

Chairman John Zech
Board of Directors
Great Lakes Water Authority
735 Randolph, Suite 1900
Detroit, MI 48226
Via electronic mail

August 6, 2021

Chairman Zech and the Honorable Board of Directors:

With the impending departure of Chief Executive Officer Sue McCormick, the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is entering a time of significant transition. I write today on behalf of the One Water Co-Chairs¹ to extend our support during this critical time.

We take seriously our role in representing the vast GLWA member community. To that end, we determined it was important to share the following perspectives, which we hold unanimously:

1. **The One Water philosophy around regional collaboration must continue.** We strongly encourage the Board to engage in a rigorous, apolitical search process to identify a CEO who is both capable of leading an organization of GLWA's scope and committed to relationship-building with Member Partners. The CEO must be able to effectuate the vision of regional collaboration that garnered GLWA an astonishing 96% overall satisfaction rating from the member community in 2020. In addition to this important satisfaction metric, regional collaboration also produces tangible outcomes, such as the first-of-its-kind, collaboratively developed, 40-year regional Wastewater Master Plan that is already resulting in operational efficiencies system-wide.
2. **A robust Member Outreach program is indispensable.** Outreach is the mechanism by which the One Water philosophy is practiced, and the program has only grown stronger and more effective over time. Today's reality is marked by the type of transparent information-sharing and collaborative decision-making that results in the successful adoption of a radically simple and stable SHARES methodology, representing a true win-win situation that benefits both members and GLWA. We must not backslide to the decades of

¹ Per the One Water Partnership By-Laws, 7 Co-Chairs are elected by the general One Water Membership, 1 Co-Chair is appointed by GLWA, and 1 Co-Chair is appointed by DWSD.

bitter, costly litigation and the win-lose mindset that preceded the establishment of Member Outreach. The CEO of GLWA must fully embrace and support the differentiating strength of the Outreach program.

- 3. The Co-Chairs request to be a part of the search process.** Collectively, we hold decades of institutional knowledge and deep, credible relationships throughout the region. The member community, GLWA, and DWSD have selected us to represent GLWA's 126 member communities, and we have willingly volunteered countless hours in service of this aim. We request to be meaningfully engaged in the months to come (i.e., serving on interview panels; offering advice and perspectives on potential candidates; etc.), both as individuals and as a body. The Co-Chairs exist for this purpose.

In closing, we also wish to express our respect and appreciation for Sue McCormick's dedicated service as CEO. Despite any friction our communities may have experienced with GLWA over the years, Sue's integrity, accessibility, and ability to disagree without being disagreeable were important assets in keeping One Water intact. We value her ability to develop creative solutions that prioritize public health and water quality *for the region as a whole*, and we are grateful for her willingness to advocate for these solutions at the regulatory level. We strongly encourage the Board to join us in prioritizing similar attributes in the next CEO - both interim and permanent.

Respectfully submitted,

The One Water Co-Chairs

Oakland County Co-Chairs

Jeff McKeen, *Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA)* Carrie Cox, *Oakland County Water Resource Commissioners' Office*



Wayne County Co-Chairs

Don Rohraff, *City of Livonia*

Bill Turner, *Brownstown Township*



Macomb County Co-Chairs

Kevin J. Johnson, *Chesterfield Township*

Russ Miller, *St. Clair Shores*



Genesee County Co-Chair

Clyde Edwards*, *City of Flint*

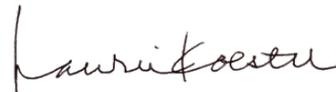
Co-Chair appointed by DWSD

Palencia Mobley



Co-Chair appointed by GLWA

Laurie Koester



*Mr. Edwards was out of the office during the drafting of this letter, however he indicated his support for the letter.