

IN THE MATTER OF: DRINKING WATER
STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT PLANS,
PUBLIC HEARING

June 23, 2021

Prepared by



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STATE OF MICHIGAN

GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY

In the Matter of:

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Plans For:

Downriver Transmission Loop Project FY 2022 Pages 81-103

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PUBLIC HEARING

Via Zoom Video Conference

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

BOARD:

John Zech, GLWA Chairperson

Jaye Quadrozzi, GLWA Vice-Chairperson

Freman Hendrix, GLWA Secretary

Brian Baker, GLWA Director

Gary Brown, GLWA Director

Beverly Walker-Griffiea, GLWA Director

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1

2 ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Wolfson, GLWA Moderator

3

Rechanda Willis, GLWA Executive Board

4

Assistant

5

Nicolette Bateson, GLWA Presenter

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Kim Garland, GLWA Presenter

7

Rich Hobgood, OHM Presenter

8

9

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12 RECORDED BY:

Rachel Sunde, CER 6538

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1 Via Zoom Video Conference

2 Wednesday, June 23, 2021 - 2:05 p.m.

3 MR. ZECH: The time is 2:05 p.m., and we'll ask
4 Rechanda, would you please conduct a quorum call.

5 MS. WILLIS: As a reminder as I call the roll,
6 please state that you are present and the name of the city,
7 village, and township, and state from which you are calling
8 into this meeting. Chairperson Zech?

9 MR. ZECH: I'm present. I'm calling in from
10 Canton Township, Michigan, which is in Wayne County.

11 MS. WILLIS: Vice-Chairperson Quadrozzi?

12 MS. QUADROZZI: I'm present. I'm calling in from
13 Wolcott, New York, which is in the Township of Wayne -- or
14 County of Wayne, excuse me.

15 MS. WILLIS: Secretary Hendrix?

16 MR. HENDRIX: I'm here. Detroit, Michigan, Wayne
17 County.

18 MS. WILLIS: Director Baker?

19 MR. BAKER: Present. Clinton Township, Macomb
20 County, Michigan.

21 MS. WILLIS: Director Brown?

22 MR. BROWN: I'm also here. Beautiful downtown
23 Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan.

24 MS. WILLIS: Director Walker-Griffiea?

25 MS. WALKER-GRIFFEEA: Present. I'm in Newport

1 News, Virginia.

2 MR. ZECH: Okay. So we have a quorum, Rechanda,
3 so we'll move on to consent matters.

4 (Off the record)

5 MR. ZECH: We will move on to our next public
6 hearing, which is item B on your agenda. Public hearing
7 regarding resolution adoption -- to adopt the downriver
8 transmission main loop project, fiscal year 2022. Again,
9 the Drinking Water Revolving Fund project plan, it's pages
10 81 through 103 of your agenda packet. Again, this public
11 hearing has also been posted and advertised through in
12 compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Published
13 in the Michigan Chronicle, the Detroit Legal News, and on
14 the Great Lakes Water Authority website. At the end of the
15 presentation, again the public will be asked if they'd like
16 to make a comment or address this particular project. It
17 will be limited to three minutes. So Ms. Bateson, would you
18 like to get us started with this one, please?

19 MS. BATESON: And again, I will hand this over to
20 Ms. Kim Garland to also do an introduction.

21 MS. GARLAND: Thank you. And I will quickly note
22 that this is the second of three projects that we intend to
23 submit to the State pending the conclusion of the public
24 hearing and approval of the project plan later today to the
25 State's Drinking Water Revolving loan program. This project

1 has a total cost, a total estimated cost of \$61 million.
2 And with the State's current interest rate, loan interest
3 rate of 1.875%, the estimated savings utilizing the DWRF
4 loan program versus similar 30 year 3.5 interest rate
5 revenue bond is approximately \$23 million over the life of
6 the loan. The presenter in terms of our project team for
7 this project is Rich Hobgood from OHM Advisors. And Rich,
8 if you don't mind, I will -- I can assist you. I have my
9 screen already up and would be happy to move through the
10 slides for you.

