Line Construction Projects**

- Upcoming Projects - Mr. Jernberg pointed out the Lead Service Line Replacements project list and gave a summary of projects on the list.
- Filter Distribution – Mr. Jernberg said that as the City moves forward on replacements, we will be handing filters out as projects start. Those will be given out by the contractors. It allows the City some flexibility while the construction projects occur as well.

#### **State Drinking Water Advisory Council**

Mr. Jernberg stated that he attended the February meeting and a workshop in March. Mr. Jernberg will remain the chair for 2025. There is a new member, Kaitlyn Defouw from the Department of Health and Human Services. She had several comments regarding their literature and asked why some of the City's literature doesn't match that of DHHS and that ultimately the council is not required to match theirs.

In the summer of 2024, there were eight Allowable Level Exceedances (ALEs) across the state and six for lead and two for copper. The two that stood out were from the City of Riverview and Benton Township. Grand Rapids is six parts per billion and was certified for that. Mr. Jernberg

asked if the action level was twelve parts per billion in 2024, how many ALE communities would there have been. It would have meant that there would have been 20 ALE communities.

GLWA also had concerns regarding the drop from fifteen to twelve. EGLE is working with them to up their phosphate dosage to help the water system reduce their lead levels. He added that most filtration plants add phosphate. If you don't have the proper chlorine amounts and pH mixture, you'll likely fall into a lead two category which means that lead is more likely to flake off.

The City has been testing our method for seven years and expects to get a report on the data soon which will include dosage rates and comparables with recommendations and bench testing that they have done on some harvested lead pipes from our system. When we get the report, we will share it with the group.

Twenty communities in the state are members of the Water Research Foundation. We provide them with funding based on flows. They use this money on research. If anyone wants the studies, we can get them from Jenniefer Warner who has been working on those reports.

LCRI update - The deadline for the state to adopt changes to the LCRI is November 1, 2027.

Lead Service Line Notifications – EGLE has confirmed but has not sent out any formal certification for municipalities that have sent out their lead notification letters. The City sent out its lead notification letter in October 2024. This letter is an annual notification.

Also, the State is requiring that all tier one ALEs must be informed if they are over 12 parts per billion within 24 hours.

The CDSMI – the LCRI proposes that it will get updated annually which we already report on anyway. There was a discussion that if there is a boil advisory related to lead service lines that filters may be required to also be distributed. There may also be a requirement that if a boil advisory goes out that residents are told not to use it for consumption until it's filtered.

The state approved our Consumer Confidence Report and we will be mailing it out starting March 25<sup>th</sup>.

EGLE is working on improving their CDSMI. They are also developing something called a WIG, which means Wildly Import Goal. Their lead and copper staff are reviewing the CDSMI data and comparing it to the sampling plants. They want to ensure that testing is occurring where the highest level of lead may exist. It will not be a quick or easy process as there are 6 million systems to look at.

Filter First Grant – This grant was \$50M set aside for daycare and schools to replace their lead lines. Award letters are going out to 119 childcare centers and 610 schools/school systems.

### **Corrosion Control**

Mr. Jernberg stated that Fishbeck and Cornwell Engineering has been helping the City with this for the last 6-7 years and the City has learned a lot. Based off the data he has seen, he is very hesitant to change the process we are already doing. He doesn't see it being cost effective at this time. We have funds in our budget to remove our transmission lines and the risk we take

and the fluctuations, along with some of the PR we receive, will need to be taken into account and the City Manager would be the one to make that decision.

