Water Advisory Council
November 4, 2026
8:00 am
AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items
3. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2026
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Lead Water Service Line Map and GIS (Postma)
6. Updates
    a. State Drinking Water Advisory Council (Jernberg)
    b. Lead and Copper Rule (Jernberg)
    c. Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward (Healthy Homes)
    d. YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map (Jernberg)
    e. Lead Service Line Construction Projects (Jernberg)
7. 2027 Schedule
    - January 13
    - March 10
    - May 12
    - July 14
    - September 8
    - November 10
8. Public Comment
9. Next Meeting – January 13, 2027
10. Adjournment

Water Advisory Council
September 9, 2026
8:00 am
MINUTES

Members Present

Izamar Contreras (City of GR), Nick Fisher (City of GR), Paul Haan, Wayne Jernberg (Chairperson, City of GR), and Doug La Fave (East GR), Sara Simmonds (Kent County), Julius Suchy (Ada) and Jennifer Williams (GRPS)

Others Present

Kolene Allen (City of GR), Sam Mann (Healthy Homes), Jameela Maun (Healthy Homes), and Santiago Alvarado (Healthy Homes)

Call to Order

Mr. Jernberg called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. La Fave. Seconded by Mr. Fisher.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Haan moved to approve the agenda as amended, adding Item F, "Water System Manager," under Item 5, Updates. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED.

Updates

Lead Reduction Initiative for 3rd Ward

Mr. Mann provided an update on Healthy Homes activities. Over the past three months, Healthy Homes engaged 907 households through door hangers and other passive outreach, with 185 active contacts through face-to-face conversations or phone calls. During this period, 143 new water kits were distributed.

Canvassing continues to be the most effective outreach method, averaging approximately 30 kits distributed during each two-hour canvassing session. Increased outreach has also resulted in an uptick in home assessments, with 22 assessments completed and potential risks identified in approximately 50% of the homes assessed.

Healthy Homes also participated in 15 community tabling events and has begun developing partnerships in the First and Second Wards in anticipation of expanding outreach into those areas. Initial partnerships include the Creston Neighborhood Association and West Grand Neighborhood Organization.

Mr. Alvarado shared that Healthy Homes has established a partnership with Proactive Project Inc., an organization actively involved in the community, particularly in civic engagement. The partnership has already resulted in increased collaboration, with both organizations participating in and supporting each other's outreach events.

Ms. Contreras reported that she has begun discussions with the Purchasing Department to amend the Healthy Homes contract. She also reported that 1,340 water kits have been distributed since October 2024.

Lead and Copper Rule Sampling

Mr. Jernberg reported that Grand Rapids has completed its Lead and Copper Rule sampling for the year. The 90th percentile result was 5.87 parts per billion (ppb), which EGLE is expected to round to 6 ppb.

Three samples exceeded 8 ppb, with results of 11, 17, and 42 ppb. Lead service line replacements have been scheduled at all three locations.

Ms. Maun asked whether water kits had been provided to those households and stated that, if not, Healthy Homes would prioritize distribution to those locations.

Ms. Contreras will provide the addresses to Healthy Homes to facilitate delivery of the kits.

State Drinking Water Advisory Council Workshop

The workshop was held on August 12 and included representation from across the state. Of the 35 councils statewide, approximately 16–17 were represented. The workshop included four sessions, each followed by table breakout discussions that provided opportunities for productive conversation and collaboration among participants.

Ms. Contreras reported strong participation from the Great Lakes Water Authority and Rochester Hills. Community members from Flint and Detroit also attended; however, neither city's council was represented.

Mr. Jernberg attributed our council's success to its consistent meeting schedule and the strong partnerships it has developed. He noted that Grand Rapids appears to have one of the most active councils in the state and expressed pride in the example the group has set for other councils statewide.

The group discussed the possibility of presenting at next year's workshop on the strong community relationships the Council has developed and its commitment to transparency. Mr. Alvarado noted that it was valuable to learn where other communities are in their processes and to hear about the different approaches being used, including proactive and reactive strategies. The group also discussed the possibility of presenting the Council's successes at next year's AWWA conference.

YTD Lead Service Line Replacements map

Mr. Jernberg reported 818 replacements have been completed from January 1 – August 31, 2026.

The City received a $9 million loan from the State for Fiscal Year 2027, with 10% principal forgiveness. The funding will support approximately 1,000 lead service line replacements.

Lead Service Line Construction Projects

FY2027 projects haven't been reported yet. Ms. Contreras will get the FY27 projects and send a list of those areas to Healthy Homes and GRPS. This will assist with water kit distribution.