11 MR. HOBGOOD: Okay. Can everybody hear me okay?
12 Thank you everybody. Let me try and share here if I can.

13 MR. ZECH: Rich, we can hear you.

14 MR. HOBGOOD: Good. All right. Is everybody
15 seeing that screen there?

16 MS. BATESON: Yes, we are.

17 MR. ZECH: Yup, we can see it.

18 MR. HOBGOOD: Okay. Like I said, thank you for
19 allowing some time today for this public presentation. This
20 is the Great Lakes Water Authority Downriver Transmission
21 Main, DWSRF Fund, as Kim has already mentioned. You should
22 be seeing the second slide. She's already kind of covered
23 this. It's going to be a 20 year loan with an interest rate
24 of 1.875% through EGLE and the Michigan Municipal Bond
25 Authority.

1 Project background and really the need for this
2 project, we'll get into a little more detail further on in
3 the presentation and maps and whatnot. But essentially what
4 we've got is this project -- a break along Allen Road could
5 impact the service to everybody south of the Taylor,
6 Southgate cities, all the way down to the Monroe County
7 Berlin Township area in Monroe County. Currently there is a
8 long single feed GLW main in this section. And this project
9 will provide necessary redundancy.

10 Some of the previous planning that has been done
11 by GLWA, there was a master plan back in 2015 still under
12 DWSD. And also a 2021 capital improvement plan.

13 Following proposed projects consist of really two
14 major areas; replacement of existing meters and demolition
15 of reservoirs at the Electric Avenue pump station. And
16 again, we'll get into a little more detail on this as we get
17 further into the presentation.

18 Regional alternatives were not really viable for
19 this site, for this particular project due to its nature.
20 We needed to parallel an existing transmission main, and
21 also connect a loop on Inkster Road, which we will show you
22 the map for here in the oncoming slides.

23 Several alternatives were looked at including pipe
24 materials and construction methods. Which include boring,
25 jack and boring, direct tunneling operations, directional

1 drilling, and a traditional open trench type of
2 construction. Also, alternatives were studied for this
3 project on how to connect to the existing transmission main.
4 And ultimately trying to do a live tap to the existing mains
5 at local meters to avoid any long-term water outages during
6 construction. So with the live taps this should be able to
7 keep everybody in service while the construction takes
8 place.

9 This is an overall slide which covers the entire
10 project. We've got it split, really, into six areas; the
11 Inkster transmission main loop, the North Allen parallel
12 main, the South Allen parallel main, which is here on the
13 screen if you can see my pointer. There is also going to be
14 some upgrade to the Trenton meters, some replacement of
15 meters and check valves in there, and there is a slide
16 coming up here that will show the reasoning for that. And I
17 also mentioned the demolition of the Electric Avenue pump
18 station reservoirs.

19 The next couple slides are just going to go into a
20 little bit more in detail on the projects here. This
21 particular slide shows how the current system operates with
22 the black arrows. When the project is done, these blue
23 arrows here represent potential water flow directions. So
24 once complete, we'll have two lines running all the way down
25 Allen Road from Pennsylvania all the way into Monroe County

1 at the end of the GLWA system. As well as modifying the
2 check valves within these meters, which will allow emergency
3 flow to come down Jefferson and also connect to the Allen
4 Road water main.

5 The Inkster Road loop, this is going to be
6 connecting two pieces of GLWA water main along Inkster Road
7 between Pennsylvania and Wick Road. This is an area located
8 just east of Metro Airport and south of I-94. This will be
9 a 30" water main installed by open trench technologies, plus
10 directional drilling in areas, and possibly some jack and
11 bore casing. This will allow us to avoid any sensitive
12 areas, or drain crossings, wetlands, and any potential
13 threatened species for this project. And also, the
14 intersections will be some sort of trenchless, probably a
15 directional drill. This will allow traffic on these major
16 cross-streets to be maintained.

17 The North Allen section is a 24" pipe, and this is
18 going to be from Pennsylvania Road down to Van Horn Road.
19 Again, a mix of trenchless and open trench technologies.
20 There will be some road restoration replacing in kind. The
21 goal is to minimize it to one lane of Allen Road in this
22 area, which is a five lane section. Again, endangered and
23 threatened species in the project area, we're going to
24 protect those by doing these trenchless installations in
25 these areas. There is a historical site, a cemetery that

1 will not be impacted on this project.

