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GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
FY 2024 PROJECT PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING
May 24, 2023
735 Randolph Street
Detroit, Michigan

1 Detroit, Michigan

2 Wednesday, May 24, 2023

3 (At about 2:11 p.m.)

4 — — —

5 MS. BATESON: I believe our court

6 reporter is set up and ready. One thing that she

7 requests is that anyone who speaks to clearly state

8 their name for the record each time they speak for

9 the public hearing.

10 So my name is Nicolette Bateson, Chief

11 Financial Officer and Treasurer for the Great Lakes

12 Water Authority. And the matter before us is a

13 public hearing as it relates to the FY 2024 drinking

14 water state revolving fund project. With us today

15 is Tim Minor from Applied Science, who is going to

16 walk through a presentation on the screen as it

17 relates to this project. As a -- to set up any

18 public comment and to provide context for this item.

19 I would also introduce today

20 Chandan Sood, who is a GLWA leader. This

21 initiative, as well as Nick Bedewal, our acting

22 public finance manager who is working with this

23 cross functional team for the financing.

24 So with that let me turn it over to

25 Tim Minor, and again on via Zoom is Phyllis Walsh

1 who is driving the presentation. So, Tim, just let
2 Phyllis know how you would like her to proceed.

3 MR. MINOR: Good afternoon, everyone.
4 As Nickie said, I am Tim Minor with Applied Science.
5 I'm here to share with you some details about the
6 state revolving fund project plan that's been
7 prepared for FY 2024. Ultimately the goal of this
8 presentation is to receive public comment and then
9 receive board approval to submit this project plan
10 officially.

11 So the project is part of GLWA's annual
12 effort to maximize the use of the available DWSRF
13 funds. This is a low interest fund program the
14 state runs, and it allows us to make capital
15 investments with state funding and at advantageous
16 interest rates. The deadline to apply for this is
17 June 1st, so it's coming up very quickly. In fact
18 we've already been working with the state to have
19 draft materials reviewed, so we're very much ready
20 to meet that June 1st deadline. Today's discussion
21 is part of that overall deadline. We need to submit
22 the court recorder document as part of that
23 documentation, so I appreciate your patience waiting
24 for that to get set up today.

25 Like I said, today's public hearing is

1 part of that process, and Eagle will review the
2 project plan along with the minutes of this
3 discussion. There's one project we're talking about
4 today for your consideration for FY 2024.

5 Phyllis, go ahead, next slide. Thank
6 you.

7 So we have in the room today a project
8 manager for this work, Chandan Sood, and this
9 pertains to three communities within the GLWA
10 drinking water system, Detroit, Dearborn and
11 Highland Park. These are communities that we
12 consider to be nonmaster metered communities. So
13 currently their water use is only measured as it
14 leaves the water treatment plants, whereas other
15 communities are what we call master metered
16 communities. There are flow meters at their points
17 of connection to the GLWA water system. So by
18 initiating this project for transmission, meaning
19 water metering for those three communities, we're
20 taking a huge leap forward in monitoring the flow
21 rates from those communities.

22 So the scope of the project is twofold.
23 One is the actual installation of the water meters.
24 Those water meters will be equipped with water
25 quality monitors which will give information that we

1 don't currently have out in the transmission system
2 right now.

3 The other piece of the project is to
4 develop a new meter method. It uses the data from
5 those new devices and the devices that we have today
6 to better account for the water use throughout the
7 regional system. Go next slide.

8 An overview. In order to do this, really
9 the map over on the side is pre-illustrative. I
10 know it's small, but you can see a few borders
11 there. You can probably make out the Dearborn
12 border, the Highland Park border, and you can see
13 some dots on that map. Those dots are these
14 transmission meter locations. There's 25 in total.
15 By adding those 25 we would be able to monitor flow
16 into Highland Park. We also billed a monitor flow
17 at the Detroit Dearborn border, and what this will
18 do is let us identify the total flow at those points
19 in the system. Currently those flows are estimated,
20 state of the art estimates, but still estimates.
21 When we go to metering, our overall accuracy will
22 increase and in addition to, you know, get a better
23 sense of what each community's consumption is will
24 also let us hunt down this topic of non-revenue
25 water. Simply you can think of non-revenue water as

1 leakage from the system. This is water that's made
2 at a water treatment plant, but it's never delivered
3 to a customer. So by adding these transmission
4 meters, it will let us hunt down that topic. So
5 that's a value add to the entire system. We can
6 minimize non-revenue water, we can right size our
7 production and not waste that water. Also we
8 mitigate the issues that non-revenue water can
9 create. You know, if it's leaking underground, it
10 can undercut roadways and other assets. So we'd
11 like to find and eliminate that non-revenue water
12 wherever we can.

