



## Meeting Notes

### [Drinking Water Advisory Group](#)

June 5, 2023

*Note: Presentations are linked on the agenda item title. Handouts are linked in the notes section.*

Agenda Item	Notes
<b>2. ODW Update</b> Holly Myers, Office Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Staff still work remotely. DOH is embracing the modern workspace.</li><li>◆ Our newest <a href="#">organization chart</a> is posted to our webpage.</li><li>◆ We're recruiting for a <a href="#">Field Operations Manager position</a>. Please share with anyone you know who may be interested.</li><li>◆ John Freitag, our former liaison with Ecology, is now on our Policy and Planning team.</li><li>◆ We received some legislative money for Group B system assistance. We will partner with Local Health Jurisdictions so that they can work with and support the Group B owners/operators.</li></ul>
<b>3. Legislative Policy and Rule Update</b> Brad Burnham, Policy and Planning Section Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ We have several budget provisos that were accepted. One is funding for LHJs to help smaller Group B systems.</li><li>◆ Another proviso is for WSARP, which was renamed to the Drinking Water Rehabilitation and Consolidation Fund. It will encompass more than what it has in the past.</li><li>◆ We had an increase in the fund allotment in the Operating Permit program.</li><li>◆ We have three provisos for the DWSRF program.</li><li>◆ June 30, 2025: All water systems will need to include climate resiliency in the Water System Plan (WSP). We are working on the internal rulemaking process, which can take up to two years. The legislature took that into consideration. It will be included on all new WSP and as they are updated.</li><li>◆ July 23, 2023: Fluoridation rule. All water systems must notify us and their customers when you start or stop fluoridation on your system. You must notify 90 days before stopping or starting.</li><li>◆ <a href="#">ESHB 1329</a> limits water shut-offs and requires service reconnection to residential customers during extreme heat events. We are working with our Assistant Attorney General, moving forward with this requirement.</li><li>◆ Cybersecurity: We are starting to work on this and how to implement it.</li><li>◆ Rulemaking: We are working on several items including Onsite Potable Water, PFAS, and the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.</li><li>◆ We're still waiting for clarity from EPA as we requested a two-year extension on the LCRR requirements.</li></ul>



<p><b>4. Increase Number of DWAG Meetings this Summer</b> Mike Means, Capacity Development and Policy Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ To keep up with our policy work from EPA and the legislature, we want to hold focused, monthly DWAG meetings.</li><li>◆ We'll try to keep to the first Monday at this time.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ July presents a challenge due to the holiday and WRAC meetings.</li><li>○ Tentative meeting date July 17.</li></ul></li><li>◆ Extra meetings will highlight one specific subject.</li><li>◆ Meetings might possibly be shorter.</li></ul>
<p><b><u>5. Ownership/Responsibility for Replaced Customer Lead Service Lines</u></b> Jocelyne Gray, DWSRF Engineer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ We know that there are complications in each system for what is the public/private part of the piping.</li><li>◆ What are some things that you are coming across? What obstacles are you finding.</li><li>◆ <b>Q:</b> Could you please start by defining what galvanized lines need to be replaced? <b>A:</b> "Galvanized Requiring Replacement" where a galvanized service line is or was at any time downstream of a lead service line or is currently downstream of a "Lead Status Unknown" service line. If the water system is unable to demonstrate that the galvanized service line was never downstream of a lead service line, it must presume there was an upstream lead service line. Reach out to your <a href="#">regional engineer</a>.</li><li>◆ <b>Q:</b> (Jocelyne) Are there concerns with using public money in private side of service line? Understanding is that if you have an in-home business, then you need to get a note from the IRS saying that you can use the money, which complicates it.</li><li>◆ Doug Greenlund (Spokane): Replaced all the lead lines, but left a few galvanized lines in since they were still good. Thought that they were told they didn't need to replace the rest of the galvanized line.</li><li>◆ Dan Sander: Got to be some issues with the state auditor's office to use some city funds for private use. Work around would be to get the DWSRF funding.</li><li>◆ Chat: Chris McMeen's question is "Do you anticipate any schedule risk due to the Environmental and Cultural Review process for PWS's that seek to confirm service lines using significant potholing?"</li><li>◆ Tyler Clary: Would like clarification/guidance on whether a system would need to dig at every single connection, or could they just look at a percentage of them and figure that would show what is in that neighborhood? Still working on getting some guidance on this.</li><li>◆ Dave Epperson: At Kitsap, they are looking at getting some documents and spreadsheets to figure out a model that they can use across the board for them and possibly share with others. They are looking at the Michigan model.</li><li>◆ Mike Wolanek: Do any PUDs remember back when there was a push to get off of the lead lines. Does anyone remember that 1988 Lead Free date. What was done at that time and does anyone have information for how they dealt with it?</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Would the loan be available for purchasing test equipment for field investigations? Jocelyne: Yes, if it is specifically for developing the inventory.</li></ul>
<p><b>6. PFAS Federal MCL Update Q&amp;A</b> Mike Means</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Thank you to all those who gave us comments on the proposed federal rule. We will send out our final list to this group.</li><li>◆ We are waiting now to see what the feds do with all the comments/questions/concerns that were submitted.</li><li>◆ Jeff Johnson: There's been a lot of talk about precursor levels. Has there been any talk about addressing them on the Federal or State levels? <b>A.</b> There are still some studies going on to see if the rules would cover all of the types of contaminants.</li><li>◆ Chat (Kevin): Once adopted by EPA, how long before it is enforceable by WA DOH?: <b>A.</b> (Mike): Once adopted, it usually is two years before enforcement starts.</li><li>◆ Andy Tuchscherer: Are labs already getting hit by testing, such as for the UCMR5? <b>A.</b> Yes, it's a fraction of it, but many are already testing to see what their levels are.</li><li>◆ Chat (Benjamin): When related to the MCL, would treatment only be required if the MCL is exceeded, or would trend data (increasing detection over a period of time) lead to treatment factor into when a company would be required to treat? <b>A.</b> Yes, only if it has exceeded the MCL.</li></ul>
<p><b>7. DWSRF Update</b> Jocelyne Gray</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ <a href="#">DWSRF Intended Use Plan 331-722 (PDF)</a></li><li>◆ <a href="#">Lead Service Line Inventory IUP 331-724 (PDF)</a></li><li>◆ Funding cycles for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund are coming up.</li><li>◆ Consolidation Feasibility Study Grant accepts applications August 1 through August 31, 2023.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Eligible systems: Group A community not-for-profits, municipalities, water districts, and public utility districts.</li></ul></li><li>◆ Construction Loan application cycle October 2 through November 30, 2023.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Eligible applicants: Group A community water systems with public or private ownership and Group A not-for-profit non-community water systems.</li><li>○ If you are a for-profit community water system, contact <a href="mailto:Michael.Copeland@doh.wa.gov">Michael.Copeland@doh.wa.gov</a> to confirm eligibility.</li><li>○ We'll have specific pots of funding for emerging contaminants and lead service lines. Emerging contaminant funding will prioritize PFAS exceeding the state action levels in drinking water.</li></ul></li></ul>



