



Michigan Water Asset Management Council

August 30, 2021

Dear Asset Owners:

SUBJECT: Asset Management Plan Template and Schedule

Why am I receiving this letter?

You are receiving this letter as the person on record with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for future compliance with recent infrastructure legislation. If you believe another person or position in your organization is responsible for asset management reporting and should receive future instructions, please contact us at EGLE-WAMC@Michigan.gov.

What is the statutory requirement?

Part 50, Water Asset Management Council, 2018 PA 324, required the Water Asset Management Council (WAMC) to develop a template or templates by October 1, 2019, that contain requirements for information to be included in an Asset Management Plan (AMP) submitted under Section 5004. The statute also establishes a schedule for submission of AMP templates that ensures 1/3 of asset owners submit an AMP each year. Submittals will be starting September 8, 2021, through January 31, 2022. There is a webinar scheduled for September 8, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. to provide additional instructions and information, with time to answer questions. You can register for the webinar on the WAMC website (www.michigan.gov/wamc).

In plain language, what do I have to do?

In simple terms, the requirements mentioned above for AMP and template submittal will be considered fulfilled by you completing a short Survey Monkey form that is being used as the submittal portal. The remainder of this letter will refer to your submittal obligation as the "AMP survey."

The WAMC has worked diligently with several stakeholders to develop three separate AMP surveys for water, wastewater, and stormwater asset owners. The WAMC has identified over 850 asset owners that are required to submit AMP surveys under the WAMC legislation. On August 22, 2019, the WAMC approved the survey questions and identified the first 1/3 of systems for AMP survey submittal. The survey questions are very short answer or multiple choice. Questions, to name a few, will include total miles of infrastructure, available condition information, and estimated replacement value. Average cost tables will be provided for the estimated replacement value, with guidance documents for those who do not have their own methodology.

No detailed data or information uploads are necessary, and system operators who are members of the WAMC found that it took 1-2 hours to complete the survey, depending on system size and uniformity of data collected in their AMP. The approved surveys will be available on the WAMC website (www.michigan.gov/wamc) on September 8, 2021. The number of questions on the survey range from 21 to 27 depending on utility type.

We understand that this is a new process, and we will continue to take input and communicate adjustments. If you have any questions, please reference our website at www.michigan.gov/wamc for posted material, which will include webinar materials being held on September 8, or contact us at EGLE-WAMC@Michigan.gov.

How do I benefit?

The benefit or value proposal to you is based on the WAMC's statutory obligation to provide high level summary information on the current state of water infrastructure, spending patterns, and funding needs, as well as other support needed at the local level. The initial audience is the Governor's office and the Legislature, and applicants will also be provided with a link to the annual report for their own use. You may further benefit by sharing your own responses with your budget decision-makers—for example, do they know the replacement value of your infrastructure or what you do and don't know about the condition of your system?

The WAMC was specifically set up, like the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) for roads and bridges, as a non-partisan information clearinghouse in order to present facts and needs to those responsible for our state's budget. Local agencies started implementing asset management to also help demonstrate risks, plans of action, and needs to local decision-makers. Over time, this information will be relied on as the best source and will greatly assist the organizations your community may work with to advocate for supplements to local resources.

The process for submitting AMP surveys will begin on September 8, 2021, with the first 1/3 of systems for AMP survey submittal identified in this letter. The WAMC will use the information derived from these AMP surveys to annually submit to the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) a report each May (starting in 2022) on asset condition and investment that includes a summary analysis of the AMP surveys received from drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater asset owners. The report shall also include recommendations on drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater condition goals with an analysis of how the utilities are meeting these goals and, similar to the TAMC, what training and support should be provided to system operators in the coming year.

What will happen next?

A January 30, 2022, deadline is anticipated for the first 1/3 of systems, with October/January milestones anticipated for future years. Once you have done your part, the AMP surveys must be reviewed by the WAMC within six months of receipt. As noted above, the WAMC will then issue an annual report. Based on the AMP surveys, the WAMC is also obligated to determine if the AMPs are in compliance with the statute, notifying any entities of deficiencies, patterns, or general issues affecting multiple communities with compliance in the annual report. As previously mentioned, training is planned to review guidance documents, survey instructions, and questions that may arise.

If you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to bring them to the attention of any member of the WAMC or to the contact email noted above so we may issue you a response. We thank you for your continued efforts in asset management.

Sincerely,

Sue McCormick, Chair
Water Asset Management Council

cc: WAMC Members