

# City Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Eric Witt, BMU Water/Wastewater & Engineering Manager

**Council Meeting:** November 23, 2021

**Subject:** Resolution: BMU Lead Water Service Line Replacement

**Presenter:** Eric Witt, BMU Water/Wastewater & Engineering Manager

## **Summary:**

Brookings Municipal Utilities (BMU) is pursuing State Revolving Funding (SRF) for three projects and hopes to capitalize on Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and/or infrastructure grant funding. While still uncertain, funding guidance indicates an SRF application by December 31, 2021 will likely provide the highest probability of capitalizing on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding. Public hearings are required to support the pending SRF applications. As such, Public Hearings are scheduled with both the BMU Utility Board (November 22<sup>nd</sup>) and the Brookings City Council (November 23<sup>rd</sup>) for three projects detailed below. Resolutions authorizing the SRF applications are required for each of the three applications.

BMU will present at the Public Hearing for the third project (Lead Water Service Line Replacement Project). First District will discuss the project financial impact and will ultimately support the SRF application to the State.

## **Background:**

BMU has historically been pro-active regarding privately-owned lead service lines in the water distribution system. In the early 2000's (2001, 2002, & 2003), BMU initiated a project working with property owners to remove lead services: 73 were removed as part of those projects. In recent years, BMU has actively worked with property owners when lead water services have been encountered associated with construction projects. BMU has financed the removal of 13 lead service lines in the last 5 years.

As a result, only 48 known lead water services remain in the distribution system. Note that BMU actively inventoried lead water services coming into building basements during a water meter conversion project from approximately 2015 to 2021. As such, while unknown splices to a lead service outside a building are still possible, between historical records and the meter replacement project, BMU has as good an inventory of lead services as possible without excavation of each service.

## **Item Details:**

An update to the federal Lead and Copper Rule is anticipated in 2024. Sampling protocols are expected to change such that reported lead levels may be as much as 5

times higher than previously reported. This increases the potential for lead level exceedances. Consistent with increasing State and Federal emphasis to reduce lead exposure in drinking water, BMU plans to once again engage private property owners to remove the remaining 48 known lead service lines.

As expected, the 48 known lead service lines are generally located in the older portion of the community as shown on the attached location map.

**Legal Consideration:**

First District has provided the Resolution.

**Strategic Plan Consideration:**

These 3 projects fall under the following strategic plan areas: fiscal responsibility, safe-inclusive-connected community, service and innovation excellence, and sustainability.

**Financial Consideration:**

The Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) is \$920,000.

**Options and Recommendation:**

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve as presented
2. Amend
3. Deny
4. Move the item to a Study Session
5. Discuss / take no action / table

Staff recommends approval of the resolution as presented.

**Supporting Documentation:**

Resolution

Legal Notice

Map