### **Member Updates**

- **New member needs** - Mr. Jernberg stated that we still need a member from a neighborhood association. He also stated that James Hurt retired last month so we are also in need of another member from the City of Grand Rapids. He is hoping that once we hire a new Assistant Manager that person will become the new member of the City.
- **Fluoride** - Mr. Simmonds stated that Utah is the first state in the country to remove fluoride from their drinking sources. Mr. Jernberg stated that he gets requests about fluoride occasionally and we stand behind the data from the American Dental Association, the health department, CDC and WHO. Grand Rapids has an 80-year history with adding fluoride to our water. The last five to seven years there have been more inquiries than he has ever seen. AWWA notifies us when something comes out regarding fluoride that may affect us. Lake Michigan has between .15 and 2.5 parts of fluoride naturally occurring. We only add about .5 parts to our water.
- **Ada Rate Study** - Mr. Suchy stated that they are going through a full rate study, so when someone wants to open a new restaurant it is dependent on how many seats are in the restaurant which doesn't make a lot of sense so they are doing a study to figure out a more rational way to create a more equitable structure so that small homes and business aren't footing the bill for the larger ones.
- **Water Pool-ooza at the Lakeshore** - Ms. Contreras said that Water Pool-ooza will be on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeshore. People can tour the Lake Plant and learn about the Urban Drinking Water Cycle.
- **GRPS Water events this summer** - Ms. Williams has been sharing the lead card provided by Izamar and the theme for this year's summer GRPS events is water. They are planning on taking some field trips to the City water facilities, including the Lake Plant and Water Resource Recovery Facility. They also have other STEM activities planned.

### **Next Meeting**

May 14, 2025

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Jernberg adjourned the meeting at 9:23 am.

## **Water Advisory Council**

**July 9, 2025**

**8:00 am**

**MINUTES**

### **Members Present**

Paul Haan (Muskegon River Watershed), Wayne Jernberg (Chairperson, City of GR), Sara Simmonds (Kent County Health Department), and Jennifer Williams (GRPS)

### **Others Present**

Kolene Allen (City of GR), Elyse Boardman (Healthy Homes) Kat Lykins (Healthy Homes), Hannah Napolillo (Kent County Health Department). Hailey Lynch-Bastion (Rapidian),

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Jernberg called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

### **Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2025**

A quorum was not present at the meeting so the minutes could not be approved.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A quorum was not present at the meeting so the agenda could not be approved.

### **Updates**

#### **Lead Reducing Water Kit distribution in 3rd Ward (Healthy Homes)**

Ms. Lykins provided an update on Healthy Homes activities and outreach since the last meeting. After a dip in March participation, canvassing efforts increased in the Third Ward. 390 kits were distributed, averaging 50 per month through canvassing. Although some eligible residents declined participation, valuable program information was still shared.

Healthy Homes attended about 17 events and outreach efforts since our last meeting, including:

- Weekly tabling at the SECOM entrance during pickup hours
- Tabling at and Sheldon Clinic (DHHS)
- Commission Night Out (Union High School)
- Community Town Hall (Ottawa Hills High School)
- Lead Education Day in Lansing (advocacy with legislators)
- Track meet at Houseman Field with GRPS
- Eastown Community Association Picnic (Sigsbee Park/new partnership)
- Ignite Summer Learning Open House (Gerald R. Ford Academic Center)
- Rock the Block Street Festival (LINC UP)
- Storytime in the Park (Garfield Park)

Since March 12th, 507 mailers have been distributed. Ms. Lykins developed a new workflow where mailers are sent and followed up in person 2–3 weeks later. While some people initially requested kits be left on their porches, her door-to-door visits now allow her to better engage with residents. During these visits, she also educates residents about lead poisoning, emphasizing that 90% typically comes from paint and only 10% from water. Residents have been very appreciative of the personal outreach.

Ms. Simmonds asked if they could also mention that there has not been a confirmed case of a child with elevated blood lead levels specifically contributed to water in Kent County. While it may contribute to the overall poisoning of a child, it's not the sole source. She believes it's important for funders to understand this fact, as the issue remains disproportionately impactful. While there's a lot of important work to be done with water, the focus needs to be more dialed into the home and paint.

Ms. Lykins also mentioned that one of their staff coauthored an article in Planet Detroit that she will share with the council.