2 The South Allen parallel main will go from Van
3 Horn, and that will continue south down Allen onto Ostreich
4 Road, to Woodruff, and connect at Fort Street. This will be
5 a combination of 24" to the north and then it transverses
6 down to a 16" from south of Vreeland to the end of the
7 project where we're connecting. Again, a mix of open trench
8 and trenchless construction methods. And primarily for the
9 endangered and threatened species that could be in the
10 project area, measures will be taken to protect them during
11 construction. There is a historic site on this section of
12 water main, the Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church. Again,
13 no impacts to that church with this type of construction.

14 The last section of water main to the south is
15 what we're referring to as the Dixie Highway parallel main.
16 This will be a 16" main paralleling the existing GLWA main.
17 And again, all three of these sections there is meters along
18 the way for each of the communities. There will be
19 connections to those meters by live taps or tapping sleeve
20 valves and wells. Again, this is going to be a mix of open
21 cut and trenchless technologies, with likely a micro-tunnel
22 under the Huron River. Endangered and threatened species
23 could be in the project areas, and measures will be taken to
24 protect them during construction. There is a few historic
25 sites along this route, the Huron River Inn, Rockwood

1 Railroad Bridge, and a few Queen Anne style homes. And
2 again, nothing will really change in the area to impact
3 these historic sites.

4 The Trenton meter upgrades, again this is going to
5 be replacement of the flow meters, installing some check
6 valves, and modifying the bypass. This area down here at
7 TN-03 will be modified, and this was showing on those
8 previous screens. Once complete, this would allow emergency
9 flow in a reverse direction to feed the downriver
10 communities in this area if it was ever needed. This will
11 take place within the vicinity of the meters of the vault.
12 The construction impact zone of these will be pretty
13 negligible. Endangered and threatened species are located
14 within 1.5 miles of TN-01 and TN-03. The area to be
15 disturbed will be observed to identify any species presence.
16 Measures will be taken to protect identified species during
17 construction.

18 The Electric Avenue pump station reservoir
19 demolition. This will be demolition of the two
20 deteriorating 3.4 million gallon water reservoirs that were
21 removed from service in 2017. So these are currently not in
22 service, but they've become a little bit of an eyesore for
23 the area and are starting to crumble. So these will also be
24 demolished as part of this project. No service disruptions
25 are anticipated due to this work.

1 This next slide goes into the cost. As it was
2 mentioned, this is a \$61 million estimated project. We're
3 at about just beyond a 30% design levy. The costs here are
4 broken down by the six areas; the Inkster transmission main,
5 the North Allen parallel main, the South Allen parallel
6 main, the Dixie Highway parallel main, the Trenton meters,
7 and the Electric Avenue reservoir. The breakdown, the
8 annual estimated cost for the users in the household is
9 \$2.63 per home. And this includes the entire -- or it's
10 been distributed over the entire GLWA service area,
11 approximately 1.4 million households.

12 Project schedule is listed here. We anticipate
13 permitting this project later this fall, or by -- that
14 should be 2021. The loan closing for this one, we're
15 looking at Q4. Which that loan closing, according to EGLE's
16 schedule would be August 29th, 2022. And the Notice to
17 Proceed on this project is listed as October 28th, 2022.
18 And that is the latest Notice to Proceed per EGLE's
19 schedule. It could be sooner than that once we get the loan
20 closed and contract signed. We are anticipating two
21 contracts for this work, the Allen and Dixie sections of
22 water main with the meters and possibly the pump reservoir.
23 And then the other contract would be the Inkster Road
24 transmission main. All in all, this is 14 miles of water
25 main. The Inkster section is about four miles.

1 Environmental impacts and mitigation, there will
2 be no anticipated impacts on any Tribal, historical, or
3 archeology -- archeological resources. The project crosses
4 some wetlands, and floodplains, and streams. As we
5 mentioned, those areas will be done by some sort of
6 trenchless technology like land directional drill. So
7 minimal impacted -- minimal impacts anticipated at the
8 streams and wetlands. Endangered and threatened species may
9 be located in this area, surveys will be performed to
10 determine if these species are present.

