



**Board of Directors**  
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## **Update on June 25 and 26 Rain Event**

Agenda of: July 28, 2021  
Item No.: **2021-308**  
Amount: N/A

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Directors  
Great Lakes Water Authority

**FROM:** Sue McCormick, Chief Executive Officer  
Great Lakes Water Authority

**DATE:** July 26, 2021

**RE: Update on June 25 and 26, 2021 Rain Event – Update on Preliminary Responsive Actions**

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GLWA's internal investigation into this matter has begun. As a part of this operational review, we have identified some early opportunities for process and operational improvements. While we anticipate that additional improvement opportunities may be identified, we wanted to provide the Board with an update on matters currently underway.

### **1. Modification to Regional Operation Plan – Added SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) Integration**

Currently, GLWA provides access to its SCADA information to system operators in its member partner communities. This information is provided on a separate screen from the local system's data. Based on early discussion with member partners, GLWA heard that coordination of regional operations can be enhanced if the regional and local system SCADA information could be accessed on a single screen. To accomplish this, GLWA will prepare a solicitation to select a vendor to be available to perform this service. Given the importance and sensitivity of SCADA data, GLWA is also exploring whether it may support member partners performing this integration and provide appropriate compensation to them for that activity.

## **2. Modification to Regional Operation Plan – Expansion of Emergency Coordination Channels**

As a part of its meetings with eastside member partner communities following this rain event, the communities requested regular meetings to discuss system operational issues that may uniquely impact them. GLWA agreed with this concept and will establish a regular cadence of meetings with these communities. As we pilot this concept, we will determine its applicability to other parts of the system.

## **3. Power Quality Monitoring**

As the Board is aware, power availability and quality have been central issues in recent rain events. GLWA, through means of emergency procurement, redirected some Power Quality Monitoring Systems (PQM) units initially scheduled to be installed at Combined Sewer Overflow facilities to be installed on the Connors Creek Pump Station, Freud Pump Station and Blue Hill Pump Station. The PQM units for the Freud Pump Station has been installed and was commissioned last week. In working with our electric contractor, we anticipate having Connors Creek and Blue hill PQM units installed and commissioned in the next two weeks. All PQM units will be connected to our SCADA system. The PQM units are expected to provide advance notice regarding power outages and help in diagnostics of power quality related issues.

## **4. Electrical modification and upgrades**

Regarding the Freud Pump Station, GLWA is working with our electrical contractors to review modification opportunities to the existing electrical equipment to expand the use of the existing emergency generators to support multiple feeds (compared to the existing configuration that only supports Porter substation feed). We are also reviewing the feasibility and modification necessary to accommodate portable generators. GLWA is holding regular calls with TMC Alliance (contractor that works on the PLD system) and DTE Energy to restore the third feed to the Freud station and to explore modification to the feeders into the pump station to maximize reliability.

## **5. DTE conversion coordination call**

GLWA is in the process of establishing a reoccurring coordination call with the construction and operations division of DTE Energy to receive regular update on the progress of the conversion of GLWA's facilities' electrical supply from PLD infrastructure to DTE.

## **6. Member Partner Community Meetings**

As requested, GLWA leadership has met and is scheduled to meet with several member partner communities, including but not limited to: Detroit City Council, Detroit City Council Planning Commission, Grosse Pointe communities, and Saint Clair Shores.

## **7. Utility Infrastructure Resiliency – Conversations with Editorial Boards**

The unprecedented magnitude and intensity of the recent rain events have exceeded the design capacity of the regional system. In addition, the regional system was designed to support health and sanitation, and now the issue is being raised about the Authority's role in flood control and protection. GLWA plans to meet with local editorial boards to discuss the recent rain events and the increased importance of utility resiliency for the region's future.

## **8. Expanded Public Notification of Extreme Weather Events**

There have been two high intensity rain events after the June 25-26, 2021 rain events that were accompanied by flash flood warnings. For these types of events, GLWA has begun and plans to continue to issue media alerts. We also are reviewing the expanded use of advisories for other extreme weather events that may impact the regional system's operations.

We will continue to update the Board on responsive actions as identified through GLWA's internal after-action analysis and will work with the Board to implement recommendations that may result from the Board's independent review of this event.