



# Minutes

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**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
WATER SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.  
YCUA Administration Building  
2777 State Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-9112**

**Members Present:** Sean Knapp, Scott Westover, Keith Shock, Eric Sizemore, Bryan Reatherford, Aaron Rose, Bonnie Wessler, and Karen Groulx.

**Members Absent:** Luther Blackburn

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Knapp called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS:** Each attendee introduced themselves:

**Sean Knapp** – Director of Service Operations, YCUA

**Keith Schock** – T&D Supervisor, YCUA

**Eric Sizemore** – Water Supervisor, YCUA

**Aaron Rose** – Director of Facilities Management, Ypsilanti Community Schools

**Bryan Reatherford** - Meter/Water Quality Foreman, YCUA

**Bonnie Wessler**, - Department of Public Services Director, City of Ypsilanti

**Karen Groulx** – Executive Administrative Assistant, YCUA

**Scott Westover** – Engineering Manager, YCUA

**A. YCUA Water System Advisory Council (WSAC) Term Limit – Recruitment for New Appointments**

Mr. Knapp advised the purpose of the Water System Advisory Council is to educate and advise the community about lead in our drinking water and other sources of lead exposure. Mr. Knapp advised that YCUA had a recent public notice for two new council members with each member serving a three-year term with a three consecutive term limit. Mr. Knapp also advised that council members must be local residents and not represent the interests of another organization.

Mr. Knapp stated that Keith Jason is going to become a council member. Ms. Wessler and Mr. Rose both advised they would inquire within their respective organization for interest in the council positions.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**B. YCUA Water System Advisory Council (WSAC) Rules Revision re: Meeting Frequency**

Mr. Knapp advised per the EGLE requirements the WSAC should meet a minimum of once a year and our council mandate states WSAC shall meet no less than twice a year. Mr. Knapp proposed we modify our meeting schedule to once per year. Mr. Rose inquired how the council educated the community and what the educational impact would be with fewer meetings. A general discussion regarding past methods and opportunities for education ensued and all agreed to keep the current meeting schedule of twice a year.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Revise Outreach Plan for Advancing Public Awareness About Lead in the Drinking Water – Sean Knapp**

Mr. Knapp shared information on the public awareness outreach plan explaining how residents are able to take pictures and self report information on their home and the water lines coming in directly to YCUA on the website. Mr. Knapp explained that as a part of the August 19, 2023, Bicentennial celebration QR codes along with other information will be provided to customers touring the Stone Tower to assist YCUA with lead service pipe identification.

Mr. Knapp confirmed YCUA is working towards 100% of service lines fully identified by EGLE's deadline of January 1, 2025. Mr. Knapp advised that the majority of the unknown service lines are in the City and are single and multifamily residential lines. Ms. Wessler suggested YCUA might be able to work with the City's Rental Inspection team to assist in service line identification.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**B. 2023 Service Line Replacements – Eric Sizemore**

Mr. Sizemore advised that YCUA must replace all lead and galvanized service lines during a twenty year period of which this is year three. Mr. Sizemore advised that YCUA must complete the work on both the private side and the municipality side. There are 143 known lead service lines and 43 known galvanized lines to be replaced. Mr. Sizemore explained, year-

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to-date, staff has replaced 17 lead services. Mr. Sizemore stated that in 2021, 20 lead service lines were replaced and in 2022, 67 lead service lines were replaced. He explained water sampling needs to occur within 30 days after the replacement of the lead service lines. Mr. Sizemore also advised that during the replacement of the service lines, customers are provided with information on flushing and sampling, and provided a filter if needed.

Mr. Sizemore advised the Authority is required to replace 5% of known lead service lines per year per the LCR. He added that YCUA's number of lead service lines changes constantly as new lead service lines are identified.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**C. EGLE Service Line Identification Guidance – Eric Sizemore**

Mr. Sizemore advised that 300 service lines were identified last year and this YCUA must verify 2,500 service lines by January 1, 2025, using a three point verification. Mr. Sizemore explained the process used in these identifications, which involves vactoring 18 inches on both sides of the curb box (the water shut-off to the home). The process was then discussed further.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**D. PFAS– Sean Knapp**

Mr. Knapp advised that PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are man-made substances used in manufacturing that are water resistant and never breakdown. Mr. Knapp explained that the Great Lake Water Authority (GLWA) has been testing for PFAS in the water supply since 2009 with only negative test results which can be viewed at [www.glwater.org](http://www.glwater.org). Mr. Knapp advised YCUA receives all water from GLWA's Springwells and Southwest Water Treatment Plants with all of GLWA's water intake being under the surface level of the water while the PFAS would settle on top of the water as a very bright white foam.

Mr. Knapp advised Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Five (UCMR5) designates PFAS as a contaminant which YCUA will be testing for in August-September of 2024 per UCMR5. Mr. Knapp explained the PFAS test is measured in nanograms which he compared to looking for a single grain of salt in an Olympic sized swimming pool.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

**E. Guidance on Reducing Your Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water – Bryan Reatherford**

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Mr. Reatherford provided guidance on reducing lead exposure in drinking water from EGLE. Mr. Reatherford advised there were several ways to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water including:

- i. Run the water before drinking it as the longer water sits stagnant in the pipes, the greater the chance that lead has leached into it.
- ii. Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Boiling will NOT remove lead.
- iii. Clean faucet aerators as this routine maintenance every six months will reduce lead exposure.
- iv. Point of use filters, maintained and replaced per manufacturer directions.
- v. Consider replacement of any plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead such as older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014, which can contain higher levels of lead even if they are labeled lead-free.

Informational only; no motion from the council required.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments for the month.
5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Knapp to adjourn the meeting at 3:42 p.m. In favor: All. Opposed: None. (Motion carried.)



Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Groulx, Executive Administrative Assistant