Ms. Boardman added that Healthy Homes recently met with the health department and they're going to assist with distributing kits. They're also forming a partnership with the Hispanic Center to distribute kits.

Mr. Jernberg also said that DHHS is starting to spread out and distribute kits in the First and Second Wards and potentially be a backup to distribute filters or replacement cartridges.

### **YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map**

Mr. Jernberg presented the latest Lead Service Line Replacement map. The first half of the year, the City has replaced 793 lead lines which is slightly behind the normal pace. The goal for the end of the calendar year is 1900.

During the first half of the year, the City focused on completing private-side replacements. With those contracts now concluding, new ones are being awarded. Most of the work takes place during the winter months, as it can be done on private property, whereas street work is more limited during that time.

### **Lead Service Line Construction Projects**

Mr. Jernberg reported on lead service line replacement construction projects. A large capital project will be on Burton from Division to Kalamazoo. That will not start until March and covers 141 replacements. Only 37% of those agreements have been returned so far. A project on Valley (Fulton to Bridge) has 98% of their agreements returned. If an agreement is not returned that is for a private-side only, we skip those for now and will get back to them in a year or two because we don't want to shut the water off to residences.

### **State Drinking Water Advisory Council**

Mr. Jernberg reported that the City of Ypsilanti gave a presentation at the last meeting. Their challenges are very similar to those in Grand Rapids, particularly around getting agreements

signed. Ypsilanti has a lack of data on service line materials. To address this, they are actively verifying materials across most locations. So far, they've found fewer lead service lines than originally thought, but they still have between 1,000 and 2,000 unknowns. Approximately 900 to 1,000 lines have been confirmed to contain lead, and they are steadily working through the remainder.

They are having difficulty securing resident consent for testing at Tier 1 sites, which are becoming increasingly scarce. Unlike Grand Rapids, they do not offer \$50 bill credits as an incentive—an approach that has been highly effective for Grand Rapids, often enabling them to complete testing by late August. Ypsilanti is currently working with EGLE to determine next steps if they are unable to meet the required number of samples. Grand Rapids is closely watching their progress, anticipating they may face similar challenges in the early 2030s.

Ypsilanti has contractors perform flushing, which Grand Rapids has found to be problematic. Many homeowners are uncomfortable with contractors accessing every tap in their home, finding it too invasive. Instead, Grand Rapids provides residents with detailed flushing instructions and offers a five-unit bill credit as an incentive. The discussion between the two communities was productive, and Ypsilanti plans to follow up for additional information.

Additionally, Grand Rapids plans to update its survey once further guidance is received from the state, with the goal of streamlining the process. The updated surveys will be shared with councils to build on previous efforts.

Finally, the state is also helping Ypsilanti establish agreements with contractors to support outreach. The state has contracts in place with consultants for community outreach, which other communities may also be able to use.

### **Draft Corrosion Control Study**

Mr. Jernberg stated that as long as this council has existed, we have been in various phases of our corrosion control study and finally have a draft version of it.

There were three phases to the study:

Phase 1 – Collecting samples from lead service lines, harvested lead service lines from the field, and having them tested in a lab, testing our water, and using our water to be able to simulate field conditions.

Phase 2 - We did that again on a broader level.

Phase 3 – A pipe loop study was installed in our filtration plant using plant water. Multiple loops were set up for different chemicals and dosage rates. The study evolved to analyze the process with a lower chlorine residual to more accurately simulate the water in the distribution system.

Preliminary findings are that there's not any recommended chemical changes at this point provided the monitoring levels in the distribution system continue to decline.

Found issues include:

- The aluminum and orthophosphate precipitate out and form a film on pipes that causes issues, like loss of transmission capacity through the reduction of the C factor. The

lower the C-factor, the more friction occurs and reduces our pumping capacity in the transmission mains near the LMFP.

- As more lead components are removed, there may be a recommendation to change from a 50/50 blend of orthophosphate and polyphosphate to one that has a higher percentage of orthophosphate, as well as possibly reducing the overall dosage rate.