13 Another thing that we'll be able to do at
14 these locations is install a MeriNet integrated
15 water quality monitoring system. This will give us
16 water quality data at each of these 25 locations.
17 These are points where we don't have water quality
18 measurements today. So that will improve our
19 understanding of quality throughout the system.

20 And then like I said on the previous
21 side, we'll develop meter math. What we mean by
22 meter math is the equation, the additions and
23 subtractions of the metered flow rates to properly
24 account for the volumes.

25 Benefits of the project, it will simplify

1 these estimates. You know, we'll know the flow at
2 more locations, plain and simple. That will let us
3 estimate less and it will let us focus in on certain
4 areas in the system when we're hunting for things
5 like non-revenue water or trying to allocate flows
6 to a particular community. It will also greatly
7 increase our knowledge of water quality through
8 addition of those monitors. And one thing that we
9 always ask ourselves when we're adding a new
10 appurtenance on our water system, is this going to
11 affect the service that that water system can offer,
12 being does it create a hydraulic restriction, and
13 these locations are not expected to create any
14 hydraulic restriction. So we get more information
15 without diminishing the level of service. Next
16 slide, please.

17 So a quick high level summary of this
18 project. Estimated project cost, we have 25 new
19 facilities going in. The estimated cost is about
20 forty-six and a half million dollars. When you boil
21 it down to per user, actually I have to apologize,
22 there is a little bit of a unit issue on this slide.
23 The \$2.32 you see is actually a per person per year
24 value. And so the per household per month that you
25 see there, if you were to translate to per household

1 per month, that would be a little less than fifty
2 cents per household per month or \$2.32 per person
3 per year, so a little mismatch there. I apologize
4 for that. Construction will take about five years.
5 It will start in Q4 of 2024 and end in Q4 of 2029.
6 Next slide.

7 Project impact. So as part of the SRF
8 process, we needed to evaluate projects impacts, and
9 they have a few categories they ask for that
10 evaluation to happen in. One is environmental and,
11 you know, looking at the area we don't expect any
12 issues with species of concern. That's a
13 requirement of SRF to evaluate that, but we didn't
14 find any concern for that. If, in fact, we do find
15 a species of concern unexpectedly, we have a plan to
16 pause the work, understand the impact of that
17 species and then move forward in the appropriate
18 way.

19 As far as impacts to the environment
20 other than that, it's expected to be very minimal.
21 These sites are relatively small. It's a new meter
22 pit with a meter in it, and it's working probably in
23 existing right-of-ways. So we don't expect a
24 significant short-term impacts, and once the sites
25 are restored and construction is finished, virtually

1 no long-term impacts.

2 So as far as social impacts, another
3 requirement is to evaluate impacts to tribal
4 historic sites. Again, we don't anticipate any, but
5 we will be submitting those letters to the
6 appropriate authorities to evaluate that.

7 We have already submitted a draft of the
8 project plan to the State, and they've started to
9 look at what we've identified as impacts, and we've
10 gotten no comments from them, so we're thinking that
11 they're in agreement with us, but we'll find out
12 when we officially submit on June 1st. Next slide,
13 please.

14 All right, we're on to the public
15 comment. I don't know if we want to administer it
16 the same way as before.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions on the
18 presentation?

19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I've got a couple,
20 Mr. Chair. It's the first time that I've heard the
21 State has no comment, I think you said, means that
22 they agree with that. I'm just not quite sure I
23 agree with that statement.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: So we do expect that we
25 will get official comments from them, but in the

1 draft they've had no comments, meaning that we're
2 okay to submit the official submittal and get their
3 official comments.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. As I
5 recall, so refresh my memory, we spent quite a lot
6 of money with the Veolia contract to look into this
7 master metering issue. And as I recall there's
8 a way to compare the current metering purchases
9 versus the actual retail sales to get similar data.
10 I know this will get us the most acc -- this is the
11 most accurate way to do it, but my concern is we're
12 spending \$46,000,000 to do this, and is it going to
13 make the data three percent more accurate, a little
14 bit more accurate or is the juice worth the squeeze
15 on spending \$46,000,000 to do this? I admit it will
16 be more accurate than it is today, but we've been
17 measuring this without master meters for decades.
18 And so that's what my concern is, number 1.

