



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: November 21, 2025

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

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

Re: CFO Report

Charges Outreach and Modeling Manager Featured

Charges Outreach & Modeling Manager, Matt Lane, authored an article titled “*Pricing the Priceless: Setting Rates and Charges for Sustainable Water Utilities*,” that outlines many best practices in charge-setting and stakeholder engagement. The article was published in the [Fall Edition \(October 2025\) of the Michigan Water Works News](#), a publication of the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association.

WRAP Partners Tour Facilities

On October 1, 2025, all four GLWA Water Residential Assistance Program service delivery partners, Genesee County Community Action Resource Department, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, and Macomb Community Action Agency were invited to take a tour of the GLWA Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). Sajit George, the Manager of Operations at WRRF, and his team led the group on a two-hour tour, showcasing the various processes involved in wastewater treatment.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Mini Muni Conference

On Thursday, October 23, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Kim Garland participated in the closing panel of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) annual fall conference focused on the municipal bond market. Over 250 attendees from across the country participated in this online knowledge sharing opportunity. The closing panel was comprised of members of the GFOA Debt Committee and included other colleagues representing the County Government of Arlington, Virginia, New Braunfels, Texas Utilities, and the State of Connecticut.

The panel entitled “Issuer Colloquy” was moderated by GFOA staff and serves as the ending session annually for the conference. The session focused on addressing participant questions generated throughout the conference and summarizing key takeaways.

GLWA Featured at Annual Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan & Bond Club of Detroit Joint Meeting

GLWA was invited to speak at the annual Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan & Bond Club of Detroit Joint Meeting on October 29, 2025. This meeting brings together public finance advisors, bond counsels, underwriters, ratings analysts and others from Michigan as well as out of state. The topic was *The First Ten Years: Great Lakes Water Authority 2015 – 2025* and was presented by William Wolfson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and me. Sue Coffey, PE, Chief Executive Officer, rounded out the presentation with a focus on the next ten including a discussion of water infrastructure needs.

Water Funding Task Force

At the October 8, 2025 workshop, the Board of Directors received a briefing on infrastructure renewal needs and other factors impacting the upcoming budget and ten-year financial plan. In addition, Part 2 of the GLWA Water Transmission Main Renewal Strategy was presented. This plan laid out \$1.2 billion of needs to renew, replace, or decommission nearly 220 miles of main to address infrastructure that has exceeded its projected useful life. Similarly, for the sewer system, an estimated \$1.7 billion in future funding challenges were discussed. These needs span emerging contaminants, future resiliency initiatives, increasing long term control plans to further reduce untreated combined sewer overflows, and implementation of US Army Corps of Engineers findings and recommendations for regional flood control. As indicated in the presentation, addressing these needs requires additions to the existing capital improvement plan for both the water and sewer systems.

The magnitude of these challenges exceeds the capacity that modest charge increases could address and place additional long-term and short-term affordability challenges on the system. The need for new funding strategies and public policy solutions requires a focused team that is willing to explore all available alternatives. For this reason, GLWA, with assistance from Public Sector Consultants, is establishing a Water Funding Task Force. There are many parties interested in supporting this effort. More information will follow in the next 60 days.