



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: March 24, 2023

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

From: Nicolette N. Bateson, CPA, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

Re: CFO Update

First, I am very excited to announce that Ms. Kim Garland, CPA, has accepted the new role of Deputy Chief Financial Officer! While having joined the Great Lakes Water Authority in 2017 with an accomplished career that spanned public accounting, consulting, and municipal government, her career progression in overseeing the day-to-day management of GLWA's debt program, grants management, and intergovernmental relations has continued to expand. She works very closely also with the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD) team and with GLWA's financial and charges advisor from The Foster Group in managing the Master Bond Ordinance requirements and other key technical and financial matters.

Second, we continue to interview for a number of key positions with GLWA. Our team is working diligently on both the day-to-day tasks as well as an implementation of the ERP and asset management systems. Vacant leadership positions and updates to the Financial Services Area organization chart on the next page.

Finally, another transition that we will be discussing more next month is the final wind down of The Foster Group contract by the end of FY 2024. Mr. Bart Foster has steadfastly served the region for many years and will be transitioning to retirement. While we wish him well, he will be sorely missed by many internal and external to GLWA who call upon him for advice. This transition planning has been in place for several years – with some setbacks due to the labor market. The next year will focus on resolving open initiatives, transitioning activities to in house team members (including some tasks to positions that we are working to fill). Thank you to Kim Garland and Matt Lane and many others who are supporting this transition. Given the complexity of GLWA's charges, there will always be a need for an outside "rate" consultant. For this reason, Matt Lane is drafting a request for proposal, and now that this announcement has been made, will work with Member Partners to secure their engagement in the procurement and selection process for a charges consultant. The goal is to have a firm on board in September 2023 and ready to perform the cost of service study for FY 2025 as well as to work through any transition activities.

Financial Services Area – Five Groups