11 Mitigations, as I mentioned, trenchless
12 installation proposed to minimize the impact on the streams,
13 and drains, and river crossings, and wetland. EGLE and the
14 United States Army Corps of Engineers joint permit
15 application will be completed and approved prior to
16 construction. Efforts will be made to reduce the likelihood
17 of negative impacts on endangered and threatened species
18 that are confirmed to be present in the study area. Actions
19 will be taken to identify as part of the final design. So
20 there will be some more studies to see if we have any
21 endangered species.

22 Construction operational impacts. During
23 construction there will be some traffic disruption and
24 delays, lane closure, temporary noise and dust, potential
25 short-term water server disruptions, pavement removal and

1 restoration. Those impacts we would mitigate by following
2 detailed traffic control plans, alternate routes and
3 details -- detours. Sorry. Typical work hours for the
4 noise would be 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and dust control
5 measures would be protected by water trucks. Notices to
6 communities and residents prior to the water main
7 connections and having a backup supply plan will also be
8 part of this project. Soil erosion control measures and
9 associated surface restoration, for example, the new
10 pavement and seeding and sodding in areas will also take
11 place.

12 Benefits of the project, recycling materials to
13 reduce cost and environmental. This will primarily be
14 pavements and aggregate type recycling. And reusing some of
15 the existing soils where we can. Positive benefits to the
16 communities due to increased reliability of service. And
17 decreased likelihood of a boil water advisory and pressure
18 loss once this project is complete.

19 With that, that concludes the presentation, I can
20 turn it over for questions. We do ask if there is any
21 public comment on this that you state your name, spell it,
22 and state it, and give your address as well so we can have
23 that as part of the record. With that, I will turn it back
24 over to GLWA.

25 MR. ZECH: Thank you, Mr. Hobgood. Are there any

1 questions or comments from Members of the Board for our
2 speakers today?

3 MR. HENDRIX: Yeah, I -- I'm sorry. Go right
4 ahead, GB.

5 MR. ZECH: Okay, Mr. Brown. You first.

6 MR. BROWN: I had a quick one for Nickie. I know
7 that a 30 year loan would be slightly higher, but the
8 savings would be greater. The decision was made to ask for
9 a 20 year, was a 30 year not available?

10 MR. ZECH: Nickie, you're muted.

11 MS. BATESON: Thank you. Kim, correct me if I'm
12 wrong, but I think the 30 year is an option for DWSD but not
13 for GLWA.

14 MR. BROWN: Ah.

15 MS. GARLAND: Correct.

16 MR. ZECH: Okay. Anything else, Mr. Brown?

17 MR. BROWN: No. That's it, thanks.

18 MR. ZECH: Okay. Mr. Hendrix, you had a question?

19 MR. HENDRIX: Actually, my question was somewhat
20 related to that, and so I'm good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 MR. ZECH: Okay. Any other questions from Members
22 of the Board? Mr. Hobgood, I have a couple. Explain, I
23 know what jack and bore is and that sort of thing. But I
24 saw for the first time in one of our projects the word
25 "microbore." Is that -- obviously "micro" makes me think

1 it's very small. But can you explain what a microbore
2 technology is?

3 MR. HOBGOOD: Yeah, it's similar to what you would
4 see on your giant borers. It's just really a term for a
5 smaller bore machine. A size similar to a jack and bore,
6 more of a tunnel machine that can pull the pipe in and place
7 a casing and then pull the pipe in.

8 MR. ZECH: Okay. And you're planning to do this
9 under the Huron River? Did I get that right?

10 MR. HOBGOOD: Yes. That's what we're looking into
11 for the Huron River.

12 MR. ZECH: Okay.

13 MR. HOBGOOD: We're still going through some of
14 the details of it and comparing the cost and the impacts to
15 other methods. But it seems to be the method we're leaning
16 towards right now.

17 MR. ZECH: All right. And my other question is,
18 in some cases you mentioned that there might be endangered
19 or threatened species in certain areas. And in one of
20 your -- one of the slides it mentioned that there are
21 endangered or threatened species in one of the areas or two
22 of the areas. And so some knowledge of this has already
23 been accumulated through the study --

24 MR. HOBGOOD: Correct.

25 MR. ZECH: -- and the plan preparation. What kind

1 of threatened or endangered species are you already aware
2 of?