We hope to have this finalized soon and to review with EGLE.

### **Annual Lead and Copper Rule Sampling**

We currently have 25 of 50 results back. They are all Tier 1 sites. We typically replace 5-10 a year which causes us to find new sites. Most of the time, the City has at least 50-60% of residents that will sign up repeatedly and we replace any that no longer have lead service lines. So far, one tested at 12 parts and two tested at 8 parts. We replace any that test over 8 parts so these three are getting replaced. The state rule is that anything over 12 parts must be replaced. The rest of the results were under 2 or non-detect.

10 sample kits were dropped off with another 7-8 going out this week.

Ms. Simmonds asked Mr. Jernberg if he has heard anything about the proposed changes at the EPA. Mr. Jernberg said that nothing official has come out yet in terms of the stakeholder process. He thinks that the State doesn't want to do the stakeholder process because their rule is stricter than the federal rule in most areas. The City doesn't anticipate having the process completed before the end of the year.

### **AWWA Conference – Identifying the Source of Lead in Blood, David Cornwell**

Mr. Jernberg was at the American Water Works Association's annual conference in Denver last month and attended a presentation from Dr. David Cornwell on identifying the sources of lead in blood that he shared with the council.

Dr. David Cornwell, President of Cornwell Engineering Group, is a researcher and consultant focusing on drinking water quality, with particular expertise in lead contamination and related health impacts. His work sheds light on the factors influencing lead levels in water and subsequently, blood lead levels (BLLs) in the population, especially in children. He has a large network of experts around the country who pooled their resources together to try to narrow down lead isotopes in the body as well as the lead isotopes that are actually in the lead materials.

There are two main sources of lead that have been used in products in the last 100 years. These are from the Mississippi River Valley and Australia. Based off these two sources and the isotopes that are in those sources, Dr. Cornwell's team tested the materials that are sources of lead in humans and compared them to the lead isotopes used in these products.

Dr. Cornwell's main findings in his sample pool are that the source of lead in blood is not from water, but includes paint, dust, imported spices, foreign house objects, and cosmetics.

A copy of Dr. Cornwell's presentation was distributed to council members.

Ms. Simmonds is going to see if Dr. Adam London (Kent County Health Department) knows Dr. Cornwell and, if not, Mr. Jernberg can facilitate a phone call. He also wants to explore the possibility of creating new partnerships with places like University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Corewell Health, etc.

Mr. Jernberg also said that Dr. Cornwell will likely be in Michigan next year for a presentation.

### **Member Updates**

- Ms. Boardman said that the Health Department is looking for volunteers to help distribute kits in exchange for \$20 stipends.
- Ms. Lykins said she'd be at the Southeast Area Farmer's Market this weekend.
- Ms. Simmonds said that she and Ms. Napolillo are working to rebuild the lead action team and hoping to get more community engagement. She also said it would be ideal to have a City staff member on the team. Mr. Jernberg will make some inquiries.
- Ms. Allen said that the City was at Rock the Block and the 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash, and has multiple events coming up including Baxter Family Field Day, Commission Night Out, and three National Night Out events in August.
- Ms. Williams said she is working with Ms. Lykins on open houses and other events and will be meeting with Jameela Maun (Healthy Homes) soon to discuss further partnerships.
- Mr. Haan said that he routinely works with people on the water side of things and there are some potential opportunities to partner with some of those groups.

