



FARMINGTON HILLS WATER SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL (WSAC) MEETING
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 1:00PM
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS – COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W 11 MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48336
(248) 871-2530 www.fhgov.com

Approved on 10/15/24

SUMMARY:

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chairperson DiCea at 1:07 p.m.

2. Roll Call

- Members Present:
 - Kate DiCea, Chairperson - WRC Water Systems Engineering
 - Mike Pucher, Vice Chairperson - Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development and Farmington Hills Resident
 - Tammy Gushard, Secretary - Farmington Hills Engineering
 - Tony Drautz - Oakland County Health Division
- Members Absent:
 - Erin Quetell – Farmington Hills Resident
- Attendees:
 - Teresa Newman, WRC Consultant
 - Connie Sims, WRC Consultant
 - Dave Zeleny, WRC Water Systems Engineering

3. Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Drautz to approve the agenda as published. Support by Pucher.
 1. Ayes: 4
 2. Nays and Abstentions: 0
 3. Motion Carried

4. Approval of October 17, 2023 Minutes

- Motion by Gushard to approve the minutes as distributed. Support by Drautz.
 1. Ayes: 4
 2. Nays and Abstentions: 0
 3. Motion Carried

- 5. Public Comment - No public in attendance.

- 6. New Business
 - Distribution System Materials Inventory (DSMI) Update
 - Connie Sims, WRC Consultant reviewed FH DSMI data.
 - In 2019, the preliminary DSMI was submitted. The primary focus of the Preliminary DSMI was for water suppliers to review their existing records and report what is known and unknown regarding service line materials. The final DSMI was originally due in January 2025. EGGLE may require the final report by October 2024 to comply with EPA rule changes.
 - The City of Farmington Hills has archived plumbing standards for service lines 2” or less and WRC has maintained tap records so no additional verifications were necessary except in Section 36. Section 36 was formerly part of Farmington Twp. and the building standards are not available. Section 36 is the only area in the City where lead materials have been found. However, many water mains have been replaced and those records are available.
 - Currently 98% of the public side have materials assigned and 97% of the private side have materials assigned. The areas yet to be reviewed and confirmed: 68 on the private property side of residential buildings and 5 on the public side need to be verified.
 - EPA Update
 - EPA is currently revising the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) with finalization targeted for Oct. 16, 2024.
 - The LCRI will now require that water systems provide filters when there is any disturbance of plumbing near lead or galvanized service lines. The requirement is for water systems to provide filters for 6 months. Also, Lead Service Line (LSL) replacement will require NSF certified filters for 6 months.
 - Public notification of action level exceedance is being decreased from 3 business days to 24 hours.

- EGLE has 3 years to comply after the LCRI is finalized by the EPA. EPA is lowering the lead action level to 10 ppm. The EGLE level is currently 15ppm and is being reduced to 12ppm.
- There will be five tiers versus the three tiers currently.
- All LSL will need to be replaced within 10 years when the rule goes into place in 2027. Compliance in some communities in MI will likely be less than 10 years.
- If one home exceeds, additional sampling will be required in the home and additional sampling within a ½ mile of that home upstream and downstream.
- Currently, residents that submitted samples must be notified within 30 days of the results. The timeframe is being reduced to 3 days.
- MI schools and daycares are required to replace old fixtures and sample annually per Clean Drinking Water Access Act – Oct. 2023. Guidance released in April 2024 and compliance achieved by June 2026. More information is available at www.Michigan.gov/schoolwater.
- SDWAC Update
 - MDHHS “Get Ahead of Lead Plan” – is a zero-lead initiative. Filters are being furnished to foster care homes with plumbing installed prior to 2014.
 - SDWAC Meeting will be held on Feb. 14, City of Detroit will present on LSL replacement and WSAC survey results. Kate furnished SDWAC 2024 meeting invitations.
- Farmington Hills Public Education and Awareness
 - The WSAC members reviewed the Water Quality Infographic that is mailed March through May with water bills and included in the annual water quality report. The infographic is also translated to Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin.
 - The City applied for an EGLE mini-grant for public education. The City Communications Director reached out to the Farmington school district to discuss working together to develop a hands-on educational project. The grant award will be announced soon. The money must be spent by August 2024.
 - FH City-wide Open House
 1. Ideas for interactive opportunities to engage children were discussed.
 2. “Wheel of Materials” was an idea where kids would identify the type of material the wheel landed on.

3. Creation of a scavenger hunt for elementary school children was discussed. The child would use a QR code to open a web link leading them through a series of steps to complete the scavenger hunt. A small flashlight with a magnet would be provided to search for the water meter in their home and identify the type of pipe material that is attached to it. After finding the water meter, the next step would be to find a faucet aerator and watch a video on how to clean it, and finally they could be asked to find the date the filter in the refrigerator was last changed. In the end, they would receive a certificate of completion that entitles them to a prize.
4. Action items: WRC will provide a water meter mock-up with piping attached for the FH Open House and Tammy will work on the scavenger hunt.
- At the last meeting, the group discussed participating in the “Imagine A Day Without Water” www.Imagineadaywithoutwater.org campaign. The date for 2024 is pending, the 2023 date was October 17, 2023. It was decided that the focus will be working on the mini-grant.

7. Election of Officers

- Reappointments and terms
 - Five members are necessary to conduct the business of the WSAC. The WSAC Bylaws identifies the election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary to serve a one-year term. Each year, the officers shall be chosen by a vote of the WSAC members within 30 days of the Farmington Hills City Council appointments for Commissions and Councils. Officers cannot serve more than two successive years in one position. WSAC members are appointed or re-appointed by Farmington Hills City Council for a term of 3 years.
 - Mike Pucher announced his retirement from Oakland County and his intention to step down as a WSAC member. Mike has suggested that his colleague, Joe DelMarone, be considered for a replacement. Joe will need to send an email to Farmington Hills with a work bio or resume for FH Board consideration.
 - The reappointment terms are staggered, the terms expire as follows:
 1. Kate DiCea term expires on 2/1/2026.
 2. Tammy Gushard terms expire on 2/1/2025.
 3. Tony Drautz and Erin Quetell terms now expire on 2/1/2027.
 - 2024 Election of Officers
 1. Chairperson DiCea opened discussion for election of officers.

2. Motion by Gushard to elect Kate DiCea as Chairperson and seconded by Drautz.
 - a. Ayes: 4
 - b. Nays and Abstentions: 0
 - c. Motion carried.
3. Motion by DiCea to elect Tammy Gushard as Vice Chairperson and seconded by Pucher.
 - a. Ayes: 4
 - b. Nays and Abstentions: 0
 - c. Motion carried.
4. Motion by DiCea to elect Tony Drautz as Secretary seconded by Gushard.
 - a. Ayes: 4
 - b. Nays and Abstentions: 0
 - c. Motion carried.

8. Next Steps and Action Items:

- The next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Farmington Hills City Hall
- Action items:
 - WRC will provide a water meter mock-up with piping attached for the FH Open House.
 - Tammy Gushard will work on an interactive children's program for the Open House.
 - WRC will provide a service line material display to Tony Drautz.
 - Joe DelMarone to send an email to Tammy Gushard with request to be considered for a WSAC position.

9. Meeting Adjournment – Chairperson DiCea called for meeting adjournment at 3:17 p.m.

- Motion by DiCea and seconded by Gushard.
 - Ayes: 4
 - Nays and Abstentions: 0
 - Motion Carried

10. Prior to the official start of the meeting Farmington Hills Mayor, Theresa Rich, introduced herself to the WSAC members and reviewed her near-term initiatives.