**WSAC Meeting Minutes for 02-20-2024**

**Faith Groesbeck**, Manager of the Office of Public Health, City of Flint, was present to record the audio and video.
**Laura Erwin-Hall**, Public Navigator and Communications Specialist of the Office of Public Health, City of Flint, was present to take minutes and do roll call.
**Scott Dungee**, Water Plant Supervisor, City of Flint, was present to provide information regarding the water plant and water testing.
**Dominic Smoot**: City of Flint Water Treatment Plant Employee, was present to provide entry assistance.

**The meeting was called to order at 5:38pm.

Dr. Pauli:** Thanks to Scott Dungee for offering to hold the meeting at the Water Plant. At the height of the water crisis this building became “closed off” compared to what it had been in the past. I hope this building becomes more open in the future since it is the public’s water plant. It is my hope to start to change the public’s perspective. It’s become very hard to book space in the library as space is booked months out. It’s nice to know the water plant is an option. We have an opportunity to make this more known to the public. If we need to take further steps to make sure the public at large is comfortable here, we can take steps to make that happen.

**Roll Call and brief description of oneself:
WSAC members in attendance:**
**Dr. Benjamen Pauli**, Member of WSAC. Resident of the 7th ward. Assistant Professor of Social Science at Kettering University. My roll here is to facilitate. I have no special authority.
**Nayyirah Shariff**: Member of WSAC and City of Flint Resident, Ward 6.
**Dr. Nancy Love**, Member of WSAC. Professor, but not a Flint city resident. I am here to offer my technical expertise.
**Dr. Shawn McMurray**: Member of WSAC. Professor at Wayne State University. I am not a Flint City resident; however, like Nancy Love I am here to offer my technical assistance.
**Ms. Gina Smith**, City of Flint Resident, born and raised in Flint. Her background is in the Public Health Area.

**City of Flint Residents in Attendance:
Brandon McVay**, City of Flint Water Plant employee.
**Arthur Woodson**, grew up in Flint and is currently Flint City Resident.
**Elizabeth Jordan**, Flint resident.
**Carroll Kincaid**: Born in Flint and spent 66 of her 74 years living in Flint.
**Diane Russell**: Has lived in Genesee County from February 2016 since the order of emergency was signed. She is part of the Environmental Justice Staff and an office of one. “If you knock on doors long enough, someone will open.” I’m here to speak on resources.

**Approval of the Agenda: 5:50pm**

**Public Comment and Concern:**
**Elizabeth Jordan from Woodcroft Neighborhood.**
Empties out into the Swartz Creek Golf Course area.
I moved into my neighborhood a little over two years ago. As soon as the Miller Rd. project was finished, there has been problems with storm water. My house has flooded six times in the last nine months.
I have had several conversations with the Mayor and the Water Department. I’ve provided a Google map to the sewer department with all the known points with issues. The city should do a capital improvement plan once per year. My sewer and storm water lines are combined. Some of what comes up in my basement is sewer. Parkside and Hampton collect at the bottom of the hill and then the water flows toward the golf course.
**Dr. Paulie:** Scott and Brandon, I know you are not from the sewer and storm lines side; however, can we help her with connecting to the proper people?
**Scott Dungee:** Jiggy would probably be the correct person to speak to this. Scott will ask Jiggy to attend the WSAC meeting in May.

**The Flint Water System Safety:
Arthur** **Woodson**: I don’t feel like our system is safe. We have not been testing for Legionnaire’s Disease, chlorine residuals, we have not been flushing our hydrants, do we need to still use the faucet filters systems?
**Scott Dungee**: We are still asking residents to use the filters, just because we are adding so much chlorine.

