



## Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

**Date:** April 24, 2026

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

**From:** Scott Garrigan, Financial Services Director

**Re:** Water Funding Task Force Update as of April 20, 2026

**Background:** The Water Funding Task Force (WFTF) was formed in January 2026 with the goal of addressing long-term water infrastructure needs facing our state to adequately mitigate economic, environmental, and social risks without adversely impacting affordability. The deliverables are research and analysis that supports companion funding and policy recommendations.

The task force is composed of various GLWA staff, industry experts, and consultants.

**Analysis:** Current actions items include the following.

- Researching and compiling Michigan's history of infrastructure funding and infrastructure funding alternatives that have been implemented in other states.
- Engaging with Member Partners to better understand their financial and infrastructure pressures. An open call for Member Partners to participate in one of three focus groups was emailed on Monday afternoon (April 20, 2026). By end of the next day on Tuesday (April 21, 2026), ten individuals from ten different Member Partners signed up. Participants so far include city managers, public works directors, finance professionals, and others. This is the type of type of multidisciplinary representation that we were hoping to garner. Responses are due April 27, 2026.
- Engaging with peer utilities across the United States to better understand their financial and infrastructure pressures – as well as other funding mechanisms that they have explored in their state. Invitations were sent to 16 peer utilities in the US. Those meetings are currently being scheduled.
- Estimate a statewide funding gap based on a combination of available data.
- Developing a slate of funding proposals and/or state policy recommendations.

**Proposed Action:** Receive and file this report.