

Transcript

March 7, 2025, 3:32PM

□ **Carlton, John (EEC)** started transcription

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 0:03

I'm trying to send it out right now.

I have.

I have two credit, one for Sarah and I gave it to her.

30 minutes.

I mean, was she someone from?

It is.

Hey Cortana.

I.

TR **Todd Ritter** 3:13

Hey buddy.

How are you?

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 3:16

Right, right.

OK.

Sorry for the a little bit of a late start, but welcome.

This is a nice tool.

Tell everybody. Turn if everybody could mute your mic, that are happen to be joining us online, that would be helpful.

And because we will be recording the meeting if you speak in the wrong court on the on the uh online team, please make sure to identify yourself so that we know that the recording is speaking.

Thank you guys for being here. I think this is as many people as we've had back in our room since COVID.

That's nice.

So flu is going around how we treat.

So anyway, thank you.

Thank you for joining today and thank you for for making the time to be here. Sorry for the late start. As you can see we all survived the tornado drill, so it's all good. Umm, and you'll be glad that we didn't do that while you were here.

JB **Jason Baird** 4:23
Two years.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 4:24
I I know that our meeting is scheduled till 12:30.
I intend to try to wrap this up by 12:00, so that is that's my intention.
But of course we don't want to to shut down any good conversations.
So I'm gonna start with.
I guess the approval of minutes, anybody have changes or amendments to the Minutes that were sent out by John Carlson?

MS **Mindy Scott** 4:58
Yes, thank you.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 5:02
There are changes to the minutes needed.
OK.
All right, so.
We will.
Approve minutes. Is there a motion from the core committee?
I make a motion 2nd.
Works name all right.
All right. OK.
We're kinda getting things.
Maybe a second out of order here.
Let me check through the list of who we've got here. If you'll just answer Brian Bingham.
Rick shireman.
Chris bobe.
Peterson.

CB **Chris Bobay** 5:55

Yeah, here.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 5:58

Pierre Guillos pier.

0.

James Noel.

Jennifer Burt.

Joan gaboni.

John Webb.

Kay Sandbord Pierre Kim Paget.

LJ Turner.

Linda bridwell.

Mark Hall.

Russell rose.

Sandy Williams.

EPA call right now.

100%, You're here for Sandy.

Got your registered next on the list. Russell Neal. Scott trace.

Scott Young here. Valerie Lucas here. Richard Kress or Judith or John Rudolph?

All right, all right.

RJ **Rudolph, John (CHFS DPH DPQI)** 7:06

I'm here.

Sorry John Rudolph here.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 7:08

OK.

Good deal. Thank you, John.

OK.

We have these giant list of committees that we will have people take a look at and add your information for the committees that you are sitting on.

We will not go back through them again because that is that is too tedious intensive at this point.

We've been through it for so many.

Will just add your emails, your phone numbers.

To this to the spreadsheet.

Are we just gonna sit this around, John?

Yes, it's that one right here. You've got one there to sit around, OK.

So we have a lot of good participation and I'm excited about that.

I was able to visit with Kentucky League of Cities and.

Get some additional participation on some committees, so that'll be good to spread that out a little bit across the state.

And so we.

We will get those committees going.

We'll have some good assignments there and one thing I would ask is that committee chairs, please notify John Carlton when you intend to have a meeting.

We'd like to keep track of those committee meetings and perhaps put them online so people know when they're heard and and we'll look for good reports coming out of our committees going forward.

I know some of you are meeting regularly as it is.

John, did you want to?

You want to go ahead and address the regular meeting schedule.

Yes, everybody's got that in the e-mail. It's.

I pull up computer.

Has everybody seen the dates that are established for 2025?

Are there any firm objections?

Big conflicts for that meeting.

Schedule that if I swear March 7th today, June 13, September 12th and December 5th.

What is 8/8?

It's it's that Wednesday, Thursday, OK. And these are all Fridays.

So will that conflict with no. OK.

All right, 12 desk complete with the awrs imposing.

I need to adjust that one the sound played with with the water bubbles too.

Yeah, that's in New Orleans.

Is good water.

There'll be several problems, OK.

So it sounds like we have a couple of conflicts to consider and we wanna make sure

that we have as much participation as possible, so.

I have an conflict.

That's that's not what I meant though.

Yeah. So.

My challenge.

So I'm sending this subcommittee's e-mail right now.

OK.

So let's do this. If you know of, especially if it's an industry event that is in conflict with one of these states, go ahead and e-mail John Carlson and we will revise that list of states to ensure that we have as much participation as possible. We don't believe. Anybody else? So we'll revise that and get it back out. And then probably another month, but we'll try to avoid those things and as much as we can to keep the larger events on our calendar as well. So that we know when we're scheduling that we don't have.

An issue that's.

That is.

That's important too.

So the next thing on the agenda is the approval of committee member list. I'm gonna table this because I feel like I want to make sure that people have their information correct and have one more chance to go through the list. As I found out at at K.

League of Cities Scott didn't necessarily want to be on every committee that I put in, so I just figured he was a great.

Participant and so feel free to edit.

Take yourself off of you, over.

You know, the last time you were here and you don't wanna be on every single committee or any such thing.

So we're gonna table that.

We'll come back to it when we can send out like list.

Coordination for drinking water at the Commonwealth publication.

This is something that we discussed in the last meeting. I kind of threw it out there, but this is a goal of mine and I've had a little bit more time to think about it and I've had a chance to talk with some people about it as well.

This is not something that's being aired out over the others, so I want to make that clear.

I think there might have been some confusion.

This is something that I would like to provide to the governor's office.

This is something I'd like to be able to provide to our legislators that tell them in a very explicit, pointed and meaningful way, how important water is to this state.

I want to focus on drinking water in this iteration.

Perhaps we want to give the water alternate or West water alternately.

But I want to focus on drinking water this time.

And what I'm hoping for is some organizations or groups that have specific expertise in perhaps the development of materials.

So we have a professional looking thing coming out of this committee.

We can do it here in House, but if other people would like to contribute that set of skills to this effort, that would be helpful.

I would like to think about what sections we want to talk about, like what are the topics that we really want to drill down on.

And I hope that you all saw that in Newsweek.

We were highlighted as the state that had the third. We were third for lowest self ex violations in this country and the first was Hawaii.

They had two health based violations.

I bet they've never had a DPP.

Their water age is 30 minutes.

So I figure we're doing OK in Delaware.

I mean, come on. That's Madison County, right?

So we're doing OK and if you if you divide the the number of health based violations by population, we have the lowest in the continental United States and that is outstanding.

And I will say because.

I hopefully the drinking water branch in the past and we've had a wonderful leader until recently drinking water branch.

I promise you, nobody's sliding back.

Violations are issued when appropriate.

We've worked very hard on the on the way that we measure compliance and I'm very proud of that number because I feel like I feel like we can stand behind it 100%.

So anyone that pumps water in from the Ohio River and has 137 service water systems, you know, in this part of the country that can boast that kind of compliance, I mean, kudos to all y'all it is the systems it, it's the organizations and people.

That is systems that this.

Speaks to it's not us.

We just, we're just.

We just check boxes. Umm, we do checkpoint 'cause. I don't wanna. I don't wanna take it down that low.

We do provide a lot of support and I'm really, really proud of the of the role that we have in that, but actually to to the people that are making it happen out there.

So thank you guys for that.

That is something that we will wanna put highlight in the strength of our report, I imagine.

And so similarly in 2023, we had the same type of.

Note to our record that we had the lowest health rates violations in the United States and then also there was a a second report that was about best water in the nation.

And I think it was primarily a survey of local water customers because it was systems that.

Were set task, so either way Kentucky is on the map for great water and I think that they should all know that.

I think that everybody that makes our rules, that is asked questions about.

What water needs to this state? I think everybody should know that.

I think economic development should have this in their hand when they're bringing in people to our state to say we have great quality of water, we serve a lot of people we have.

We have the ability now on the other side, I'm also working.

We kind of stalled out, but we're getting ready to reinitiate an effort to come up with something health counties understand how much water they have to spare for economic development. I think sometimes that's oversold at a local level and then you have something built that can't support or.

You have to expand for, so we're also helping on that side, but.

We have great quality water.

We do a good job here and we'll work on it from both sides, but again, I just want this publication to be something that people can refer to that highlights the great things going on in our industry.

Which is quite about it.

So if you have talents that you want to offer in this area, please let us know. But I would love to hear your ideas about what are the topics that should be covered,

what are the things that we should be talking about?

In this in this publication which I want to be a product of this committee, not at the division of Water, I want to speak from this committee because I want to speak representative of our stakeholders.

Water grows. Kentucky thing is getting some.

Plagues, I think with multiple organizations and I would reach out to Kelly about that.

OK, 'cause that she's got that and I think, Scott, you and some other other organizations are kind of involved in that now too, right?

I saw the time Darren Thompson did a great spot and I would put him on camera, but well, you know.

Umm yeah.

So, uh, that's a that's a good thing then.

So tell me. Tell me a little bit more about the water growth exactly is primarily uh is a little water initiative.

Is it kind of, but I I I don't wanna.

I kinda think it started there, but it was a regional collaboration in that in that corridor 65 corridor kind of thing, yeah.

And then with an idea of taking it more broad.

Broadly, I I'm not sure who else involved in it now, but I know it's gone out for a time. Central Kentucky. They got some stuff in uh, they're doing.

It's sort of a linking, economic development and water quality, quality of life kind of issues, but I I'm not.

I'm not the best sports for that program.

All right.

Thank you, Sir. I have an idea.

The the When, when Patton had the 409 strategic vision that they put out and I wanna say was that 99 to 2000 when they put that that strategic road map about service water service and sewer service in Kentucky, the 2020 plan will pass.

Like we're within 20.

Like 20 years of that, I think maybe it would be great for us to go back and kind of revisit with that because there was some really great data in there and great things and we met and kind of really surpassed those goals in that plan. So why?

Don't we?

Why don't we look at our history and and maybe revisit what that looks like and maybe look at that vision going forward for our industry?

That's just the idea.

I think that's a great idea.

And so that would then talk about regionalization.

Yep. Which we obviously are a leader.

Viewer is a great thing to point out because it's pretty pretty powerful to look at.

It is so that that timeline was 1998 capturing with Roger.

Yep. So put that up there. I think 4/09 was 2000.

That was the funding was based on that decision for that really did reorganize the tax planning.

Use that.

And all those plans came out of that right.

Yes. So those management plans again were regional in their approach, which we don't necessarily do now in the same way. But I think there's a lot of that, that strategic plan was, I mean the stuff in there is pretty amazing and just the language and their conclusions and.

What they thought about it could be a great way to maybe back into go back and say what can we do in the future because we still have challenges, right?

And it isn't necessarily extensions, but on the wastewater side it is.

But like what is?

What are our chances, right?

And those are those DV PS and consolidation.

What? What do we do about our our left or our leftover populations that are not well served?

Those kind of things.

Well, I think that gives us an opportunity to point.

It's a 2020 plan, right?

Yeah. So we're in 2025.

Yeah. So it gives us a springboard to say what's next.

Right, I think so.

That would help everybody.

Are they even in our in this room?

Yeah, I think that we've had a.

You know, we've taken a look at stacks around that and you know, how does that?

It's very specific planning, absolutely, you know, and there's our ads. Look at us to say, OK, this is in the past.

No, now what?

So it may give us an opportunity to say.

Here's what we hope for. The future looks like a springboard, right?

Yeah. Along that lines, I'm sorry.

The Legislative Research Commission.

Did a follow up to that Senate Bill 409 and did a legislative report as to how well that Bill was implemented?

I think that was in 2010, 2008, something like that, but it did lay out some strategic ideas and topics in order as to call Megan this, you might want to look at from there at that perspective that the legislature looked at that once again.

I forgot about that.

I completely cut that.

So we want to shuffle this back to the top.

We want to put this back to the top of the.

Strategic.

At the last meeting, you talked about reviewing the history of the revitalization program.

So this kind of goes hand in.

Hand.

Say your name when you speak for those online.

So, uh, I'm Joe Ulysses.

Remember, some years ago I was in a working meet, John Gavin it up and what we were looking at was what to do.

To to build on the patent initiative and we had a lot of good ideas flying around in there and I don't know, whatever happened. You know, I I know I still have the pictures at the White Board on my phone.

Those were really good meetings. It spoke to the fact that we need a a legislative initiative probably to push us into the next phase.

So I think that we could use this to to encourage that next step.

But I mean, we wanna be really strategic about it.

We don't want this to be a wasted effort.

We don't want it to be.

Something that that's easily passed over there needs to be a little bit of a call to action.

Here it needs to call to action.

That we can use.

I think it's important to keep in mind.

The drivers then for regionalization and what the drivers may be now.

Or could be 'cause. I think they're different.

I do expect that we'll have another wave, sort of.

Maybe a secondary wave regionalization consolidations because of various economic and regulatory things.

So that will go under challenges. Yeah. But I think I think the drivers are not the same anymore.

It just it just thank you. Sure, 01 big driver's gonna be hitting with the new regulations coming out. A lot of these small systems they just.

I don't.

They're not gonna be able to do it.

Yeah, it's it's a hard environment right now.

So I think that we could also focus on our partnerships, the divisions, partnerships with our stakeholders.

You know, with the various groups, with, with roll water, with our, I can't not say our cap and others where we have contractual relationships that also just support relationships.

And and I think built into that is how we respond to things that are put before us, like emergencies.

And our I think I think resilience and recovery needs to be an important topic.

And I'll say that even with.

Even with the challenges that we face with aging infrastructure and funding gaps and compliance with new rules and all that kind of thing, I can tell you coming off of the heels of this last disaster, we've made gains in the last five to 10 years.

Some of these systems are recovering whole lot faster than they were five or ten years ago, and I think that speaks to the after the emergency actions that are taking place. So going back and making sure that they are wired up for generators, making sure that they have.

A line on generators making sure that lines that are problematic are getting replaced and you know work funding and you know all the different funding mechanisms that are in place there.

We are.

We're recovering faster even though our disasters keep getting worse.

So I think that that's an important point.

And it's gonna take a lot of momentum to continue to trend in that direction.

As things become part of, you know, recover will get harder. So.

We're gonna be a place in a better place these days than we have been in the past.

By the way, yesterday was the first day we reported zero out of water for the flood.

And it was 5 the day before that. So I was watching it, just waiting for it to go 0.

And it was filed in high elevations, waiting for so that is.

In comparison to floods that I worked early on with division of water, that's incredible.

That's, I mean, we I remember a time when we had people in Cumberland, KY, out of water for 45 days because it's this is not the case today.

So we're doing better.

What other topics can you think of that need to be front and center for telling the story if we take?

This forum probably doesn't exist in a lot of states.

The venue is, I don't think there's ATA Section Technical Assistance section in most states.

We could probably do technical assistance in AWA together.

But our AWK partner is very successful and of course investment happened in a lot of States and it's evolved.

LT2, right.

Oh yeah, we where it's we're getting ready to which I have to talk to, Sir and John about.

To participate.

Totally in a a corrosion control treatment CP.

First one ever they asked.

EPA asked us if we, but consider partnering with them.

We have got it was just brought up to us yesterday.

So.

And I told him. I said yeah, I'd be very interested.

But I said I have to talk to leadership about it.

See what we can do.

I love that APA knows where to come. Figure it out on a lot of things.

You know, sure.

And I think that we probably would do a huge disservice.

We didn't highlight WRS and the power of that tool.

Can't do it in the context of other collaborations that you have official collaborations with blue water, our cap or whatever they're called in today.

Yeah, you know, Kentucky water Resource Research Institute, et cetera.

And then and Ki obviously because a lot of agencies Ki is in the same agency as the Regulatory agency right there in a lot of states.

Excuse me.

The same agency you're not.

So it's a very interesting dynamic.

So so that Pete might go into.

You know we have.

We have external stakeholders.

Stakeholders to the division.

So other agency partners?

Is there anyone that is interested in taking the lead of authorship of any of these sections of anyone that is really passionate about just starting the framework?

CB **Corey Bond** 31:13

Can anyone hear me?

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 31:16

Yes.

CB **Corey Bond** 31:17

There we go. I'm sorry.

It was muted.

I see it's unmuted now.

Sorry about that.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 31:24

No problem.

OK. Can you guys hear?

Can somebody say yes?

MN **Maggie M. Neal** 31:38
Yes.

CB **Corey Bond** 31:38
Yes, thank you.

AP **Akers, Paulette (EEC)** 31:39
Yes.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 31:39
OK, great. All right.

KB **Kyle Boyle** 31:40
Yeah, we hear noises.

FJ **Frey, Josiah (EEC)** 31:41
Yeah.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 31:43
So case studies from individual systems.
Look at all has a case study that EPA has highlighted it's already written.
I have a copy.
I can share.
I'd like to have input on this, but I don't want to take responsibility.
Don't we all?
I just want to have it.
Yeah. OK. And and there are other utilities in the state that have learned more EPA awards that maybe we should highlight those Pisces and Aquarius awards from through through the SRF programs.
And I think what funding has been attributed to infrastructure improvements in drinking water needs to be part of this discussion because the state legislature put a lot of money into that.
Start with. Not every state does that.
I think it's worth having a discussion in there about how SRX are impacted.

These days or what the difference in SRF funding might be, yes.

Or do you think that'll just become?

I think that's an appropriate topic to put into challenges that we're facing as an industry and the state right now.

I mean if if this is going to go to people who hold first strings, maybe they should know the monetary aspect of the challenges that we face, and that's reduced SRF and increased costs everywhere else.

And I think that we could highlight the success of build funding as well and the projects that we were able to fund through that special funding stream that that's what I was going to say, Sarah.

I think it's important that we tell the story of all the ancillary things from SRO that all the other things that it creates and does behind the scenes, because I don't think that's often well interpreted.

One thing I just wanted to give some quick caution about.

It when we speak to legislators about SRF set asides.

They don't want to hear that. Shut down the conversation faster than anything to my experience.

Is that yours?

I was trying to be more politically correct.

Everybody wants a good ear mark. Yep.

MN **Maggie M. Neal** 34:13

I think too.

Sarah, this is Maggie Neal from Great Lakes rcap.

I don't know how much this would play into it as well, but the division of solid waste also has grants that go in for cleaning up waterways.

You have the Kentucky Waterway alliance. I mean, there are a lot of other parties that are also working and going to be significantly impacted by this.

So I mean, the solid waste grants go out across each county every year and counties are helping to clean up those waterways further so.

I mean, they're helping to eliminate pollution and just debris that's in the creeks and streams and waterways.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 34:49

Sounds like we could put that under our source water topic, maybe?

MN **Maggie M. Neal** 34:54

Yeah.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 34:55

Does that work, Maggie?

MN **Maggie M. Neal** 34:56

Yeah.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 34:57

All right.

Anything else that actually needs small creeks?

Facebook sources.

And what are they gonna be like? You can't put a vote on something.

We can't even go there.

I can't even go there. I think, Sarah, this is a kind of A2 fold.

It's the water workforce, so one highlighting the value of the workforce, the men and women that are, you know, 24, seven helping in that resiliency aspect. Some of their stories. And then also highlighting the challenges of the water workforce as we go forward.

So Sarah, maybe I lost the thread on this.

Are you thinking about this as a regular sort of thing with issues like the newsletter from the division or for something?

I'm not sure. I really kind of.

I don't necessarily want it to be a one off, but don't necessarily think either.

Maybe a five year check in 2025 seems like a nice place to start.

And then maybe on some sort of alternate schedule with Greenwater as well?

I just feel like we need to collectively tell people what we're doing together and why that matters, right?

It's just like the Newsweek thing. Like I'll I'll tell everybody about it.

I'll tell the story about it, but it's not my success.

You know, we just share a piece of that.

So I want to make sure that everybody is sharing in the in the success of the links that are happening.

And like.

Do you have something to say?

You look like you have something to say.

I'm. I'm intently listening. Sarah. Sarah.

Thank you, Brian.

And said that they would be interested in looking at.

Brendan and Ryan, OK.

Can you make another?

Printed.

Last chat.

To say yes, just no, no.

Just like a note that he's offering help.

And so Val, is it worth on the the 24 seventh piece?

Is it worth calling is essential.

I mean is that is that something that we wanna push on a little bit on the essential worker piece?

Yeah. Is that too charged?

Do you know only if you want to avoid?

Employees.

I also like economic development.

That's nice.

My need to have some water and wastewater infrastructure for that.

I don't.

Do you have any thoughts on the essential worker piece of that?

Well, that is the that is the title of our conference this year.

You are essential and I think one of the things that we try to do in all of our trainings is is to build support and understanding that that they are an operator, you know and so see a lot of times there's somewhat deep down. And So what we.

Been trying to do is build it back up, not take a stance one way or the other, but it kind of legislation that investors.

Start building back up the core belief of what they do and serve, I think because of that, I think you will start having some more support, at least from the ground level.

How would you frame that in context of public health?

We have a statement around the role of our operators in public health.

Yeah. One thing I say quite often, I give a presentation on those and upset some

people, but I'm out of it is that we talked about health and safety.

I'm affected by water operator every single day. We've talked about police officers and things of that sort.

I haven't encountered a police officer in 20 years, so you say.

I've been saying that for for two years now.

So but but I think that is important.

It is.

It is.

It's a better understanding of our industry as a whole and the impact that affect operators have.

If we don't understand that what the benefit to having highly trained employees operators is large treatises, you know they do something wrong.

Thousands upon thousands of people watch.

So that's that's, that's the stance is that you know, something off effects everyone.

Maybe a little fever and I did a presentation at a Kentucky League of Cities Conference one time.

And we were talking about workforce and if I gave my operator a raise, he would make more than my city manager.

How can I justify that?

I was like, when was the last time that big save somebody's life?

You know, I mean, so it's important, I think, to elevate the the importance of jobs and put those out there.

I think it's recognized.

Obviously we have, we have these legislation last year saying tell us more about how to recruit, recruit and retain operators so they're aware we just need to keep it offline.

There's always legislation in Florida.

I know I'm getting legislation from individual legislation. You know what the health Board is trying to classify is essentially personnel.

I think it's important but but I do think the the the issue that we have is very similar to that.

You know we have, we have individuals or operators first on supervisors who do not treat them as essential, who do not even understand their role, most of them.

And so if we can't build.

A certain level of understanding of the importance of an operator within the system,

and this goes for wastewater.

I think it's very easy to think about the the the importance of highly qualified water operators, but I kayak, I I go out all the time on the creeks and waterways and so that's just as important to me as as drinking water.

But I think if we if we as an industry or we as a committee or a group do not start emphasizing the importance of these individuals and downplaying the importance of them, then we're not going to.

We're just not.

Going to do that and and sometimes it it it all it could the utility you know you have certain utilities that have no problem paying their operators.

You know a good way to put their work and their value.

They have no problem raising rates to ensure that that happens, but we have a lot of utilities out there. We just say we can't pay that.

They're losing operators.

We hear that all the time.

It's like, well, you have the ability to raise rates to ensure that you have highly qualified operators until until that happens, you know, we're just kind of spinning our wheels saying, you know, let's not talk. We've talked to Grayson County water.

They pay well, they have great individuals so.

Lebanon is the same way. Their their their utility up of it doing so. We have to make sure it's important. OK. Are you still here?

Yes, so I just.

I just looked cause to my attention I I looked at State of Wyoming last week. Had they took it a little step further and so they passed legislation that.

The water wastewater operators as essential, but also deemed them as first responders for mercy.

Mercy response. And so I'll get. I'll get my hands on that legislation to share it with the group.

I think that's.

I think we ought to aim high and see what we get done.

That's great, Brady.

Like much like the, you know, Kentucky Bros, you know, water grows there.

Can I mean, like you can see a path where it's like, what's the you know, what's this career, this career have in common?

Oh, they both utilize water. You know you can't be a doctor with and perform

surgery without clean water.

I mean even in.

So I think I mean that could be a really good social media to kinda push.

That would be great.

There's a lot of times that you know something happens and water operator when the Tornadoes hit water operators from all kinds of counties showed up to assist the water system.

That'll go under our partnerships.

Yeah, it's and. And and we can highlight especially Kay Warren there, which I understand is getting.

A new breath of light.

So that's really great.

I'm excited to hear that they're going to stay in that board back up.

And work on that a little bit.

Got some ideas there too, but I think I think that goes to a player we're talking about and it's not just that even in the within the division, it's all hands on deck.

Sure, Ta's are for emergency responses responders, but they're out there turning valves.

Same thing with wastewater. If it's a distribution system, anything affected, it's kind of like throughout the division and all hands on deck type thing, sure and not just us will water up. And I think I think our I think the reason emergencies will resonate as well and what.

The role of water professionals are in the recovery. The response and recovery to especially weather emergencies.

How many of those?

You know one of our excuse me job one of our shticks, one of one of Doug's shticks.

When he gives towards that really resonated with me.

One of the first times I went through it, listening while he was doing tour was we run.

Some of them are automated, granted, but we'd run 3 million tests a year of our drinking water.

Make sure that it's safe.

I mean, you know, dancing.

That's a crazy huge number, you know? Think about all the work that goes into making that we put out, you know, what goes outside the fence to save for people.

And obviously I don't know what the number is.

Wastewater side regardless.

You know, just on the drinking water side, that's a huge, you know, I mean, we're all doing maybe not that exact number, but we're all doing a lot of that again.

You know what?

You're talking too. If you're talking to the public or elected officials, you know, numbers like that are so staggering everything you know.

We can pack.

We asked him to guess how many tests we think we do a year and the big numbers usually have 1000.

I'm sure you test my water 1000 times a year.

Not even close, right?

And and the division regularly. When we present, we talk about that the analytics analytics that we look at.

So it's usually it's 90,000 tests a year, it's 90,000 results a year and that's just, you know on what we regulate.

So it doesn't even have close to what each individual system does.

So, you know, I think I think that's a really good point is I think business, right.

I mean, it speaks to that.

From a coordination standpoint, would it be I?

I think it would be could be broken down by each community taking a a portion of this from their perspective and taking writing that like operating recruitment, retention takes something that says this is what an operator is their importance and kind of head that up to kind of.

Divide up the duties a little bit.

So let me do this.

I think I think we have a lot.

A lot of things here that to create a framework.

So let me sit down and put together an outline. That's what we think this thing could look like and get it out to folks and and then think about if their committees that can work on it or if there are people that are particularly passionate about 1 area.

That wanna take a couple of paragraphs?

That kind of thing and start to to figure out who's gonna do what part.

And just the report.

A presentation I'm seeing.

A glossy magazine in my head that could also be translated online.

That's what I'm seeing in my head, but somebody revives that if it's bad.

Does anybody look at the glossy magazine anymore?

Maybe an electronic version of that?

Yeah, but that's just because then we can disperse it in social media, right?

As an example, for other states that think you're jealous and we can probably also translate that into some sort of story map format to have it embedded in there.

But it could also be an article like awba journal, things like that, and also under source water. The mention of story map makes me want to say specifically we need to make sure that we're looking at our reduction stuff.

That Jose has been so good about.

Getting done for us. And then he's published some great products too that can feed into that.

And how that affect?

S.

Sarah Richard here with regards to how he doing it don't need to talk to your back. A little hard to hear back here.

So just it's all good.

So the framework for this is. This is your so, so this committee is almost a a vision and at the pleasure of each director of the vision of water. So is this a framework to capture the work of the your individual steering groups?

Is this a monthly or annual?

Have you thought about how how frequently you want to do this and?

I live about once every five year update I5 update I see like a just a big.

You know, here's here's the second industry right now.

That's kind of what I'm thinking.

So the subcommittee process works really well, so if you wanted to assign a, so I mean we have, we have great professionals available water, so that might be a useful tool that with the goal to fill this.

Yeah, no, I I totally agree with that.

And I'm sorry, I'm talking out this way.

I've never been accused of being hard to hear.

I know, but it's all good.



Maggie M. Neal 49:59

Maybe. Sarah, it's Maggie from Great Lakes rcap again.

Maybe as a recommendation since.

I know in in my work I find it difficult because most things in small water systems revolve around every four years because that's when you have administrative changes.

And so if we're trying to help push this information out to make decisions and have it get to the decision makers and have them understand what we're doing, it might be better to do it on a a shorter time period.

Period.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 50:29

Yep, I agree.

That could be.

That could be a factor. We need to think about that.

What I wanted to do was get this on the ground, set some goals for completion, get some people moving on it.

Because I was excited, cycling points out this is this changes by the director and you ever know it tomorrow.

So let's get something on the ground and move in so that it'll make any transition that could occur.

Going forward and get a good product out.

All right.

Any final thoughts on that topic?

Thank you guys for your great input and I'll drive something up and get a get a framework out and then you guys can give me feedback on that.

We'll come there.

All right, so let's let's hit the reports portion of the of the agenda.

We've got about 40 minutes.

Personnel update.

The biggest note that I want to make is that Alicia Jacobs has moved on from from the Drinking water branch, and we're sorry to see her go.

She has joined staff at Kentucky American.

So we are happy for her and her new opportunity, but we are sorry to to lose her hard work and her expertise in this area.

Yeah. And we are working to repost that job.

And so we, we expect to hopefully fill that soon.

It's a high priority position for us, obviously.

And if we are successful at posting that externally, then we hope that you'll spread the word and and anyone who might be a good candidate for taking a look so.

We'll let you know when that when that goes out, hopefully probably in the next, I'm gonna say probably month.

You should.

You should be listed and and not to be Bill. Tom. Do we have any other personnel up other than we are?

Thankfully, I mean we we typically.

Are our division personnel CAP is 226 people. We typically have run like 10 below that for the last couple years and we are as of I think the 16th we should be only two below our personnel CAS. So that really helps a lot in terms.

Of being able to keep up with the volume of work that we have as an agency. So yeah, great, great news that we've retained and recruited well here over the past. Year or so.

So I think it's important to say the division is nearly full.

Our our 226 cap and we're.

Oh, right.

And also that we have.

18 type of TLS working now. I think it's around 18.

So we're as a division at full tilt and everybody is busy.

Regardless.

Working really hard.

Or at least eight here, too. When I walk by, they do a lot of really good work and we have so many initiatives in front of us right now with new regulations coming on and changes that are occurring every day. We have so many permitting actions that run. I don't think even with my years in the division, I didn't appreciate how many permits we issue until I was on signing.

It's it's staggering. The number of of permits that we issued.

In fact, I had to pull a number the other day.

And since May 2023, we've issued.

I think it was 3800 PPS permits.

So that's a lot of permitting that this that the division does and and they do it really well.

We don't have a big backlog.

We don't have.

We don't.

We don't have crazy things hung up for years and years here. We've been able to move things through that proving backlog and there there were times in our history when we did have big companies.

But that's not been the case for a while now, so we're really proud of that.

And John reminded me that we will have a new clean Water section supervisor in the water infrastructure branch.

Now this is something new.

Something old with something new.

So we have reorganized the division in the Water infrastructure branch to have a discrete drinking water.

Infrastructure section and Clean Water Infrastructure section and that was in order to bring down the backlog that we did have of engineering projects that were completed division.

Holly, do you want to give us a little look at what the numbers are today?

Yeah. So we have 200 or I think it's like 202 in house and our backlog is currently 50. It's down to 50.

Yeah. I think at the highest it was.

Gosh, I think it was like 130 something.

So outside of the review, so we got called in for a legislators we got.

And we made the changes that we need to make and that part of that is this reorganization.

So we will have two specific sections, specialized drinking water, clean water and hopefully that will continue to move all of our actions faster. Polly's done a great job.

A personal cabinet signs off on it before 360.

Oh, so we're going to get the last approval, so 316 will be the date of that new supervisor and we will wait to give a name until we have that final approval.

But we feel like that's gonna happen.

All right. So the next thing on the list is legislative update.

This could be a very long discussion if we wanted it to be, but I will say that.

We have several things move through.

I know everybody's aware at the fluoride bill.

Has been hot topic the session in terms of the division stands for that.

We're neutral, so we don't.

We don't regulate it.

That's a dental health provision.

We regulate it as a as a contaminant with an MCL, and that's our role.

However, we have been careful to point out that changes to requirements could affect the relationship between.

Our water systems. So if local decisions are made.

In regionalized situations, that can affect the relationship or contractual relationship between your systems.

So that's probably been the most important thing that we've had to say about that.

So just to let you know that the divisions role on that, we've had several others.

I have pages of bills that have moved through that.

That we have been involved in commenting on.

And I is, Carolyn.

She had never met her.

CC **Catalfo, Carole (EEC)** 57:56

Yes, I'm here. Yes, I'm here.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 57:59

Carol, are there any specific pieces of legislation that you want to mention in terms of, uh, the division without getting too far out on a limb?

CC **Catalfo, Carole (EEC)** 58:11

Yeah, we're tracking an awful lot of legislation this year. Of course, the most important piece for the division of water is SB89, which is the waters of the Commonwealth bill, commonly called the waters of the Commonwealth bill.

And.

We've had a couple of resolutions about flooding and assistance with flooding that were also tracking and commenting on as directed, but other than that, hopefully we've only got a week left next week left and then veto. The veto period will begin. So we're almost at the very end.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 58:58

OK.

Thank you, Carol.

Russ, so would you like to talk about the legislation that's specific to pretty large?

Sure, Russell. Neil. Staff assistant. Yeah, Kentucky infrastructure.

House joint resolution 30.

Has passed the house and it's on to the Senate.

The joint resolution is the list of Kentucky waters projects that will be funded through the decision of the General Assembly.

You can go on to Kais website and find a copy of the report that was submitted to the Legislative Research Commission on December 1st, 2024.

That report contains a list of projects, long project descriptions, and they score for each of those projects. The criteria used to score those projects are in.

I can't remember what the law number is that it's in, but there's nine or ten criteria.

Most of those are financial criteria. They're economically.

The goal is to determine economic restraint system that need assistance.

The intent was to help those economically restrained systems to better financial position, to borrow money from other.

For funding programs like the SRF.

So with the joint resolution.

General Assembly right now is choosing to fund 34 projects.

There were three or four projects that were removed or not funded from what my understanding is those projects will not be funded McCain because they are line extensions for new work.

What the committee has tried to do is fund projects for current infrastructure and determine which projects are needed for rehab replacement.

That was through their conversations. That's what. That's what they decided to do.

A lot of larger projects will be funded by the planning and design portion and not necessarily the entire construction portion for a new water plant through.

Ki staff did recommend changes to some of the criteria and some of the legislation, which is now being considered in House Bill 7741.

The major changes that we recommended were to one remove some of the financial criteria which did not basically move the needle to determine which systems were economically disadvantaged.

We also opened up the time frame for.

The time period for consent decrees and agreed orders, the original legislation, said the consent decree or the decree order had to be.

Take effect within the past year of the legislation.

We open that up to any system that is currently under an agreement or consent, agree any period of time as long as the project goes towards.

Compliance with that consent.

Consent decree order.

That is a fundamental project, no matter when they went under that.

So those changes are being considered in 741 from what I was just looking at that was introduced to the House on February 19th.

It's had two successful readings, and right now it's been returned to the Appropriations Committee.

So we're anticipating some change to the legislation.

With those changes.

Ki will hold.

Meetings for potential borrowers or grantees as to the changes to educate those potential grantees and borrowers on the application process.

The criteria for which they will be scored upon and the follow up process.

Of the 34 projects that are currently on the funding list, the proposal is to list is to fund all those beta plans.

It will not be alone, it will be grant.

And that could change as it goes through this next phase.

In the Senate.

With that, to entertain any questions that you only have.

We hit the ground running with it as soon as it hatched the General Assembly last year, we started to create.

A process for that.

Again, the requirements of Kia is to only.

Build a process for applying for the money and use the criteria in the law to score those projects.

Those projects that project list goes over the German Assembly.

They determine which projects are coming to determine how projects. So K IA board unlike any other funding program, Ki Board does not determine which projects are not allocated. For those, look at the report. Prove the report, send it on to the owners. Can you provide us for?

This year's 34 projects.

What the total was, so the total is not determined yet because that has to be determined in the Senate.

So it's still a good change.

I know that the total.

Outing it could change. Umm.

It's not as much because of again some of the projects are being funded just for their planning and design and not for the entire year construction project.

But I can get that for you.

What I did is.

So those projects were accepted and ranked.

They were accepted in school order from the greatest sport to score.

And that was actually maybe a little bit of a surprise, right?

Because they could have chosen whatever projects they wanted to offload. That's correct.

They so they chose to fund it in sport or.

They could have chosen to pick the last on the list and go up there, but they chose to follow the recommendation of the Academy Board.

Craig, any questions for for us on the West waters?

Just to kind of.

Because we can't. Not. We can't skip it totally.

SV89 is hanging out there. We don't.

There's nothing on it.

It's obviously a build of great concern for the cabinet.

Hopefully you've had the opportunity to.

Read there was a news article that was put out recently that summarized a letter that Secretary Gutman has had written to Representative Peach regarding our cabinet cabinet concerns with regard to that bill.

It was a it was a strong letter and an important letter.

I think it encompassed a lot of the concerns that we had as a division.

But that remains to be seen.

It was not taken up in committee on Thursday, so it was discussed.

And it was indicated that there may be amendments in a special called committee meeting on Tuesday.

There is.

It might happen, which I think is going to be moved towards Wednesday now as well, so.

Anyway, so maybe Wednesday.

And so we'll, we'll wait to see what happens there.

In, in any case, this process has highlighted areas where there are likely to be changes, and we'll just put a pin in it there and come back and talk about it next time when we have more decisions.

What is this?

Yeah, there's a there's another.

There's a house bill.

It's administrative bill that any legislation that's pose that would have a greater than a \$500,000 impact every two years for every two years worth of impact, so \$250,000 a year.

So there are a lot of water wastewater.

Regulations that would certainly need that low threshold.

So that is one to keep an eye on.

It's not on face.

It's on constitutional, I think, but I also think it jeopardized primacy group for right?

I mean, think about PFAS for drinking water, right?

I think like delegations.

I mean that that's a very simple, just the mcli mean I think easily \$250,000.

CC **Catalfo, Carole (EEC)** 1:08:47

Well, there are exceptions. However, Pete for primacy and to maintain federal funding.

But those may be some of the only exceptions that are in that bill.

CJ **Carlton, John (EEC)** 1:09:04

The only other thing I'll say is that there is available to address that government workers and telework and all that kind of thing. And as we've seen with the federal workforce changes that are made the impact.

Those of us who have the pleasure to serve the public can have impacts on our programs, so we will. We'll wait to see what what happens there, if anything, although it sounds like it's gonna be a study.

Anybody have any questions that we could actually answer about legislation or the impacts of legislation?

Or maybe.

Or willing dates.

I put a note on here about regulatory revision schedule and then Carol asked me, hey, what's this note?

And I was like, I don't know.

And then I had to think about it.

So I remember now.

So this is about drinking water rights.

We are moving drinking water rights right now to amend.

The for for the New Jersey water rules, we have to amend our regulations in order to to gain privacy to, to take care of those rules.

So the the deal is.

By April 2026, we have to be able to demonstrate to EPA that we have the regulatory authority to enforce those rules.

And if we don't, then we're stuck in a loop of updating our intra promise packages with EPA, which is a whole ordeal.

And and then getting privacy later.

So our goal is to push those regulations by the end of April 20 or by April 2026 in order to stay on track to gain time, to see if those rules.

That's a big lift because Rex moves slow.

And they seem to move slower now than even they used to.

Lots of lead time for regulatory review for Governor's Office review, for everybody wants to review it before it goes for review.

So anyway, we are moving through that process.

And also looking at other generate regulations to help improve regulations and to give systems and citizens more tools.

I have made a commitment that we will push anything that's punitive.

For the water community, these are just gonna be things that will enhance.

The the work that we do, so we will certainly bring those to you and talk to you about it this week as we get those going.

I've done enough talking.

I don't want to just bring people in here and preach and GAIL and such, so let's go to branch manager updates from Dow.

Motion management branch doesn't have a lot of update, but I did want to bring to you today. Hopefully by now everybody is well aware that we have.

Program here at the division of Water, which has been doing a great job expanding our data sets and our understanding of water resources. And one of the things that

we've been utilizing is a backbone drone, which has allowed us to go get back in touch data on res.

As you can see, it'll produce some nice 2D.

Representations of reservoir, but we recently found a way to use those data to create 3D models.

Of the backyard data.

So this is actually your standard.

And we think this is going to be very useful in communicating with both utilities and stakeholders about what the conditions are of their reservoirs and getting a really warm, tactile way.

Of understanding what their uh situation is when it comes to sedimentation and where there may be problems or other.

Layers and even triad, where you might see undermining in the dam or areas around the edge of the lake.

To us, this is a lot more intuitive for people than than the 2D map that helps maybe bring people along into understanding what they're looking at.

So this is actually a 5 to one ratio.

So kind of exacerbate emphasizes.

Yeah. So the the differences in the, this is the one to one representation. If you guys like I will pass it around like show and tell.

If we're printed out by our division enforcement, but I think this would be a really, really useful tool.

It's a great way to visualize the data.

That's a good question.

I don't know.

They're all. They're all personal trainers.

Just give me time.

Just give me time.

What's your?

Right. So if you have any questions about that, I'm happy to direct you to our drone program.

Also, we have our area drones that go out and are doing some great area drone D as well so.

Not sure what our capacity is, but producing these on a massive scale, but you know can't do to ask.

I will also point out that worship management branch, this is their our data gurus.

They handle all of our GIS stuff and they do a great job.

We're working to launch two new viewers that during emergencies, the public will be able to see the number of connections out of water and then four wire advisory people click on systems in network.

Some of those issues are so.

I look forward to being able to share that information with the public.

And.

I do some like every single day.

I feel like I'm centered. Like. Can you get him out of this?

Can you do this?

And they just get it and they're amazing.

They have all the information.

All right, Eileen, you're up for drinking a lot.

Make sure you speak up really loud.

Just a couple of quick things about the for the drinking water branch. As Sarah mentioned, we lost Alicia Jacobs as our manager. So we'll be getting somebody new.

We have several FFTLS in the TA program that are new and not all of them are new since the last meeting, but they're working on developing a conversion control treatment program so that we can be prepared for all the new requirements for Icri.

We're also working on developing an electronic Mor.

We hope that'll be out by early summer, available to everyone. We have a lot of systems in here that are really instrumental in helping us test that and make sure that it actually works and it works well.

So we hope to get lots of water systems on board using the new Mor. That will save us so much time and it'll really improve our data management.

Yeah, we have some cheer leaders in the room. We're super excited.

We've been working on this for at least two years now, so.

Let's talk about it for, yeah, talking about it even longer than that.

We finished reviewing all the initial service line inventories and we were one of the best states in the country for compliance. We had 15 systems that turned their inventories in late and all of those were received by mid-december. So so that was excellent.

Now we have 100% submission for those inventories and then we had only 10 systems that had inventories that didn't need the minimum criteria.

That makes me violations for that.

So xy compliance.

That was a obviously you all know a really difficult challenge for everyone around the state and we're really proud of that.

That has been a problem for that.

It's a lot of fun to be able to reaching for director cooperating when we're like, so how many, 100%.

And they're like what?

Yeah, it's like there is a lot of states that don't, you know, have 50% compliance.

Thank you to those that did everything they could to help us get back to lots of people in this room, but they don't want to work.

And I guess those are the main things we're working on. Chapter 8 updates, which are the drinking water just for primacy.

So that's in due progress. And now Eileen's gonna be talking about the win program.

The military military led testing in schools.

So we'll turn it over to her.

Hello everybody.

My name is Eileen Miller.

Talk loud.

Sorry for those of you in the room. If I'm yelling at you, but I want everyone online to be able to hear as well.

I'm gonna just give a quick update about our voluntary LED testing in schools and child care program that we have here individuals. So for those of you that don't know, this is our program at Division One provides free lens sampling of drinking water to public schools and LIC.

Childcare facilities across the state.

So it's a great program.

I know I've talked about it a lot.

Wanna try this brief?

Have more questions about the details.

Happy to answer them later, but just an important note to tell the water systems understand is that sampling under this program can be used for lcri compliance starting in 2027.

So if you have child cares or schools that you serve that get tested under our program, that can work for your compliance.

So just something to keep in mind.

Funding. We have plenty of funding available for this program so we can complete all the sampling requests that you might have.

We also have remediation funding coming available, which means we can help fix the problem.

What we find is so we can go in, we can sample, we can find the lead. But now we will have funding so that if we do find any lead in the drink water in a facility, we can help them fix the problem to get rid of the.

Lead and add no cost to them as well so.

That's great news.

So that's just something to share with any child cares. You know your parent.

You have a child that goes to a school or daycare. Spread the word.

Yes, the kemblar reach you mute.

So does that funding to be available if needed to test yes on behalf of the schools as well, correct.

So a lot of utilities are choosing to do the same early sampling themselves, which is great.

Encourage you guys to build those relationships with your schools and daycares.

But if you do a sampling and you have a high result, come back.

You can send that child care or school part program. Umm.

We'll go into another sampling to confirm and then they can be eligible for that remediation as well.

So Tuesday, yes.

So that you collected.

Communication.

That won't work right?

We have some example letters that schools and child cares can be used to communicate with their with their parents, their pta's and stuff like that.

And some templates they can use. Those are available online, right?

If we have it online, OK, on our program website, but we do every facility know that they're available if they need them. Once the reports are generated.

So OK, our experience of school districts are terrified of it. Yeah, yeah.

So that's my last point is I encourage water systems and really any partner to talk to schools and child cares. I know there are schools and child cares that are very hesitant to.

Enroll in this program or just in general to even have the water system come test their water. Umm.

I know it's it can sound scary, I think to an administrator that has 9000 other requirements going wrong. There's like being scary, you know, monster under the bed and they're like, you don't wanna poke it.

We don't wanna bring it out. It's just we don't know it's there.

It's fine and and I understand that.

So what I encourage is if you can just get them to come talk to us, then usually we can answer a lot of their questions kind of put them at ease and make them understand the importance of it, but also the the true likelihood that they're gonna have.

A huge problem.

And I think that's the big thing. And also that, you know, we're not gonna get ahead of them. Umm, if the school does have a problem, I'm not gonna go advertising their parents before they have a chance to digest it and talk to the parents themselves. So being.

Able to communicate that to schools and daycares is a big help and I understand a lot of water systems or heart rate issues, you know, don't wanna have that conversation.

That's completely fine.

And you can just get them to come to us.

I'm happy to have that conversation for you with them. So just.

Keep that in mind when you're talking to, umm, their facilities.

So I'm trying to give you a snapshot, kind of where the program's at.

Thank you. Our management branch for making this map for me.

Easier counties that we have facilities signed up in, so the dark green is a county that has a facility that has been sampled.

Doesn't mean the entire county is complete.

It just means there's a facility there and the light green is counties that have facilities signed up that have not yet been sampled.

So we just wanted to kind of give you a visual where our program has been at and you can see some of the gaps.

So you are in those regions happy to come to your region. We just so far haven't had anybody sign up from those areas.

So a little bit of the data. We've had 157 facilities sign up for the program big. We

had a big influx recently and part of that was from water systems, sending schools and daycares our way.

So we've only sampled 74 of those, but we're getting to all those that have signed up right now.

Total, we've had 637 outlet samples.

Our highest lead level that we've seen so far was 59.1 parts per billion, which is a lot scary. Still much, much lower than a lot of states have seen. However, once we investigated this outlet, we found it was a sync in the corner of a

Basement school that nobody used as much.

So it probably been sitting with stagnant water for a very long time.

Once the school realized that, they realized they needed to flush that thing more often, get the water flowing. And so that was good for them. We went back and resampled a couple times and they have no problem there.

So we've seen a few, but I can see 78% of our samples have come back below one parts per billion or nondetect.

So this is some of the data that I try to show schools.

And child care when they sign up, they found us with questions just to show. Right now, we haven't seen any facilities that have systematic lead problems. So no gutting of your walls, changing your whole plumbing.

It's usually one or two faucets or drinking water fountains here or there that might need to be replaced, which again, we're going to have the funding to cover that cost for them.

So the most common remediation, though, is simply flushing your pipes.

And then every morning in a 32nd flush can reduce the level of lead.

It's temporary fix until we can replace faucet, but if anything else just communicate with your school.

Send day cares to just flush their pipes, especially after long periods of closure.

So that's all I have. If you want more information, that's our website there and you're more than welcome to reach out to myself or Gabe Tanner, the coordinators for this program.

Any questions you might have for those of you in the room? We have a few Flyers on the table up front if you're interested in getting those up to you, we should say we would have, you know, and all of our, you know, all of the work in.

The leg program without and then second row water's working out of this program and then our CAP has really been essential also with with helping out with the

inventories. So those partners have been really essential in helping us be in compliance and.

In this program.

Do the schools realize that they're gonna have to do this here shortly, regardless of whether they want to or not?

But the schools do have the option to decline if they choose to.

But the utility has the responsibility to make the effort to to sample that school and childcare.

Oh, so the schools don't have to allow people into singer? No. OK.

They're allowed to to decline.

The utility has to make two good faith efforts to try to sample there and then the school Clos.

Ures they it's just which may come.

They can decline, but they you still need their participation if you're doing inventory investigations like POS and stuff.

So that's something we had to talk to the Johnson County School District about or whoever it's called jcps.

That whether whether or not we can we still needed to get into the facility to try to do.

Identifications and et cetera.

And some campuses are pretty big.

So you have to do.

You gotta be able to do all Poes.

You're gonna have to do some digging. You know, when they have out buildings and things like that.

I think the data is really encouraging and I think if I were a school system that initially declined. No, thank you.

So I want you in here if I saw this data and saw, hey, typically we're not seeing a problem very low number of problems and we've got money to help then I think that helps us get in the door.

So I think just getting through half of this list to start with gives us.

Better tools for communication with our schools to make sure that the schools are safe for our children.

We, you know, as a, as a parent, you know who has a kid still in school. But you know, I've been a couple through.

I wonder, you know, they they're going to school and old buildings and you know, what are the chances and that that school is one that said no thank you.

And I was like, oh, your I can help you with this.

But so I think it.

I think it gives them more comfort and then I hope that increases participation. The more the work gets out.

Sarah Richard here again.

What's the extent of the help?

It doesn't go as far as like replacing all of the lines of the school, is it?

Is it just mitigation?

That's a great question, Richard.

Can you speak to that a little bit, Gabe, on how we would go about assisting with any kind of replacement?

Yeah. So it really honestly doesn't have a we're only gonna go so far into the plumbing.

The thought process is that we're gonna probably look at picture replacements as the majority of remediation.

So what we did, we'd actually be reimbursed the school child cares with.

With money? That's also yeah, yeah.

So whether it's the pictures of themselves, if they were to hire a plumber.

Or someone outside of the school system.

We would also pay for the laborers, so we're so we're we'd reimburse that.

We're not really seeing lead service lines.

Feeding these schools.

But if there were a scenario where we came across childcare or something, that would actually have a service line, we would work with them to on on on that as well.

So if the original win money or grants didn't provide for providers, they do now.

Yeah. So they they upgraded the funding to where they it it. So we've applied for funding and we we've gotten funding.

That can be used for radiation, and then they also came back and said that the money that we already had, we could also convert that and use some of that funding as well. Umm.

So we already have money in place.

Umm to pay for the mediation? Umm. But we're in the process of getting approval from EPA to actually make that bulk of money even higher by some of the older.

Yeah, I I like it. If you confirm through it faster, what are the procurement challenges you have there?

Can you give them direct?

Can you give the school district 'cause? It's not a government or because it's not a private entity like the daycare might be a different thing.

I think it gets a little more.

Yeah. So so the we're in the process of working with roll water in, in basically organizing the OR I guess managing the reimbursement program.

Yeah, four of an administrative challenge, yeah.

That's what I wanted for us.

Yeah, that doesn't mean it's all leave for rural.

It's just they're helping, which they're and, you know, and one thing that you know, I thought was good to hear me like we haven't had the lead line issues.

It's mostly the fixtures and you know, it's really like individual fixtures. I think in most of the facilities that we've been to so.

So presumably not even really a high cost replacement within anywhere that we've been so far thanked by.

The majority of samples that we.

Have 32nd flushes are indicating that the the source.

Commercial, you know, brass fixtures and, you know, kitchen sinks and stuff.

It really does seem to be.

But you know mainly in.

Point of use location so.

Kitchens or some classroom settings?

We're seeing some of the plumbers closing the janitor's closet. No, we're not.

No, that's. I just put a sign on that side.

You know, I'm thinking from the balances that have been done by us and others that very unlikely.

That post, 1940s.

You're gonna see any of that service line at least that that structure, you're still gonna see lag and copper solder and stuff like that.

But if you're going to try to focus on the higher risk facilities, I might think about focusing.

You know, on the older ones, but that said, you got to cover all your bases.

Yeah, we've had the majority of our tests in the area, but we've had a lot of head

start. So head start to have a federal requirement that now requires their facilities actually be tested, used to be they can use water system compliance like test data.

For funding. But now they actually have to have testing done in the facility.

So we're seeing a lot of facilities anywhere from 1960s through 1990s, 2000. So and I heard that some of the fixtures were replaced by Amazon parts because they were cheap in some of the schools.

So don't do that.

Yeah, and that's partly the radiation require.

Ment, yeah, they have.

They've updated basically with lead free bans over the last several years and 2023 and 24 actually manufacture.

Rs their picture does look pretty and so we would only that's part of the procedures that the utility or facility were to change up their pictures. They would have to use a reset like free certified picture.

Just clarifying point that I'm assuming, but I don't wanna make an assumption this is for public school only.

We have a lot of private schools in our area, so yes, so right now the fun thing is just for public schools and any licensed shop.

I didn't wanna make the assumption saying Oh no, actually, yeah, the the federal grant requires that it has to be approved.

But with that said, if there is private schools that are interested, I don't think that that we can make it hard to at least talk talk to them.

Stay away from it, but if you get a question once I displayed the DOA then.

It won't matter. Great. So when?

What are communities finding in terms of their public schools and private schools willingness to participate in the program so far?

Yeah.

Some are very hasn't pulled back and some are, you know, engaging.

You don't have a whole broad area.

You probably have all these little school districts, maybe 32 different cities that we serve and and then they all have their own school district, but they don't know.

But inside their the city, we would have, you know.

Yeah, there's no broad rush that we payment of those two.

You know, each one has their own private school, or each one has their own county.

You know school.

Just So what about the diocese?

What do they think?

I don't know that we I won't go back and see what kind of conversations, if any, we've had.

But it does the schools.

We have a lot of expenses. We have plenty.

Licensed childcare.

So there's a lot to.

I don't know how many of those are built.

Do you have a certain percent of head start?

So we've tested that have been in elementary schools.

So we're we're not maybe necessarily able to get to all the elementary schools in school districts.

We are getting to some of these individual elementary schools and we do make the effort to reach out to superintendents to talk to them about, you know, we're we're gonna go in and do the head start portion.

Which it usually includes the cafeteria, the elementary schools.

So we are testing there, but particularly they, they've allowed us to head start, but they are not necessarily you know adding their other schools to the the program. But it's a work in progress.

All right.

Thank you very much for that update and the conversation. I want to move on because as usual, I'm falling short of my own expectations.

It is 1205 S.

Let's move to committee reports.

I don't have a list of committees that have reports, so I will count on those leaders to speak up.

Liz, do you have a menu?

So the compliance and Regulations Committee met on February, February 18.

They hadn't met in a little while, so they're getting back going. Kin pageant and Ethan. And now Ethan gimmick. Are the Co chairs of that committee.

Since Alicia left, Ken would have loved to be here.

She's at the Capitol today.

Her daughter won the state champion for Mean Sorry, the national championship for cheerleading, and it's being recognized there.

That's true.

So she's not able to get the report out and Ethan's out sick today.

So at the meeting we talked about a couple of potential revisions to our regulations, Chapter 8.

Those are the main two that we talked about were developing or discussing how to update how water systems will update population size.

There's three methods that are approved in that Reg right now and we're seeing some conflicts in that with, you know, in the way that water systems are updating information to us.

So we'd like to have a discussion about, you know, revisiting that regulation and then the other is the bottled water regulations.

So just taking a look at those and so just beginning the discussion right now the Lenin drinking water community didn't meet this in this last quarter. We have a meeting coming up on April 9th at 10:00.

If anybody wants to attend, and if anyone wants to get involved in any of the subgroups, they are erosion control, treatment service, line replacement and funding. Sampling schools and other cap sampling service line inventories and communications and public education.

So we've that work group is we've been kind of waiting to see how everything goes with the Icri and getting people time to get familiar with the Icri. But now it's getting to be time that we can really get started and start developing and updating all of our. Guidance and other materials for it. So I encourage everyone to get involved in that and and you can reach out to me, Elizabeth Dowling, if you want to.

Get into that committee or get an invitation to our next meeting.

Any questions for Liz on compliance and regulations or lead interventions?

Other committee updates I'll give a fast win.

This is Ariana with roll water.

Roll fast on the PFAS committee.

Not a lot of new developments on that, but we do have another full committee meeting March 31st at 2:00 PM.

I said fast. That was fast.

It was so fast.

I'm still running.

Alright, so any other committee updates?

If Josiah's not here, our nutrient subcommittee is meeting on Monday.

The 10th at 2:00 PM.

All right. So going forward, what will be really helpful is again just having these things on a calendar so that we know when they're taking place and then we'll do a better job also of asking Houston to have committee updates.

So it's not just a blank spot.

You could set up a teams thing where you have a calendar for this whole group.

And then you can have comps to their invites and stuff.

I just good idea.

I'm not me either. Like I'm on so many teams.

I have.

I have to search my team sometime.

So OK, I'm not missing anybody, anybody anything on commits?

All right. So Sarah, just a quick question.

Can we e-mail John if we have a change for the subcommittees?

Is that the processor link to go through the chair?

So we'll e-mail John. And because we do have a couple small changes, but.

It's all good.

Thank you.

So any committee membership issues or contact information, many days meeting dates updates, all those will go to John Carlson.

John.carlson@ky.gov because he's the only one that keeps my life organized and it helps a lot. But I I don't even look at my calendar anymore.

Those subcommittee lists were old and want to update and make sure that the names and the people and the contact information on there is correct. We included all of the emails that were on those lists in the last two, two or three emails and we got a whole.

Bunch to bounce back, which is one of the reasons we're passing that contact list around everybody.

And so we'll do. We'll do the same thing to those online as well.

So thank you.

I'm super lucky to have John managing my calendar.

I don't even try anymore because I scheduled something and it screws everything up.

I just open up my calendar every day and say what threshold isn't there and just get, you know, that's just how we do it and it's fine. I enjoy it.

I'm tired at the end of the day, who wants to have energy?

Thank you guys so much for being here and your participation.

I'm going to open this up now for any 01 division announcement.

Umm, the first ever Kentucky Division of Water Regulatory Forum will be April 23rd. Here in these rooms.

Registrations now open.

We have 125 seats, so if you're interested the please register soon. I think we have an interesting agenda.

And time to interact with all the staff. So you'll probably meet people that you've never seen before, but perhaps have seen their names on letters so that I think that'll be an interesting event.

Hopefully something we'll we'll move forward with annually.

OK. Pete, you wanted to say a word about former director Jack Wilson, who we lost since our last meeting.

Yes. So Jack passed away of a a long term illness.

He was a pretty good health most of his life, and he just kind of caught up with him in the end. But as everything goes, but I just wanted to give a nod to Jack's longstanding director. I think he did 14 years as the director, kind of.

God bless him, led the division. He had no kidding.

It's amazing.

He lives as long as he did.

He led the division toward Notre Dame, see, but it's childhood and adolescence and and really formed the commitment to mission at the division of Water and the commitment to science based decisions. And Jack Jack left.

When I worked for him and he was invited to leave as either or eventually and he told me, I said, Jack, what do you think happened?

He said.

Well, they only give you so many Nos and but The thing is they don't tell you how many so, but I just wanted to give a nod to Jack, where there's a celebration of life tomorrow in Lexington at Eastbourne Church on E Main St.

3:00 if anybody wants to go, but I just thought we should recognize the people that got us to where we are.

Any other comments or announcements?

Just a question, Sarah, the federal budget, I totally lost control.

I lost my sight on that.

You had control of that.

Know how it's affecting your brain?

The different programs I know, the President says budget out.

So we're still waiting for these to check out.

That's about all I can say on, OK.

Let me try.

Let me tell you this, the AWA had a meeting with Kramer last week.

You know, the acting assistant administrator for water.

She said that all all the money infrastructure funding should be flowing and if it's not, somebody needs to contact.

That's what she said to Aww and M1. That meeting OK.

I don't know if that would reality is on the ground, but that's the one sort of statement we're right, OK.

Yeah, I'm. I'm sure you were. I just.

I have lost total tracking.

Yeah. So things are just a little Hickey right now, yeah.

And we are.

We are gonna be very interested to see how it goes as well.

Our understanding is whatever money we've been awarded is ours and that's.

So we will continue to work through it.

I know it is business as usual that the division of water and we will continue to do the work.

We will continue to push forward and we will continue to expect other people to also meet their obligations.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

I still.

I still got about 15 minutes.

I'm sorry, right?

Now.

I.

Yeah.

□ **Carlton, John (EEC)** stopped transcription