Great Lakes Water Authority

# Update to Audit Committee on Potential Refunding Transactions 

October 18, 2019

## Summary and Recommendation

- While tax-exempt advance refundings are no longer allowable under current tax law, historically low interest rates have created an opportunity to attain significant savings on a taxable basis for a large universe of bonds
- PFM now recommends pursuing a taxable advance refunding of potentially $\$ 375$ million water and $\$ 675$ million sewer bonds
- Market volatility continues but interest rates have moved to historic lows, creating substantial additional value for GLWA
- Passage of time now also brings tax-exempt forward delivery bonds into viable consideration as well
- GLWA should consider portfolio approach to manage significant tradeoffs that exist between taxable advance refundings (or forward delivery tax-exempt refunding) now versus tax-exempt current refundings later
- Among water and sewer credits, GLWA can consider up to $\$ 450$ million of forward delivery bonds and up to $\$ 1$ billion of taxable advance refunding bonds
- Water system has viable candidates for $\$ 375$ million of either tax-exempt forward delivery bonds or taxable advance refunding bonds
- Sewer system has viable candidates for $\$ 85$ million of tax-exempt forward delivery bonds and $\$ 590$ million of taxable advance refunding bonds
- Given lead time of 3-5 months for underwriter procurement and to prepare bond offering, beginning preparations now will give GLWA most flexibility to execute when advantageous and meeting Board-adopted guidelines for the transaction


## History of Debt Service Savings Achieved Since 2014

Through the leadership of the Authority's management team, the financing team has been able to achieve nearly $\$ 678$ million of cash flow debt service savings for the systems since the tender and refunding transaction in 2014


## Significant Market Movements - July 31 to October 15

- Significant decline in rates kicked off by the cut in the federal funds rate at the July FOMC meeting and accelerated by the trade situation between the U.S. and China
- Tensions surrounding trade war with China continue to drive market
- Recent poor Chinese and German economic data have fanned fears of a global slowdown
- The 30yr UST and MMD maturities have both reached and set new historic lows in the past month
- The federal funds futures market currently prices a $72 \%$ chance of a 25 bps rate decrease at the October FOMC meeting
- MMD has underperformed Treasuries in the past month with significant decreases in treasuries echoed by more modest declines in MMD



## U.S. Treasury \& AAA MMD Rate Movement



## AAA MMD Position Since Inception



Source: Thomson Reuters

## Interest Rate Forecasts

|  |  | Bond Yield Forecast <br> (As of October 15, 2019) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Average Forecasts | Current | Q4 19 | Q1 20 | Q2 20 | Q3 20 | Q4 20 | Q1 21 |
| 30-Year UST | $2.16 \%$ | $2.11 \%$ | $2.15 \%$ | $2.22 \%$ | $2.28 \%$ | $2.34 \%$ | $2.42 \%$ |
| 10-Year UST | $1.69 \%$ | $1.66 \%$ | $1.72 \%$ | $1.80 \%$ | $1.85 \%$ | $1.87 \%$ | $1.97 \%$ |
| 2-Year UST | $1.55 \%$ | $1.55 \%$ | $1.57 \%$ | $1.58 \%$ | $1.60 \%$ | $1.62 \%$ | $1.66 \%$ |
| 3M LIBOR | $2.00 \%$ | $1.86 \%$ | $1.79 \%$ | $1.76 \%$ | $1.75 \%$ | $1.76 \%$ | $1.77 \%$ |
| Fed Funds Target Rate <br> (Upper) | $2.00 \%$ | $1.75 \%$ | $1.65 \%$ | $1.60 \%$ | $1.55 \%$ | $1.55 \%$ | $1.55 \%$ |
| Fed Funds Target Rate <br> (Lower) | $1.75 \%$ | $1.51 \%$ | $1.38 \%$ | $1.33 \%$ | $1.31 \%$ | $1.30 \%$ | $1.32 \%$ |

