



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: June 26, 2026

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

From: Scott Garrigan, Financial Services Director

Re: Water Funding Task Force Update as of June 19, 2026

Background: The Water Funding Task Force (WFTF) was formed in January 2026 with the goal of addressing long-term water infrastructure needs facing our state to adequately mitigate economic, environmental, and social risks without adversely impacting affordability. The deliverables are research and analysis that supports companion funding and policy recommendations.

The task force is composed of various GLWA staff, industry experts, and consultants.

Analysis: Current actions items include the following.

- Member Partner and national peer utility focus groups over the past two months resulted in interviews with a total of 29 utilities – 15 of whom representing Member Partners. Our partners Bridgeport Consulting and Public Sector Consultants have been instrumental in coordinating these discussions, leading to a good understanding of what challenges other utilities in the state and across the nation are facing.
- Interview work continued on June 2, 2026, when GLWA Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Nicolette Bateson invited nineteen Michigan utilities outside of the GLWA service area to participate in discussions that will help the task force understand the needs and concerns of the water sector throughout the state. We are seeking wide participation representing a diverse cross-section of size, location, and utility type. All interviews are expected to conclude by the end of June 2026.
- The task force continues to synthesize our research to identify the key themes and challenges. These insights will guide the development of initial drafts for our funding and policy proposals.

Proposed Action: Receive and file this report.