



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: February 27, 2026

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

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

Re: CFO Report

Local Rate Setting Workshop

The Charges Outreach & Modeling team is working with Bridgeport Consulting and Willdan Financial Services to host a Financial Planning and Local Rate Setting Workshop via Zoom. A similar program was held in person last September and was very well received. Now that GLWA is winding down its charge setting cycle, many of our Member Partner communities are working on their budgets, financial plans, and related presentations. The timing of this workshop is set to support that effort. A copy of the agenda is attached.

CFO Services Engages in Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Committee Meetings

In late January, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Kim Garland engaged with colleagues across the country to participate in the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) standing committee meetings. Of the GFOA's 30,000 members, about 180 serve on standing committees focused on areas core to the organization's mission. These committees regularly meet throughout the year to address key issues and policy concerns within their area of focus, support GFOA training programs, and maintain best practice materials.

In January, as a member of the Debt Committee, Kim engaged in panel discussions with the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Office of Municipal Securities Director, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, as well as various organizations supporting municipal finance. She also met with legislative staff from United States Senate to discuss public finance policy concerns related to the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and tax-exempt advance refunding.

Affordability and Assistance Teams Joins Women on Water Event

In late January, GLWA team members, including the Affordability & Assistance team, joined other water professionals from around the state for the first American Water Works Association Women on Water (W.O.W.) event. This informal event gave the group the opportunity to network and meet new people while discussing successes as well as state-wide challenges in the sector. W.O.W.'s next event will be a virtual panel in March or April of this year.