Water System Manager

Mr. Jernberg announced that Nick Fisher accepted the position of Water System Manager with the City.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Member Updates

- Mr. Haan asked about available GIS mapping capabilities and whether the current public Lead Service Line Replacement map could be expanded. Additional information on GIS mapping options will be presented at the November meeting.
- Ms. Simmonds reported that she and Ms. Maun co-chair the County's Lead Action Team and have spent the past year rebuilding the group. The team recently held its fall kickoff and welcomed new members representing Priority Health, Blue Care Complete, and the State of Michigan, bringing expertise in clinical services, communications, and community outreach. Ms. Simmonds expressed interest in adding a City representative to the team. Mr. Jernberg will provide her with contact information for the City's Community Services Department to explore participation.
- Ms. Simmonds also reported that the County has realigned its lead-related work so that all activities are now housed within the Environmental Health Division, rather than being divided among multiple areas.
- Mr. Fisher reported that he has been meeting with the various divisions within the Water System and plans to meet with the City's partner communities as well.
- Ms. Contreras stated that the City will be mailing lead notification letters to customers with lead service lines and noted that Healthy Homes may experience an increase in inquiries as a result.

She also reminded members to expect information and an invitation regarding the City's Lead Awareness Proclamation planned for October 27. There may also be an opportunity to provide a brief presentation on the City's lead program as part of the recognition.

- Ms. Maun reported that Healthy Homes will host a Trunk or Treat event on October 29 during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. She encouraged members to share information about other events taking place during the week so Healthy Homes can help promote. Healthy Homes is also hosting a webinar that week and will share the info with members.

  She also reported that she enjoys working with the Lead Action Team that Ms. Simmonds mentioned. She loves the diversity of the team and its collaborative approach, noting the value of supporting one another and working toward shared goals.

- Mr. Mann reported that he is working with Ms. Williams to identify families within Grand Rapids Public Schools who have lead service lines and provide water kits to those households.
- Ms. Williams is planning fall events, including Fall Festival, and will have a table at those events to engage with families.

Next Meeting

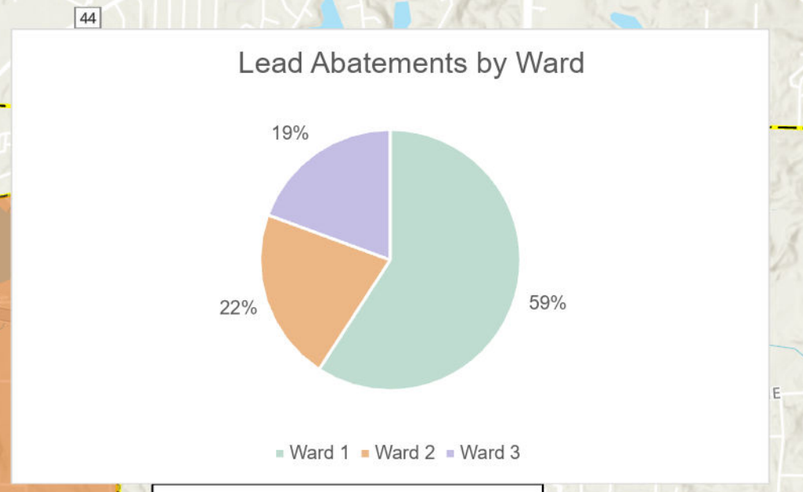
Our next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2026.

Adjournment

Mr. Jernberg adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

January 1st - October 31st, 2026
Lead Service Line Replacements

GRAND RAPIDS Water System



PROJECT TYPE
- Emergency Leak (195)
- Project Replacement (883)

1
2
3

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

N
W E
S

USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

Lead Service Line Replacements

October 31, 2026

Project	Fiscal Year	Private-side LSLRs	Agreements in Hand	Outstanding Agreements	% Agreements in Hand	Contacts per Agreement	Total LSLRs	Neighborhood	Ward	Contractor/Notes
Capital Projects										
2026 Construction Season										
Burton (Division to Kalamazoo)	2025	107	97	9	92%	3.07	141	Garfield Park, East Burton, Alger Heights, Southeast End	1,3	Kamminga & Roodvoets Inc
Jefferson (MLK to Logan)	2026	4	4	0	100%	3.25	4	Southeast End	1,2	
Oakwood (Knapp to 3 Mile)	2026	41	39	2	95%	2.64	89	Creston	2	C&D Hughes
2027 Construction Season										
Buchanan (Stewart to Corrine)	2026	24	22	2	92%	6.00	34	Garfield Park	1	
Buchanan (Corrine to Hall)	2026	6	5	1	83%	8.60	8	Southwest, Garfield Park	1	Diversco
TOTAL		**182**	**167**	**17**	**92%**		**276**			
DWRF Resurfacing Projects										
Resurfacing Public CY2025-1	2025	384	323	61	84%	2.05	419	Various	1,2,3	SPS Pro
Resurfacing Public CY2026-1	2025	236	211	78	89%	0.8	317	Various	1,2,3	Groundhawg Excavating
Resurfacing Public CY2026-2	2025	264	230	80	69%	1.32	330	Various	1,2,3	Groundhawg Excavating
TOTAL		**884**	**764**	**219**	**86%**		**1066**			
Private-Only Projects										
LSLR CY2025-3 Private-Only - Extension	2026	222	181	42	81%	2.93	222	Various	1,2	Brik Plumbing
LSLR CY2025-4 Private-Only - Extension	2026	154	123	31	80%	2.08	154	Various	1	Groundhawg
TOTAL		**376**	**304**	**73**	**81%**		**274**			