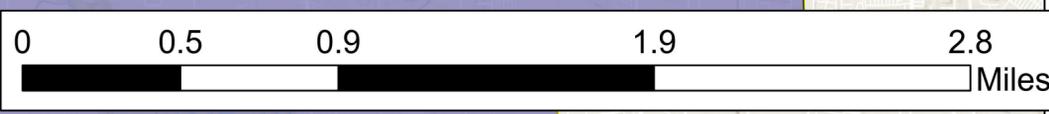
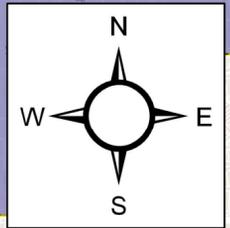
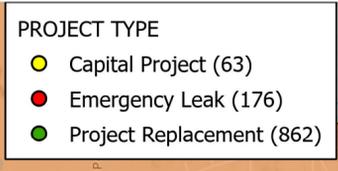
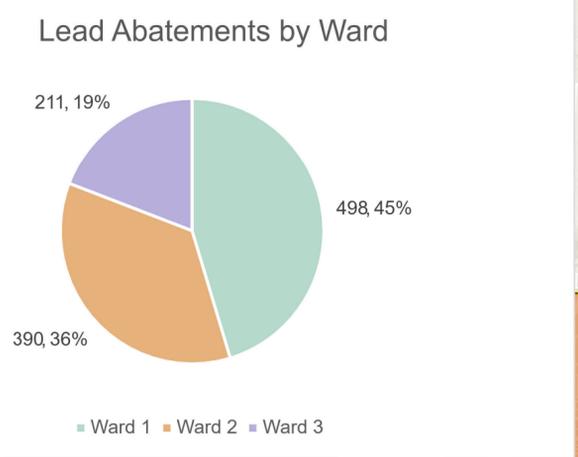
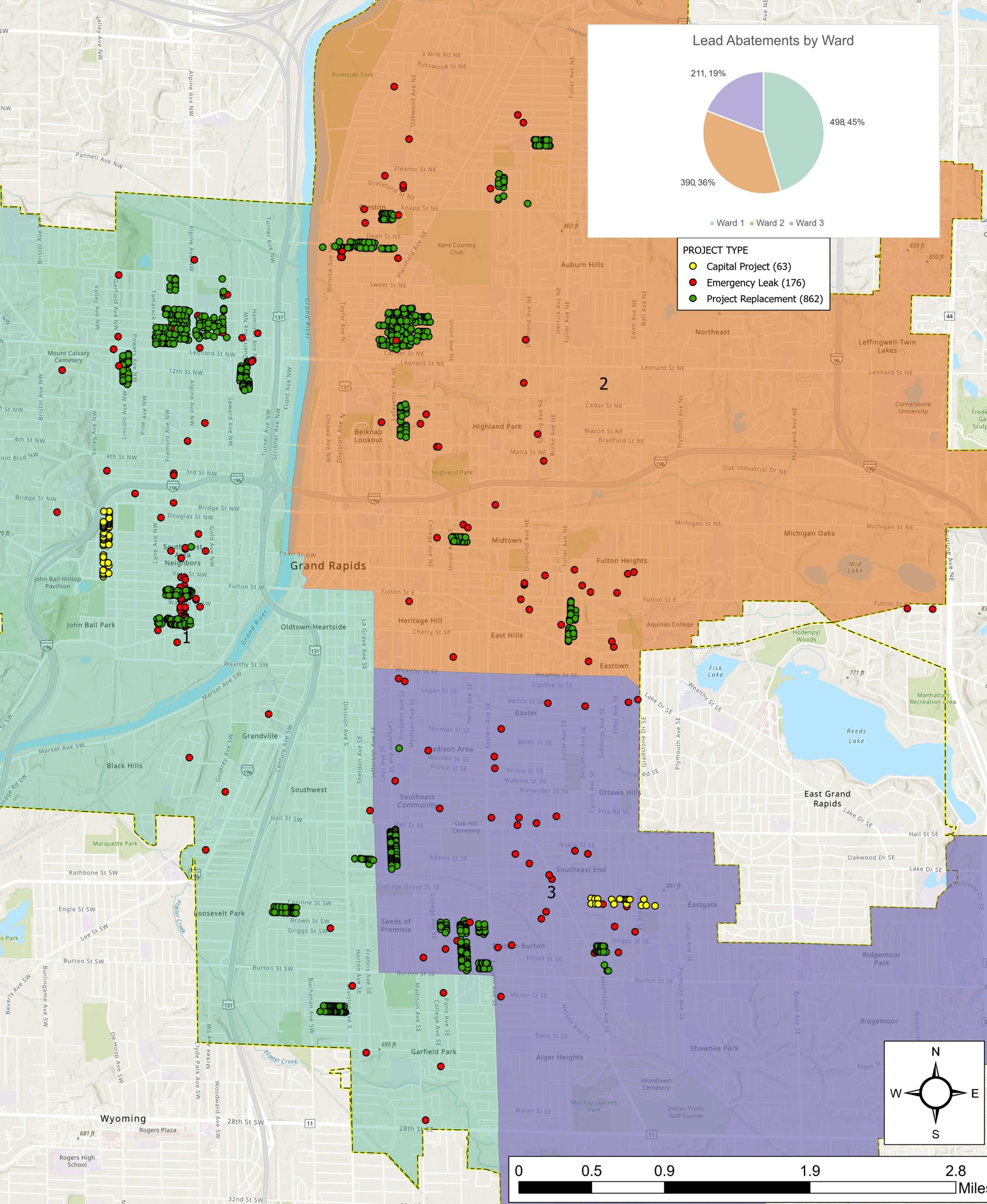
### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2025 and Mr. Jernberg will be at a conference then so we will be in contact to find a new date to meet.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Jernberg adjourned the meeting at 9:29 am.