19 And number 2, more importantly, is that
20 Detroit does not want to be committed to doing this
21 if the State is not going to fund a large portion of
22 it. So right now I don't even know what it's going
23 to cost me. So I'm willing to agree and sign on to
24 moving this resolution forward as long as everyone
25 understands that I'm going to need to do a cost

1 analysis before I can sign off on master meter.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, so I think
3 that's good. So we had a similar comment I think
4 the last time we brought this to the board, and I
5 think it's good. I'll take your second comment
6 first. It's completely understood and we have it on
7 record. We will see what it is that the State comes
8 back with. We're hopeful that we will get some
9 grant money associated with this project. At that
10 point in time we will go back to each of the
11 communities. The intent is that each community
12 contributes a portion of this; GLWA contributes a
13 portion. Once we know what it is -- so first off we
14 have to make the list. It has to be in the priority
15 list, and then we may get some principle forgiveness
16 or grant money, and when we do we will come back to
17 the community, such as Detroit, Detroit, Dearborn,
18 Highland Park, and talk about what that looks like.

19 So if we do not receive funding, we may
20 not move forward with the project. But if we don't
21 shoot the shot, right, we'll never get the points,
22 so we're going to give it a go. We're going to see
23 if we can get some money. There seems to be an
24 awful lot of infrastructure dollars out there. And
25 every year we do hear from the customers, the

1 nonmaster metered customers and the master metered
2 customers, that they would like to see GLWA move to
3 a more accurate method of measurement.

4 As Tim indicated, you know, we had a big
5 study, you know, you were part of the study. We all
6 probably heard much about this units of service for
7 non master metered customers. We brought in Black
8 and Veatch, we spent a lot of time. This was part
9 of the standup at GLWA. This was required.

10 So we did the best we can analytically,
11 but every year we hear from member partners about
12 how they would like to see us make these numbers
13 better. Because it is an equity question in the
14 end, right. So I think we're doing a good job.
15 This will do better. This will also be responsive
16 to our member partners. And that kind of goes to
17 the second one.

18 I do think the juice is worth the
19 squeeze, to use your comment there. The reason I
20 say that is studies are great. We love studies.
21 Studies are not perfect. Things can change
22 over time. At some point in time I'd like to stop
23 doing studies and start actually getting the work
24 done, and that's what we're doing with this one. I
25 don't want to have to do another large non-master

1 meter customer study and spend millions of dollars
2 on another study that will have to be updated in,
3 say, another five years. So for me it's worth
4 seeing what we get from the state, and then we'll
5 have more conversation on it.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, but my
7 question was partly what Gary asked, and that is can
8 anybody quantify the accuracy or how much of a
9 difference it makes to have this metered system in
10 versus how we've been doing it conventionally?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So we can't
12 quantify it now. All we can say is we used our best
13 analytical method. So last time when we did the
14 quantification the best we could, we actually set up
15 district metered areas in Detroit, we isolated them,
16 we measured the flow into those areas, there's more
17 than one subdivision, into those areas and out of
18 those areas, and we estimated nonrevenue water. We
19 extrapolated that field data to the rest of the
20 city. So I'm certain that communities who are
21 non-master metered, Detroit, Dearborn and Highland
22 Park, have done work and they have fixed leaks, so
23 that was a few years ago we did that study. That
24 changes with time. Likewise might have fixed leaks,
25 might have more leaks. So those studies are the

1 best that we can do, but there's no -- you can tell
2 the meters are in the ground and we start getting
3 measurements. There's no way for us to tell how far
4 off we are at our analytical methods. All we can
5 say is we did a very good, thorough analytical
6 method right now.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: So how is this proposed
8 metering system compared to other communities that
9 are currently metered?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So this metering
11 system meters all the flow into a community and the
12 flow out of a community. So Dearborn and Detroit
13 have volumes of flow that go into and out of, like
14 many other communities do. I would say the
15 difference here is that there are more meters in
16 this meter math. Tim Minor talked about meter math.
17 So there are more potential additions and
18 subtractions what introduces more error. There's no
19 doubt about it, but we still think it's the most
20 accurate, affordable methods, speaking to
21 affordability. The idea of directly metering
22 Dearborn and Highland Park, very, very expensive,
23 and we think this is a good solution, perhaps a
24 difference of, you know, percentage points, right,
25 not 10, 20, 30%, but single digit percentage points

1 and accuracy. So that's the difference between
2 where we will be with them and where we are with
3 others. So we feel like it's the best we can do.
4 It's a compromise, there's no doubt about it.
5 Direct metering would be better, but it would be
6 \$800,000,000 perhaps, right. It's a very, very
7 expensive proposition to do direct metering with the
8 number of interconnections that we have in our
9 transmission system of Dearborn and Highland Park --
10 I mean, excuse me, Dearborn and Detroit.