**Arthur:** $2.8 million spent of ARPA monies to fix the
**Faith:** Has this been approved?
**Arthur:** Yes. Eagle thought it had to be approved by the City Council; however, they found that it already had been, so the Mayor was able to sign.
**Sheree Meyers** came to City Council and spoke about the sewer and storm lines. She stated there is about $80 million that will be used to repair the sewer and storm water systems.
 **Arthur**: I asked Mike Brown, “why are you not billing Burton, MI for using our sewer systems?”
**Dr. Pauli**:
**Sewer lines**. They are not charged. I asked why they are not charged and I haven’t received an answer.
**Arthur:** For example AJAX. They have two addresses. One is in the City of Flint and one is in Genesee Township. They are using the Flint address and not being charged.
**Diane Russell:** National Pollution Discharge System: NPDES.
**Arthur:** Last week at City Council they brought a resolution concerning DPW. 14 things were changed in the job description; however, they said they were changing only 9 points. The five points they took out were the most important. Why would we accept less than what we need? We are already vulnerable with our water, sewer systems,
Nayyirah Shariff: We need to partner with colleges and universities to show that
Gina Smith: There are ways to present a job description. If it is stated as required qualifications and preferred qualifications.
Carroll Kincaid: If I applied to a position of high profile I would have an escape plan.
Shawn Mc: This is a problem across the country. Many municipalities are experiencing the same type of issues. Not enough people with the correct licensures.
Nancy Love: This problem is a national problem. The
**Arthur**: Chlorine residuals were being tested. MDHHS was the last to check our system a couple years ago. I don’t think it’s fixed. We have not tested for Legionnaires, bacteria. What, besides lead, copper is in our water? I don’t feel our water is safe. Are we REQUIRED to use the filters on our faucets?
**Scott:** It is not required; however, we would like the public to use the filters just in case there’s something kicked back due to lead lines still being changed out. Are there any health issues for ortho-phosphates being in our water for so long? We have been adding ortho-phosphates for over 8 years.
Why do we have barium in our water when it’s not in the water coming from Detroit.
**Scott**: KWA has many different water plants that feeds it.
**Arthur:** Is Barium dangerous? Lockhart was dumping Barium.

**Dr. Paulie:** Arthur, I don’t want to cut you off; however, maybe we can discuss this as part of our CCR.
**Dr Shawn McMurray:** Scott: Can you please give us more details ahead of the next meeting? “
**Nayyirah Shariff**: I would like to see that happen too. It would help us have a more intelligent conversation the night of the meeting.

**Dr. Paulie:** We have had a couple of applications for quite some time. They are moving forward. Faith and I have had a discussion of who else should be at the table on the WSAC. I would like to see younger members of the community.
**Carroll Kincaid:** Recruit youths from the water lab on MLK.
**Nayyirah:** Can we have people under 18 years of age participating in the WSAC? If so, is there a way to circumvent all the bureaucracy?
**Arthur:** We could have a “junior” member.

**Update on EPA Region 5 facilitation assistance offer:
Diane Russell:** The first contract was approved; however, it’s been shelved. This short-term contract is good now until July.
**Dr. Pauli:** Perhaps they can provide us more support to give us more of what we need. If we’re not getting what we need, we can always walk away before the six months is up.
**Dr. McMurray:** Why can’t we ask them to meet all the bullet points?
**Dr. Love** moved to accept the interim contract presented by Diane Russell, EPA.
**Dr. McMurray**: Seconded.
**All in favor**: 5-0

**CCR:
Dr. Pauli:** We would like to ask the community what they would like to see. How would they like the CCR laid out? What would they like to see included in the CCR? Clyde was concerned that the WSAC was going to make a bunch of big changes and would then not be able implement in time.
One of the recommendations was to change the look of the CCR and it is in process already. Next year we will be able to make a few more large changes, but they will not be willing to make them this year.
**Gina Smith:** It seems the same as was set last year. It would be nice to take a “phase approach”. Make data tables. Let’s have a summary at the end. Also, let’s have an acronym dictionary.
**Nayyirah:**  What happened to the “plain” language?
**Carroll:** We also need to translate into other languages. Contact ……For more information.
**Dr. Pauli**: There are thresholds of recommended percentages of translations into other languages.
**Scott**: RFP goes out March 1. If we don’t want to make any changes, then we can send the RFP out now.
**Nayyirah**: The new rules go into affect March 2025.
**Gina**: Can we start making changes now?
**Dr. Love**: Information sessions. What are the questions from the community? I’m very interested and volunteer to be a part of this. Nothing is more important than having the community informed. Ann Arbor does a newsletter on top of the CCR. It may not be as helpful and the information sessions, but it does help.
**Dr. Paulie**: Would like to see the CCR have a little of an overview to let the community know what is going on at the water plant, especially if we’re getting help with some parts, such as a web site.
**Dr. Love**: We need to plan an information session right after the CCR comes out.
**Dr. Paulie**: We should plan that for this summer so that we can find out what the community wants.
**Dr. Love**: Can we keep the notion of an event in the forefront?
**Dr. Love and Carroll** volunteered for a sub-committee to organize information sessions.
**Diane Russell**: I’m concerned a little with the timing. We could be running into the end of the interim contract.

**Agenda Setting/Scheduling of Future Meetings:
Dr. Paulie:** Next meeting about CCR:
**Arthur:** EPA: Said we had to downsize the system. Whatever happened to that conversation?
**Scott:** I will ask Jiggy to be here at the next meeting.