



## Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

**Date:** April 24, 2026

**To:** Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

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

**Re:** CFO Report

### ***GLWA Team Member Fosters State Chapter - National Grants Management Association***

In March 2026, Alicia Schwartz, Grants Manager, was instrumental in formally establishing a Michigan Chapter of the National Grants Management Association (NGMA). The Michigan Chapter will help provide greater regional access to NGMA resources, encourage networking among fellow Michigan grant management professionals, and further strengthen GLWA grant opportunities. Alicia will be serving as Chapter Chair during the inauguration of this chapter.

The new chapter was officially announced during the NGMA Annual Grants Training. There were over 1,900 attendees at the three-day, in-person program – this is the largest training event of its kind in the nation. This year attendees were offered over 75 breakout sessions and 20 roundtable discussions during the event.

### **Letter of Support for Water Affordability**

On April 16, 2026, a letter of support was sent to legislators for both appropriations to fund water assistance programs to address today's needs as well as the Water Affordability Package (Senate Bills 248-256) to provide sustainable funding and programming for water affordability. This letter of support (attached) represents over 60 organizations representing different organizational missions that are unified in the need for water affordability programming and funding – including GLWA and DWSD.

### **GLWA Hosting an Affordability & Assistance Workshop on April 30, 2026**

Member Partners have been invited to an Affordability & Assistance Workshop scheduled for next week via Zoom. Objectives are largely two-fold. First is a general overview of the legislative process as well as the current landscape of statewide water affordability bills. Second is an overview and updates related to the Water Residential Assistance Program. Special thank you, in advance, to Debra Pospiech, DP Resolutions & Carson Gatt, Dykema for being our guest speakers.