3 MR. HOBGOOD: The one that stands out would be the
4 Eastern Fox Snake, it's endangered and it's pretty common to
5 the area around Lake Erie and even around the river. That
6 has been one that, through the studies, has come back and
7 has requested to do a little bit more field observation. So
8 we're going to get our endangered species experts
9 essentially to walk the route and see if they see any more
10 of a habitat for this type of snake.

11 MR. ZECH: Okay. And some of the other things
12 they'll be looking for, can you identify those for us in the
13 public hearing, and for those who are, perhaps, listening in
14 on Zoom?

15 MR. HOBGOOD: Yes. The other one that comes to
16 mind could be the -- it's the Indiana bat. Sorry, not my
17 expertise. But just a look at trees and things like that.
18 If we do have to cut any trees down, those would get
19 reviewed and evaluated to see if that's a potential habitat.
20 We really don't anticipate -- there is a type of mussel
21 that's associated with Huron River. We don't anticipate any
22 impacts to that since, you know, we're not going to disturb
23 that riverbed or come close to that. Again, with the
24 tunneling or trenchless technology, we would be able to
25 avoid that.

1 MR. ZECH: Having worked in the downriver area for
2 a couple of those communities that are impacted, Southgate
3 and Lincoln Park, I know how important this project is to
4 those communities. Particularly to the ones south of that
5 area heading toward Monroe. And I appreciate the fact that
6 you are in the planning stages, taking into consideration
7 the possibly threatened or endangered species, at the same
8 time trying to create a better water situation for roughly a
9 quarter of a million residents in the area.

10 So that's my questions. Are there any -- again,
11 any other questions from Member of the Board? Okay. At
12 this point, again, we'd like to offer the opportunity to the
13 public to make comments or ask questions regarding this
14 project during this public hearing. You can do so by
15 raising your hand and pressing *9 on your phone, and you
16 will be recognized and given up to three minutes to make
17 comments, ask questions, et cetera. Mr. Wolfson is ready to
18 take your calls. Is there anybody in the public that would
19 like to speak?

20 MR. WOLFSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not see any hands
21 raised.

22 MR. ZECH: Okay. Again, this is your chance. The
23 speakers would like to hear from you if you have something
24 you'd like to say. As would the Members of the Board and
25 staff.

1 MR. WOLFSON: Again, Mr. Chairman, no hands
2 raised.

3 MR. ZECH: Okay. That being the case, we'll close
4 this public hearing at, I've got 2:53 on my watch.

5 (Off the record)

6 MR. ZECH: We'll move on to item B. Resolution to
7 adopt the downriver transmission main loop project, fiscal
8 year 2022, Drinking Water Revolving Fund project plan.

9 MS. GARLAND: This, again, relates directly to the
10 public hearing just held. I will also note that these items
11 were discussed at the audit -- the special audit committee
12 meeting on, just on Monday, as well as at the public hearing
13 today. And documentation regarding these projects is also
14 included with each agenda item. And with that, we request
15 your approval for the motion you see on the screen.

16 MS. BATESON: And Kim, we should just also note
17 that the audit committee did recommend approval of these
18 items. Thank you.

19 MS. GARLAND: Thank you.

20 MR. ZECH: Thank you, Nickie. Is there a --

21 MR. BROWN: I'll make the motion --

22 MR. ZECH: -- question from the Board? Mr. Brown,
23 were you making the motion to approve?

24 MR. BROWN: Prematurely I was, yes.

25 MR. ZECH: No; no, if you're ready, if there is no

1 questions and you're ready to make that motion, we'll take
2 it.

3 MR. BROWN: I'll make the motion to approve.
4 Thank you, sir.

5 MR. ZECH: Is there support?

6 MS. WALKER-GRIFFEA: Support.

7 MR. ZECH: Okay. It's been moved and supported.
8 All those in favor signify by saying "Aye." Aye.

9 MS. QUADROZZI: Aye.

10 MR. HENDRIX: Aye.

11 MR. BAKER: Aye.

12 MR. BROWN: Aye.

13 MS. WALKER-GRIFFEA: Aye.

14 MR. ZECH: Opposed? Motion passes unanimously.

15 (Meeting concluded at 3:06 p.m.)

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