
From: Murray, David (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 10:46 AM
To: 'Arthur Delaney'
Subject: FW: Letter Press release
Attachments: FWATF letter to Governor Snyder.pdf; 15.12.15 Flint Task Force Letter.pdf

Arthur, here is today's press release from the task force and the governor's response letter.

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From: chris@dewitt-communications.com [mailto:chris@dewitt-communications.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:46 AM
To: Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov>
Subject: Letter Press release

December 17, 2015

Contact: Chris De Witt
517-881-4784

Flint Water Advisory Task Force Initial Recommendations

Lansing, MI--The Flint Water Advisory Task Force today released a letter recently sent to Governor Rick Snyder, and the Governor's response, regarding initial recommendations to address health protection challenges with the Flint water supply. Copies of the letters are attached.

"We felt it was imperative to make these initial recommendations to help address the water crisis in Flint instead of waiting until our final report is submitted," said FWATF Co-Chair Chris Kolb. "We appreciate the prompt acceptance of our request for action by the Governor and see it as a step forward."

"The Task Force has been holding a number of fact finding interviews with individuals and groups that have pertinent information about what happened in Flint," FWATF Co-Chair Ken Sikkema stated. "While the Task Force is far from done with our work, the initial review has presented a very disturbing situation that will require many actions to help those that have suffered. We saw no reason to wait until the final report to make

these initial recommendations. We also anticipate that we will made additional recommendations prior to the final report.”

The FWATF letter included in part:

“One primary concern we have at this point is that the current efforts appear to be taking place in the absence of a larger project coordination framework that measures results and clearly delineates responsibilities for continuing actions to protect public health. We believe the state is best positioned to facilitate this larger framework, which should address the following:

1. The need for MDHHS and MDEQ—and, possibly, other state agencies--to set **goals** for actions in collaboration with local and federal agencies and organizations.
2. The need for a set of corresponding **timelines** for the goals.
3. The need to establish **responsibility** for meeting the goals in a timely fashion and for **contingency plans** for the state if the goals are not being met.
4. The need for clear, regular **communication** with the Flint community and stakeholder groups regarding action steps and updates.

We also believe it important that a single person or entity—potentially independent of any one particular state agency and mutually agreeable to this Task Force and you, Governor—be established to provide effective coordination of ongoing activities and reporting on the status of mitigation measures. For this, we also believe a readily understood “dashboard” should be developed that reports on the goals, timelines and assignments. This will enable members of the Flint community, public health providers, and state agencies to know about the status of the Flint water crisis mitigation program, as well as promote coordination and accountability. The Task Force is prepared to assist in the development of that dashboard.”

The full FWATF report is expected to be completed in early 2016.

Members of the Task Force include:

Matthew Davis, M.D., M.A.P.P., is professor of pediatrics and internal medicine at the University of Michigan Health System and professor of public policy at the Gerald R. Ford School at the University of Michigan, having joined the faculty in 2000. Davis also is a professor of health management and policy at the School of Public Health. He previously served as the chief medical executive of the Michigan Department of Community Health/Department of Health and Human Services.

Chris Kolb is president of the Michigan Environmental Council, a statewide coalition of 70 environmental, public health and faith-based nonprofit groups. Before joining the MEC, