

Board of Water Commissioners

David Bogdala, Chairman
Bill Siel, Vice-Chairman
Anthony Kennedy
Dave Mau
Jack Rose
Dominic Ruffalo



Curtis Czarnecki
General Manager

4401 Green Bay Road
Kenosha, WI 53144
Phone (262) 653-4300
Fax (262) 653-4303

“Providing and Protecting Kenosha’s Greatest Natural Resource”

Kenosha receives additional funding for Lead Service Line replacement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2023

For Further Information Contact:

Curtis Czarnecki
Kenosha Water Utility General Manager
T: 262-653-4306

KENOSHA – The City of Kenosha has been awarded additional funding to help support the private lead service line replacement program. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) was able to provide financial assistance to local municipalities to help support the local lead service line replacement initiatives. Through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) the WDNR was able to provide principal forgiveness loans to cover the full replacement cost of privately owned lead water service lines for the 2021 and 2022 State Fiscal Years (SFY). Kenosha was awarded \$1,950,000 and \$2,154,125 in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Recently Kenosha was awarded an additional \$270,000 of 2022 SFY funds that were not fully utilized by other municipalities. This will provide for the replacement of between 45 and 55 additional privately owned lead service lines within the community.

The City of Kenosha and the Kenosha Water Utility have been leaders as it relates to lead service line replacement activities. The Kenosha Water Utility was the first public utility in the State of Wisconsin to take advantage of the legislation included in 2017 Wisconsin Act 137 which allowed a utility to help fund replacement of privately-owned lead services lines by providing grants and loans by way of retail user rates. This funding mechanism combined with the \$4,374,125 in SDWLP funding provided through the State has allowed Kenosha to accelerate the local lead service line replacement program.

These industry leading initiatives have now been recognized on both a state and federal level. Kenosha was recently invited by the Biden-Harris Administration to attend the White House Summit on Accelerating Lead Pipe Replacements. The summit was hosted by Vice President Harris and brought together state and local officials, along with water utility, labor union and nongovernmental partners to discuss reducing risks to public health posed by lead pipes.

In addition to participation in the summit, Kenosha has been invited as a member of the Biden-Harris Get the Lead Out Partnership. This innovative partnership is intended to leverage existing efforts and funding to meet the Administration’s commitment to accelerate the replacement of lead pipes by the end of the decade. The goal is to generate a framework of health-based justice-centered principles of lead service



Board of Water Commissioners

David Bogdala, Chairman
Bill Siel, Vice-Chairman
Anthony Kennedy
Dave Mau
Jack Rose
Dominic Ruffalo



Curtis Czarnecki
General Manager

4401 Green Bay Road
Kenosha, WI 53144
Phone (262) 653-4300
Fax (262) 653-4303

“Providing and Protecting Kenosha’s Greatest Natural Resource”

line replacement and work together to identify new opportunities, resources, and actions that together will accelerate the lead service line replacement activities.

Finally, Kenosha was also recently notified that our community was selected as one of 40 communities throughout the nation invited to participate in the recently announced Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerator program being administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA and its state partners will work with 40 communities in 2023 to address existing barriers and accelerate progress towards lead service line identification and replacement. This initiative will include the development of tools and case studies to facilitate knowledge transfer and sharing of best practices between EPA, state and tribal programs, water system managers, and community leaders. The accelerators will support the development of community engagement plans, lead service line inventories, lead service line replacement plans and State Revolving Fund (SRF) funding applications.

Alderman David Bogdala, Chairman of the Water Utility, stated "We are very grateful for the additional funding to allow us to continue our campaign to 'Get The Lead Out'. Kenosha continues to demonstrate its leadership in this critical area not just in Wisconsin, but across the country. This is a testament to the hard work and leadership the Kenosha Water Utility exhibits on a daily basis to deliver good, clean, and safe drinking water to all our customers."