## 8. Disadvantaged Communities

Jocelyne Gray

- ◆ Up to 100 percent loan principal forgiveness and loan fee waiver for disadvantaged communities.
- ◆ Emerging Contaminant funding is 100 percent loan principal forgiveness regardless of water system size or ownership. Of the \$17 million available, 25 percent must go to small systems serving less than 25,000 people or water systems identified as a disadvantaged community.
- ◆ Lead Service Line (LSL) Loan funding, 49 percent of what we award must go to disadvantaged community water systems. \$23 million available for the LSL loans. The more applicants who qualify as disadvantaged, the more money we can award for the Construction Loan, Emerging Contaminant funding, and the Lead Service Line Loan.

### Polling Questions

- ◆ Q1—Do you think your water system is disadvantaged?
  - Yes: 17% (7)
  - No: 58% (23)
  - Maybe 23% (9)
- ◆ Q2—What other metrics should we consider?
  - Population age 30% (11)
  - Distance from a superfund site: 16% (6)
  - Distance from wastewater discharge: 2% (1)
  - Percent population unemployed 38% (14)
  - Other: 11% (4)
    - Environmental health disparities.
    - Remote location.
    - System size for water quality projects (lack of purchasing power). Also perhaps geographic location or distance from other communities (concerns about operational and capital budgets—water workforce and relative cost to pay staff).
    - Concentration of the contaminant, especially for PFAS.
    - Percentage on private wells or group B.  
**Comment:** Funding for testing, alternative water supply, and some treatment may be available for individual and Group B systems after July 1 and will be requested for next legislative cycle as well. for those interested in consolidation, reach out to planners for next steps.
- ◆ Q3—Do you think your water system is disadvantaged under the proposed metrics?
  - Yes: 5% (2)
  - No: 55% (19)
  - Unsure: 38% (13)
- ◆ **Q.** Can we put a link to the map on our DWSRF website? **A.** Yes, we will post it to the DWSRF webpage under More Resources at the



	<p>bottom. Here's the link: <a href="#">Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map   Washington State Department of Health</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ <b>Q.</b> Are there any tips to reading the map and deciphering the colors, especially when a service area may have multiple colors? <b>A.</b> You can zoom in some and then when you roll over the map, it should tell you what that particular area has.</li><li>◆ <b>Q.</b> Claire Miller: Have you thought about if a system opposes their ranking based on the map? <b>A.</b> There is a way to do a Median Household Income survey, if a system wants to do that based on what they think their system has. The rest of them would be based on the map.</li></ul>
<p><b>9. Agenda Ideas for Next Meeting</b> Brian Sayrs</p>	<p><b>Polling Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Which of the following issues are the most urgent to water systems right now (select up to three)?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Workforce depletion, including turnover, lack of certified operators. 26% (30).</li><li>○ Emerging contaminants such as PFAS. 24% (28).</li><li>○ Aging infrastructure, including maintenance using asset management principles and excessive water loss. 18% (21).</li><li>○ Consumer engagement. 4% (5)</li><li>○ Emergency response, including future high impact weather events. 5% (6).</li><li>○ Regionalization and consolidation. 2% (3)</li><li>○ Water rights 8% (10).</li><li>○ Financial capacity, including insufficient revenue, affordability, and energy costs. 6% (8).</li><li>○ Population Changes, including both growth and decline. 2% (3).</li><li>○ Other ideas:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ SMA Program.</li><li>▪ Workforce challenges and opportunities.</li><li>▪ Temporary Farmworker housing and water system approval in Eastern WA (Connection to ECY).</li><li>▪ Update on the EPA transition of tribally located water systems from DOH.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>