



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: June 26, 2026

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

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

Re: CFO Report

CFO Services Group – Annual Team Building Event

On Wednesday, June 3 the CFO Services Group and Treasury Team participated in an annual team building event at the GLWA Southwest Water Treatment Plant. The day included an overview presentation, facility tour, and a detailed question and answer session. Terry Sisler, William Collier, and Kyle Smith from the Southwest team were outstanding hosts and tour guides. Team-building events during the day included an iOpt challenge and FY 2027 goal planning. Team members led the coordination and facilitation of the event, which helped create a positive, engaging, and collaborative experience for everyone. Thank you to the teams for strengthening the bridge between our operating areas.

Affordability & Assistance Update

GLWA's Affordability & Assistance team continued strong sector leadership in May. Affordability & Assistance Manager Haran Stanley chaired the Women on Water engagement panel at the Michigan AWWA event, facilitating experience-sharing among over 50 professionals. Haran also presented at the GLWA Communication & Education Workgroup, providing updates on pending State affordability legislation, Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) program activity, and outcomes of the recent Virtual Affordability Workshop.

Women in Public Finance – Michigan Chapter Conference

GLWA was represented by Michelle Burt (Manager, Billing and Collections), and Alicia Schwartz (Grants Manager), at the annual Women in Public Finance – Michigan Chapter Conference in May. Sessions covered municipal market trends, practical applications of AI in finance, and leadership topics such as resiliency and generational dynamics, offering insights beneficial to GLWA's financial and workforce strategies.

Water Funding Task Force Collaboration Continues

The Water Funding Task Force (WFTF), established in January 2026, has completed Member Partner and peer utilities outreach across the country and began engaging Michigan utilities in June to begin gathering funding perspectives from throughout the state. At the One Water Partnership meeting held on May 28th, 2026, I provided an overview of the WFTF's objectives and facilitated discussions on statewide infrastructure needs and funding strategies. This work contributes to developing a comprehensive statewide perspective on funding challenges and opportunities.

Procurement Update

Save the Date for GLWA's 2026 Vendor Outreach Event! Planning is underway for the 2026 Vendor Outreach Event. The event this year is scheduled for October 29, 2026, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The half-day program will support vendor understanding of GLWA's procurement process and offer opportunities for engagement and networking. Stay tuned for additional details as we get closer to the event.