## Fixed Rate Par Call Options



## GLWA Refunding Candidate Summary

| Water |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Senior Lien |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Series Name | Indenture | Lien | Tax Status | Coupons | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Outstanding } \\ & (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{aligned}$ | Next Call Date | $\begin{gathered} \text { Callable Par } \\ (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{gathered}$ |
| Series 2011A Senior | Water | Senior | Tax-Exempt | 5.00-5.75 | 293,970 | 7/1/2021 | 289,605 |
| Series 2011B Senior | Water | Senior | Taxable | 6.00 | 3,950 | 7/1/2021 | 2,295 |
| Series 2011C Senior | Water | Senior | Tax-Exempt | 4.50-5.25 | 75,145 | 7/1/2021 | 74,125 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 373,065 |  | 373,065 |
| Sewer |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Senior Lien |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Series Name | Indenture | Lien | Tax Status | Coupons | Outstanding (\$000s) | Next Call Date | $\begin{gathered} \text { Callable Par } \\ (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{gathered}$ |
| Series 2012A Senior | Sewer | Senior | Tax-Exempt | 5.00-5.25 | 495,175 | 7/1/2022 | 437,795 |
| Series 2014C-1 Senior | Sewer | Senior | Tax-Exempt | 5.00 | 123,220 | 7/1/2022 | 123,200 |
| Series 2014C-2 Senior | Sewer | Senior | AMT | 5.00 | 27,470 | 7/1/2022 | 27,450 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 645,865 |  | 588,445 |
| Second Lien |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Series Name | Indenture | Lien | Tax Status | Coupons | Outstanding (\$000s) | Next Call Date | $\begin{gathered} \text { Callable Par } \\ (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{gathered}$ |
| Series 2005A Sec.(Call Mod) ${ }^{1}$ | Sewer | Second | Tax-Exempt | 5.00 | 31,785 | 7/1/2021 | 31,785 |
| Series 2006B Sec.(Call Mod) ${ }^{2}$ | Sewer | Second | Tax-Exempt | 5.00 | 55,000 | 7/1/2021 | 55,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 86,785 |  | 86,785 |

[^0]
## Comparison of Savings Opportunities

| Water System |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Candidate |  |  |  | Taxable Advance Refunding |  |  | Tax-Exempt Forward Refunding |  |  | Future Tax-Exempt Current Refunding |  |  |
| Series | Lien | Refunded Par | Call Date | Gross Savings (\$000s) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PV Savings } \\ & \text { (\$000s) } \end{aligned}$ | PV Savings (\%) | Gross Savings (\$000s) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PV Savings } \\ & \text { (\$000s) } \end{aligned}$ | PV Savings (\%) | Gross Savings (\$000s) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PV Savings } \\ & \text { (\$000s) } \end{aligned}$ | PV Savings (\%) |
| Series 2011A | Senior | 289,605 | 7/1/2021 | 81,236 | 63,606 | 21.96\% | 102,584 | 65,720 | 22.69\% | 124,928 | 79,737 | 27.53\% |
| Series 2011B | Senior | 2,295 | 7/1/2021 | 462 | 419 | 18.26\% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Series 2011C | Senior | 74,125 | 7/1/2021 | 13,650 | 11,246 | 15.17\% | 17,527 | 11,929 | 16.09\% | 21,716 | 14,728 | 19.87\% |
| Total Water |  | 366,025 |  | 95,348 | 75,271 | 20.56\% | 120,111 | 77,649 | 21.21\% | 146,644 | 94,465 | 25.81\% |
| Sewer System |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Candidate |  |  |  | Taxable Advance Refunding |  |  | Tax-Exempt Forward Refunding |  |  | Tax-Exempt Current Refunding |  |  |
| Series | Lien | Refunded Par | Call Date | Gross Savings (\$000s) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PV Savings } \\ & (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { PV Savings } \\ \text { (\%) } \end{gathered}$ | Gross Savings (\$000s) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PV Savings } \\ & \text { (\$000s) } \end{aligned}$ | PV Savings (\%) | Gross Savings (\$000s) | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { PV Savings } \\ \text { (\$000s) } \end{gathered}$ | PV Savings (\%) |
| Series 2012A | Senior | 437,795 | 7/1/2022 | 83,099 | 70,826 | 16.18\% | N/A | N/A | N/A | 166,861 | 108,946 | 24.89\% |
| Series 2014C-1 | Senior | 123,200 | 7/1/2022 | 25,634 | 20,408 | 16.56\% | N/A | N/A | N/A | 50,008 | 28,436 | 23.08\% |
| Series 2014C-2 | Senior | 27,450 | 7/1/2022 | 5,704 | 4,543 | 16.55\% | N/A | N/A | N/A | 9,492 | 5,401 | 19.68\% |
| Total Senior |  | 588,445 |  | 114,437 | 95,777 | 16.28\% | N/A | N/A | N/A | 226,361 | 142,783 | 24.26\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Series | Lien | Refunded Par | Call Date | $\begin{gathered} \text { Gross Savings } \\ (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PV Savings } \\ & \text { (\$000s) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { PV Savings } \\ (\%) \end{gathered}$ | Gross Savings (\$000s) | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { PV Savings } \\ & (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{aligned}$ | PV Savings (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Gross Savings } \\ (\$ 000 \mathrm{~s}) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PV Savings } \\ & \text { (\$000s) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { PV Savings } \\ \text { (\%) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| Series 2005A | Second | 31,785 | 7/1/2021 | 7,144 | 6,014 | 18.92\% | 9,134 | 6,391 | 20.11\% | 11,349 | 7,940 | 24.98\% |
| Series 2006B | Second | 55,000 | 7/1/2021 | 12,442 | 10,338 | 18.80\% | 15,795 | 10,912 | 19.84\% | 19,905 | 13,595 | 24.72\% |
| Total Second |  | 86,785 |  | 19,586 | 16,352 | 18.84\% | 24,929 | 17,303 | 19.94\% | 30,444 | 21,535 | 24.81\% |
| Total Sewer |  | 675,230 |  | 134,023 | 112,129 | 16.60\% | - | - | - | 256,805 | 164,318 | 24.34\% |