# January 1st - July 31st, 2025 Lead Service Line Replacements



# Lead Service Line Replacements

August 28, 2025

Project	Fiscal Year	Private-side LSLRs	Agreements in Hand	Outstanding Agreements	% Agreements in Hand	Contacts per Agreement	Total LSLRs	Neighborhood	Ward	Contractor/Notes
<b>Capital Projects</b>										
<b>2025 Construction Season</b>										
Boston (Fuller to Plymouth)	2025	33	30	3	91%	0.00	55	Southeast End	3	Wyoming Excavators / Brik Plumbing
Garfield (Butterworth to Fulton)	2025	15	14	1	93%	0.00	23	John Ball Park	1	Kammainga & Roodvoets Inc
Leonard (Powers to Alpine)	2025	14	12	2	86%	1.58	14	West Grand	1	Anlaan
Valley (Fulton to Bridge)	2024	54	53	1	98%	0.04	54	John Ball Park	1	Kammainga & Roodvoets Inc
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>96%</b>		<b>146</b>			
<b>2026 Construction Season</b>										
Burton (Division to Kalamazoo)	2025	110	41	69	37%	0.00	141	Garfield Park, East Burton, Alger Heights, Southeast End	1,3	Kammainga & Roodvoets Inc
Cesar E Chavez (Hall to Tenhaaf)	2025	22	22	0	100%	2.00	25	Grandville	1	
Wealthy (Richard Ter to East City Limits)	2025	16	9	7	56%	3.22	16	Eastown	2,3	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>53%</b>		<b>182</b>			
<b>DWRF Resurfacing Projects</b>										
Resurfacing Public CY2024-1	2024	455	356	99	78%	1.34	455	Various	1,2,3	SPS Pro
Resurfacing Public CY2024-2	2024	411	320	91	78%	2.12	437	Various	1,2,3	Groundhawg
Resurfacing Public CY2025-1	2025	352	195	157	55%	0.45	352	Various	1,2,3	SPS Pro
Resurfacing Public CY2025-2	2025	322	231	117	66%	1.55	348	Various	1,2,3	Miller Pipeline & BriK
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1540</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>72%</b>		<b>1592</b>			
<b>Private-Only Projects</b>										
LSLR CY2024-3 Private-Only	2024	240	224	16	93%	0.80	240	Creston	2	Brik Plumbing
LSLR CY2024-4 Private-Only	2024	122	111	11	91%	0.80	122	West Grand	1	McDonald Plumbing
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>362</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>93%</b>		<b>362</b>			