11 Now Highland Park's metering, the
12 solution here for Highland Park is direct metering.
13 There are no subtraction meters for Highland Park.
14 There are three meters that go into the community,
15 and that would be just like every other master
16 metered community.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Other questions on this?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, I
19 was glad you spoke about the induction meters and
20 deductions meters and subtraction meters. Because
21 just looking at that map that Tim was showing, it
22 was to me obvious that there was water coming into
23 Dearborn, for instance, and leaving Dearborn, water
24 coming into Dearborn and leaving Dearborn; water
25 coming into Detroit and leaving Detroit. So having

1 worked in communities that have both metered water
2 coming in and out of it, being deducted and going to
3 another community, I'm in favor of getting it as
4 close to accurate as you can possibly get. And if
5 this helps, it's not over a hundred million like you
6 were talking about it's 46. That's serious money,
7 obviously. But if we can get a better picture for
8 Detroit or Dearborn and to some degree Highland Park
9 and all the member partners, I'm in favor of this.
10 I understand where Mr. Brown and Mr. Hendricks were
11 coming from in terms of can we quantify how close we
12 came, and that remains to be seen.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's exactly
14 right, it remains to be seen. Thank you.

15 MR. BAKER: Brian Baker. Susan, and
16 metering for these is really important. Weren't
17 those in the foundation documents of starting of
18 GLWA that that was agreed to? I don't think there's
19 any specific time frame.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was, 40 years.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, was it?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Silent on that.

24 It didn't say when. But we started paying the first
25 year, right? It's in the documents, right; it's

1 just no time frame. And then secondly have we
2 decided if we're going to include GLWA's cost in the
3 SRF submission or just the three local chair?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think we're
5 still working through that.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're
7 significantly overburdened, these three, all three
8 of them are. But that would hopefully, if it ranks
9 high enough, it should promote forgiveness.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Agreed.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Free money is
12 good. We'll see what happens.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's lots of
14 priorities.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments or
16 questions for the public hearing?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At this point,
19 Mr. Chairman, it is appropriate to call for the
20 members of the public, anyone who wishes to address
21 the board.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Anyone from the
23 public either in the room or virtually? We have a
24 gentleman who just raised his hand. Come on up to
25 the microphone. Tim, if you could step aside.

1 State your name for the record and make
2 your comment.

3 MR. SMALLEY: Good afternoon, Sam
4 Smalley, Chief Operating Officer, Detroit Water and
5 Sewage Department.

6 To follow on what Mr. Brown said, we
7 believe in transparency. We've always provided the
8 best standard that we have available. GLWA, with
9 the implementation of this system, there will still
10 be unknowns. There are significant number of large
11 diameter variable transmission mains that flow
12 through Detroit and Dearborn. That loss of water
13 will still be estimated.

14 So to help improve the overall accuracy
15 of the metering of the entire system, we have been
16 asking them, we'll continue to ask that all of the
17 wholesale customers purchase wholesale water be
18 compared, transparently and not anonymously to their
19 retail water sales. This is publicly available
20 information. It is a recommendation from our
21 expert, Veolia, to help improve the overall accuracy
22 and transparency of the water issue in southeast
23 Michigan. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone else for public
25 comment?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, I do
2 not see any hands up. This is the second call for
3 public comment. So at this point a third and final
4 call for public comment would be appropriate.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Final call for public
6 comment either in the room or virtually.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Again,
8 Mr. Chairman, there are no hands up virtually, so at
9 this point it would be appropriate for the Board to
10 close the public hearing.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll close the public
12 hearing.

13 (Hearing concluded about 2:34 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC - COURT REPORTER

2

3 I do certify that the attached proceeding
4 was taken before me in the above-entitled matter;
5 that the proceeding contained herein was by me
6 reduced to writing by means of stenography, and
7 afterwards transcribed upon a computer. The
8 attached pages are a true and complete transcript of
9 the proceedings.

10 I do further certify that I am not
11 connected by blood or marriage with any of the
12 parties, their attorneys or agents, and that I am
13 not an employee of either of them, nor interested,
14 directly or indirectly, in the matter of
15 controversy.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
17 my hand and affixed my notarial seal at West
18 Bloomfield, Michigan, County of Oakland, this 29th
19 day of May 2023.

20

21



22

Theresa L. Roberts, CSR

23

Certified Shorthand Reporter - CSR-4870

24

Notary Public - Oakland County, MI

25

My commission expires 10-04-2027

GLWA Hearing
05/24/2023

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