[^1]
## Considerations and Risks

- Each strategy to extract refunding savings from outstanding debt portfolio comes with a set of trade-offs that should be carefully considered

|  | Taxable Advance Refunding | Tax-Exempt Current Refunding | Tax-Exempt Forward Refunding | Forward-Starting Interest Rate Swap |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ability to Accomplish Today | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |
| Future Obligations (Disclosure, Opinions, etc.) |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |
| Interest Rate Risk |  | $\checkmark$ |  |  |
| Tax and Credit Risk |  | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |
| Swap-Related (Derivative) Risk (Counterparty, Basis, Liquidity, etc.) |  |  |  | $\checkmark$ |
| Savings Accrue Immediately | $\checkmark$ |  |  |  |
| Maximize Potential Savings |  | $\checkmark$ |  | $\checkmark$ |
| Maximize Value of Future Call Option | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |  |
| Policy Concerns on Tax-Exemption | $\checkmark$ |  |  |  |

## Potential Refunding Timing



## Taxable Advance Refunding - Water System (as of October 7)

## Savings Summary

- Over \$107 million in gross cashflow savings can be achieved ( $>\$ 77$ million present value)
- Potential to accelerate savings as desired

Refunding Candidates

- Includes all callable bonds from Series 2011A/B/C
- Advance refunding on a tax-exempt basis not an option under current tax law

Assumptions

- Uninsured, matched lien refunding
- Interest rates as of September 5, 2019
- Conservatively assumes no DSRF release
- Contribution of accrued interest from DS fund
- Hypothetical SLGS escrow as of September 5, 2019
- Savings structured for level aggregate savings
- Par coupon structure
- Assumes par call on 1/1/2030
- PV at Bond Yield of $3.17 \%$ to $1 / 1 / 2020$

