

Lead Service Line Replacement Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Financing Work Group
March 16, 2023
Webex Webinar or In-person at Illinois EPA Headquarters

The Lead Service Line Replacement Advisory Board (Board) Financing Work Group was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. with the following members:

Todd LaFountain, Water Division Manager, City of Springfield CWLP (absent)
Brad Cole, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League (present)
Kyle Saunders, Public Works Director, City of Rockford (absent)
Jason Bauer, Assistant City Engineer, City of Aurora (present)
Justin Williams, Metropolitan Planning Council (absent)
Paul Hinterlong, Councilman, City of Naperville (present)
Africa, Associate Director, Illinois Department of Revenue (present)
Briana Parker, Elevate Energy (present)
Anna-Lisa Castle, Policy Director, Clean Water & Equity, Alliance for the Great Lakes (present)
Iyana Simba, Illinois Environmental Council (present)
Darrell King, Policy Director, Clean Water & Equity, Alliance for the Great Lakes (present)
Brenda Santoyo, LVEJO (present)

Others attending (on-line):

Jeff Guy, Illinois EPA
Gary Bingenheimer, Illinois EPA

Jeff Guy took a roll call of Board members present.

Brad Cole made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes from the previous Financing Work Group meeting on March 9, 2023. This motion was seconded by Paul Hinterlong, and the draft meeting minutes were adopted by a unanimous vote.

Summary of Discussion:

Jeff Guy clarified that funding options presented via email by group members are available as a PDF document, entitled Funding Options (shared on screen), and that the group should review these options with a goal of completion of a draft report summarizing these options by April 5, 2023. Jeff Guy also briefly discussed some upcoming meeting dates. Africa agreed to proceed with reviewing the funding options in detail.

Brad Cole stated that himself, Justin Williams, and Africa have volunteered to coordinate the final language from the Technical and Financial Work Groups that is going to be put together in the report, and asked who would be putting the information together from the Financial Work Group. Brad Cole stated that the information from the two Work Groups would be compiled by the three volunteers into a report to be shared with the full Board. Africa agreed with Brad Cole's proposed approach.

Justin Williams questioned upcoming deadlines and Jeff Guy shared the screen that included a summary of pertinent dates. Brad Cole proposed that the two Work Groups produce documents with recommendations, and the three volunteers will put together an overall recommendation to be presented to the full Board.

Justin Williams volunteered to compile the information from the Financing Work Group. Anna-Lisa Castle also volunteered to help along with Jason Bauer and Iyana Simba.

Paul Hinterlong asked for clarification from Brad Cole regarding the report, and Brad Cole stated that he is offering to organize and distribute the report but not write the report. Jeff Guy stated that the draft report would be shared with the full Board.

Anna-Lisa Castle asked if the final report would be branded by Illinois Municipal League (IML) and asked who the audience would be, and Brad Cole said that the report would not be an IML document – it would be a Board document with the audience being the General Assembly (statutory requirement).

Jeff Guy asked who would lead the newly established sub-group (Financing Work Group 2) and how the process would work. Jason Bauer asked about the limit of workers who could work off-line. A brief discussion followed. Paul Hinterlong stated that there may be some agreements and disagreements regarding the content of a report, which should be considered.

Jeff Guy suggested scrolling through the Funding Options PDF document, which was shared on the screen, and clarified that the document is representative of all emails received regarding the funding options. Jeff Guy began scrolling through the document.

Paul Hinterlong commented on Page 1 of the PDF document and stated that he is not in favor of a property tax increase on the local level. Brad Cole agreed and asked if the potential funding sources are considered options that can be considered or recommendations that should be done. A brief discussion between Mr. Hinterlong, Mr. Cole, and Justin Williams followed. Justin Williams stated that the report should focus on the options and include a discussion on each option. Africa stated that viable options should be presented based on the statute. Jason Bauer stated that an evaluation of the options requires five or six criteria that need to be evaluated pursuant to the statute. Anna-Lisa Castle suggested that the group present all options as required by statute, and asked about using 'Google Doc' for the process. Justin Williams agreed that the process should be determined first before going through the PDF document, and suggested working with the group to solicit feedback - while established deadlines.

Justin Williams asked Jeff Guy if there is a viable format (e.g., SharePoint, Google Doc, Dropbox, etc.) that can be used for the process. Jeff Guy stated that any findings from the smaller group should be shared with the larger group. Gary Bingenheimer stated that the group should do whatever works best. Brad Cole stated that the Financing Work Group must approve the work of the smaller group, so the need for another meeting was then discussed.

The deadline of April 5, 2023 was discussed briefly. This is the tentative deadline for both Work Group to submit reports to Brad Cole, Justin Williams, and Africa – for development of the main report. Justin Williams stated that the April 5, 2023 did not seem realistic due to the amount of coordination needed and suggested an email vote from the group in regards to the Financing Work Group report – followed by another meeting. Anna-Lisa Castle again discussed the possibility of creating a sharable document that can be edited by the group (if there isn't time for another meeting), with any conflicts being resolved digitally or possibly by another meeting. Brad Cole stated that the final report deadline (June 30, 2023) may not be met, and that a schedule should not be forced.

Brad Cole said that the tentative deadline to have reports from both Work Groups is about April 12, 2023. Justin Williams suggested another meeting for the Financing Work Group on April 6, 2023 to discuss the draft report developed by the four Financing Work Group report compilers with any feedback/changes submitted back to the report compilers by April 10, 2023 – with a final draft report submitted to Brad Cole, Africa, and Justin Williams by April 12, 2023. A discussion regarding deadlines and upcoming meetings (including the larger Board meeting) followed, and the group agreed with the dates proposed by Justin Williams (April 6, 2023, April 10, 2023, and April 12, 2023). The group agreed that the next Financing Work Group meeting be scheduled for April 6, 2023. The next main Board meeting will occur on April 19, 2023 as planned, with another main Board meeting on May 31, 2023.

Africa mentioned the six items in the statute and asked how they would be considered. Jason Bauer said that the report should touch on all topics, although Justin Williams mentioned that there will need to be some amount of flexibility for the report compilers because the current revenue generation potential is unknown. Anna-Lisa Castle agreed that the report should clearly reference each of the items (e.g., addressing in narrative form).

There were no comments from the public. Paul Hinterlong made a motion to close the meeting. This motion was seconded by Justin Williams. The Financing Work Group meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:29 p.m.

The meeting recording and other pertinent documents are available on the Illinois EPA [Lead Service Line Replacement Advisory Board webpage](#).