



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

Water Asset Management Council Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Sue McCormick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum established

II. Attendance

Roll Call – Bob Schneider

Members Present:

Aaron Keatley, Ionia County
Scott Noesen, in Midland County
Scott House, Vice Chair, in East Lansing
Cameron Van Wyngarden, Kent County
Jane Fitzpatrick, City of Saginaw
Sue McCormick, Chair, in Wayne County
Carrie Cox, in Oakland County
Randy Scott, in Delta County
Evan Pratt, in Scio Township, Washtenaw County
Suzanne Pauley, in Clinton County

Support Staff Present:

Bob Schneider, EGLE

III. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

WAMC Members

Motion: Scott Noesen made a motion to approve the minutes with changes; Scott House seconded the motion. Bob Schneider noted that the next meeting date was incorrect and would be changed. The motion was approved by all members present.

IV. Approval of Agenda

WAMC Members

Motion: Scott House made a motion to approve the agenda; Carrie Cox seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members present.

V. Public Comment

VI. MIC Update

Amber Hicks

Amber Hicks announced the MIC public portal was now live. The portal has been well received with approximately 10,000 projects listed. The MIC also launched the Asset Management Champion program on April 15, 2021. A new MIC executive director has been announced and will be taking over Jessica Moy's duties beginning May 3, 2021.

VII. Discussion on the value-added proposition of the survey

Scott House was wondering how we entice asset owners to participate in the survey effort. How does the WAMC work collaboratively with other organizations? What support can the WAMC expect? Cameron Van Wyngarden was wondering what support we will get from EGLE? Is the survey the best route? Evan Pratt's concern is what is WAMC's game plan? Jane Fitzpatrick thinks it might be time for the WAMC to become more visible. Scott Noesen felt there is a sense of urgency with the new ARP funds coming into the state. Can these funds be used for WAMC's initiatives? Aaron Keatley wanted to reinforce EGLE's commitment to the WAMC, however EGLE funding is limited. How do we use the WAMC to compliment EGLE's asset management initiatives? Sue McCormick wondered how we can bring asset visibility to the public? How can we take the data from the EGLE asset management plans and provide a comprehensive picture of the state of asset conditions throughout the state?

It was determined that the survey does provide some value in the short term. The WAMC would proceed with the survey.

VIII. Review of Webinar format and production details

WAMC Members

Carrie Cox stated the question for an asset owner to answer is "why should I complete the survey" and "what will the WAMC do with the information". The webinar will be an opportunity for the WAMC to talk on the importance of asset management. There will be a slide component, a discussion component, and a Q&A component. Three to five sections that will discuss the who, why, how and when of the survey.

IX. Approval of surveys, guidance and mailing lists

WAMC Members

Motion: Evan Pratt made a motion to go forward with the surveys, guidance and mailing list; Cameron Van Wyngarden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members present.

Sue McCormick asked that the mailing list be reviewed for GLWA inclusion.

X. Discuss format for review of incoming surveys

WAMC members

There was a question on how we would handle those asset owners that do not respond. Evan Pratt suggested there might be a follow up letter requesting participation. Sue McCormick stated that part of the WAMC reporting might be to identify the response rate. Scott House stressed the need to share the good news. It was also suggested the MIC might provide some suggestions on data interpretation following their Readiness Scale efforts.

XI. Approval of WAMC Annual Report

WAMC Members

Evan Pratt felt that the Annual Report did not address funding needs and might provide more clarity on all asset categories in the state and not just linear assets. Cameron Van Wyngarden felt the report did not accurately reflect all the challenges facing the WAMC and asset owners in the state. Carrie Cox suggested the table of WAMC members might better include term expiration dates instead of term length. Several additional items were recommended to be addressed in the report. It was determined the WAMC would review a revised report at the next meeting.

XII. Discussion on updating WAMC bylaws

WAMC members

Cameron Van Wyngarden suggested there are several items in the bylaws that could be revised. Items would be brought forward at the next meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

Sue McCormick, Chair

Scott House stated that he would be entering military active duty in June and may or may not be able to continue as a WAMC council member and would have more information at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 27, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

TBD

Water Asset Management Council Meeting Agenda

Page 2

April 22, 2021