| Refunding Results |  | Date | Prior Net Cashflow(\$) | Refunding DS (\$) | Savings (\$) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Delivery Date: | 1/1/2020 | 6/30/2021 | 19,091,363 | 11,824,897 | 7,266,466 |
| Call Date: | 1/1/2030 | 6/30/2022 | 19,091,363 | 14,334,547 | 4,756,816 |
|  |  | 6/30/2023 | 19,290,213 | 14,532,043 | 4,758,170 |
| Refunding Par (\$): | 387,600,000 | 6/30/2024 | 21,235,113 | 16,475,009 | 4,760,104 |
| Callable Refunding Par (\$): | 323,325,000 | 6/30/2025 | 29,345,550 | 24,585,588 | 4,759,963 |
|  |  | 6/30/2026 | 27,971,206 | 23,209,652 | 4,761,554 |
| Advance Refunded Par (\$): | 366,025,000 | 6/30/2027 | 18,032,825 | 13,274,280 | 4,758,546 |
|  |  | 6/30/2028 | 31,210,650 | 26,449,643 | 4,761,008 |
|  |  | 6/30/2029 | 21,155,525 | 16,394,591 | 4,760,935 |
| NPV Savings (\$): | 77,250,371 | 6/30/2030 | 20,940,500 | 16,180,296 | 4,760,204 |
| NPV Savings as \%: | 21.10\% | 6/30/2031 | 20,204,225 | 15,446,639 | 4,757,586 |
| Negative Arbitrage (\$) ${ }^{1}$ : | $(8,779,862)$ | 6/30/2032 | 20,158,100 | 15,399,197 | 4,758,903 |
| Escrow Efficiency ${ }^{1}$ : | 89.79\% | 6/30/2033 | 20,002,725 | 15,245,231 | 4,757,495 |
|  |  | 6/30/2034 | 19,943,275 | 15,181,749 | 4,761,526 |
| 71C: | 3.19\% | 6/30/2035 | 19,654,175 | 14,896,048 | 4,758,128 |
| WAM: | 16.8 yrs | 6/30/2036 | 19,600,300 | 14,838,727 | 4,761,574 |
| Refunded Bonds WAM: | 17.6 yrs | 6/30/2037 | 28,577,925 | 23,818,051 | 4,759,874 |
|  |  | 6/30/2038 | 42,720,631 | 37,963,345 | 4,757,286 |
| PV of 0.01\% Change in Interest Rates (\$) | 501,766 | 6/30/2039 | 71,625,694 | 66,867,036 | 4,758,658 |
|  |  | 6/30/2040 | 71,546,513 | 66,788,066 | 4,758,447 |
|  |  | 6/30/2041 | 71,465,238 | 66,708,182 | 4,757,056 |
|  |  | 6/30/2042 | 70,117,125 | 65,359,904 | 4,757,221 |
|  |  |  | 702,980,231 | 595,772,716 | 107,207,515 |

[^2]
## Taxable Advance Refunding - Sewer System (as of October 7)

## Savings Summary

- Over \$170 million in gross cashflow savings can be achieved ( $>\$ 120$ million present value)
- Potential to accelerate savings as desired

Refunding Candidates

- Includes all callable bonds from series 2005A, 2006A, 2012A, 2014C-1 and 2014C-2
- Advance refunding on a tax-exempt basis not an option under current tax law


## Assumptions

- Uninsured, matched lien refunding
- Interest rates as of September 5, 2019
- Conservatively assumes no DSRF release
- Contribution of accrued interest from DS fund
- Hypothetical SLGS escrow as of September 5, 2019
- Savings structured for level aggregate savings by lien
- Par coupon structure
- Assumes par call on 1/1/2030
- PV at Bond Yield of 3.14\% to 1/1/2020

| Refunding Results |  | Date | Prior Net Cashflow(\$) | Refunding DS (\$) | Savings (\$) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Delivery Date: | 1/1/2020 | 6/30/2021 | 34,522,363 | 22,263,259 | 12,259,104 |
| Call Date: | 1/1/2030 | 6/30/2022 | 34,522,363 | 27,490,330 | 7,032,033 |
|  |  | 6/30/2023 | 34,522,363 | 27,489,765 | 7,032,598 |
| Refunding Par (\$): | 732,650,000 | 6/30/2024 | 52,067,488 | 45,035,075 | 7,032,412 |
| Callable Refunding Par (\$): | 649,330,000 | 6/30/2025 | 33,632,363 | 26,603,036 | 7,029,327 |
|  |  | 6/30/2026 | 33,631,863 | 26,600,791 | 7,031,072 |
| Advance Refunded Par (\$): | 675,230,000 | 6/30/2027 | 42,560,650 | 35,530,648 | 7,030,002 |
|  |  | 6/30/2028 | 35,398,800 | 28,364,564 | 7,034,236 |
|  |  | 6/30/2029 | 38,892,288 | 31,862,325 | 7,029,963 |
| NPV Savings (\$): | 120,709,254 | 6/30/2030 | 34,208,413 | 27,176,686 | 7,031,727 |
| NPV Savings as \%: | 17.87\% | 6/30/2031 | 38,889,913 | 31,855,026 | 7,034,887 |
| Negative Arbitrage (\$) ${ }^{1}$ : | $(27,141,452)$ | 6/30/2032 | 45,769,788 | 38,738,977 | 7,030,811 |
| Escrow Efficiency ${ }^{1}$ : | 81.64\% | 6/30/2033 | 68,699,413 | 61,669,854 | 7,029,559 |
|  |  | 6/30/2034 | 29,738,663 | 22,702,188 | 7,036,475 |
| 71C: | 3.14\% | 6/30/2035 | 53,965,075 | 46,933,241 | 7,031,834 |
| WAM: | 16.6 yrs | 6/30/2036 | 68,186,813 | 61,151,863 | 7,034,950 |
| Refunded Bonds WAM: | 17.7 yrs | 6/30/2037 | 51,341,638 | 44,305,910 | 7,035,728 |
|  |  | 6/30/2038 | 129,464,838 | 123,692,394 | 5,772,444 |
| PV of 0.01\% Change in Interest Rates (\$) | 936,873 | 6/30/2039 | 129,316,281 | 123,544,919 | 5,771,362 |
|  |  | 6/30/2040 | 129,164,138 | 123,390,680 | 5,773,458 |
|  |  | 6/30/2041 | 34,117,125 | 28,345,853 | 5,771,273 |
|  |  | 6/30/2042 | 34,079,375 | 28,309,212 | 5,770,163 |
|  |  | 6/30/2043 | 34,041,875 | 28,269,220 | 5,772,655 |
|  |  | 6/30/2044 | 34,006,000 | 28,236,088 | 5,769,912 |
|  |  | 6/30/2045 | 33,758,375 | 27,987,420 | 5,770,955 |

