



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: December 19, 2025

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

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

Re: CFO Report

Charges Outreach and Modeling Holds Member Partner Events

The Charges Outreach & Modeling Team participated in two Zoom events for member partners during the month of November. The first event, "Charges 101: Foundations of GLWA Charge-Making" was held on November 6, 2025 and the second meeting titled Charges Rollout 1 & 2 was hosted November 13, 2025.

During these events, Charges Outreach & Modeling Manager, Matt Lane, led member partners through the Charges 101 training, providing a high-level overview of the process for developing charges as well as a historical look at how rates and charges for DWSD and GLWA have evolved over the decades. Matt Lane along with Management Professional Guy Belew discussed the preliminary units of service analysis for FY 2027. Both events were well-attended and helped kick off the rollout process for upcoming fiscal year.

Procurement Continues to Explore Inclusive Opportunities Among Vendor Partners

On November 6, 2025, Procurement Manager, Michael Lasley and Management Professional, Tina Clinkscales, attended Diverse Connections, an Oakland County Purchasing Event. The event, which was co-hosted by Oakland County and the economic development group Oakland Thrive, was designed to help create new connections between buyers from public organizations and the vendors interested in doing business with them. Introductory remarks from Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter, Chief Diversity Officer Harry Weaver, and Deputy County Executive Sean Carlson, as well as officials from Oakland Thrive, opened the event and were followed by opportunities to network with buyers from government agencies, schools, universities, and local businesses. GLWA staffed a table alongside 30 buying organizations. The GLWA team had the chance to speak with over 150 vendors about how to register in the Euna Procurement Portal, submit a successful bid or proposal response to open opportunities, and fulfill the requirements of the Business Inclusion and Diversity (B.I.D.) program.

Also in November, Jeanette Drive, Procurement Manager of the B.I.D. program, attended the national Minority Supplier Development conference. The conference this year focused on navigating transformation and rapidly technological innovation in these economic times and how Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and their partners can manage risk and identify opportunities for growth. In addition to networking opportunities, attendees explored panels focused on inclusive procurement, impact sourcing and collaborations to strengthen supply chains to the benefit of organizations, partners and the communities they work within.