## 1,288,498,256 1,117,549,321 170,948,936

## Summary of Key Decision-Making Considerations for a Taxable Advance Refunding

- While taxable bonds lock in a permanent interest rate penalty versus any tax-exempt option, with the elimination of tax-exempt advance refundings municipal issuers have limited other options to "lock in" current rates
- Current taxable rates offer effective refinancing economics of two separate future tax-exempt refundings with $10 \% \mathrm{PV}$ savings each
- By pursuing a refunding now, GLWA potentially forgoes the opportunity to generate even greater savings later
- Should interest rates increase less than breakeven yield curve movements of approximately $0.50 \%-1.60 \%$, higher savings would be generated by a tax-exempt current refunding at each call date
- Future tax-exempt refunding options carry more option value with tax-exempt $5.00 \%$ coupons than taxable par coupons
- Alternative options that could generate greater savings for GLWA exist as well - namely forward tax-exempt delivery bonds and use of interest rate swaps - but each has its own limitations
- Forward delivery bonds can typically be completed only within 18 months of the call date, and with a premium to a current refunding transaction and additional disclosure at closing
- Interest rate swaps (and other derivative products) can provide efficient solutions, but come with a set of different business risks and policy considerations
- Despite trade-offs, taxable bonds have extremely strong economics in the current environment and fairly low breakeven yield curve movements to each call date
- Compression vs. tax-exempt rates
- Use of par coupons that increases savings vs. typical $5.00 \%$ tax-exempt coupon that is priced to call
- Ability to tax-exempt advance or current refund taxable refunding bonds, once prior tax-exempt bonds are retired


## Potential Refunding Process and Timeline

- October 2019 - Financing team and GLWA staff begin work on transactions
- November 2019 - Appointment of underwriting team; Work on legal and disclosure documents
- December 2019 / January 2020 - Rating Agency meetings
- January 2020 - Audit Committee review and Board approval of documents, including:
- Preliminary Official Statements
- Series Ordinances
- Escrow Agreements
- Sale Orders
- February 2020 (or thereafter as market conditions permit) - Bond Pricing


[^0]:    Note: excludes series of debt with callable amounts of $\$ 100,000$ or less outstanding.

    1. The call date on $\$ 31.8$ million of the series 2005A Sewer Bonds was modified to July 1, 2021.
    2. The call date on $\$ 55.0$ million of the Series 2006B Sewer Bonds was modified to July 1, 2021.
[^1]:    Assumptions: Matched lien refunding with Delivery Date of January 1, 2020; Interest rates as of September 5, 2019; Maturity by Maturity savings structure; SLGS escrow; issuance costs of \$5/bond. All figures present valued at Taxable Advance Yields to January 1, 2020.
    Future current refunding savings calculated using current tax-exempt rates. Forward refunding assumes an 18 month forward period with 3.5bps of premium per month. Tax-exempt refunding bonds issued with $5 \%$ premium coupon structure and 01 year par call; taxable refunding bonds issued with par

[^2]:    1. Negative arbitrage and escrow efficiency calculated for illustrative purposes assuming earnings cap on investments at refunding bond yield.
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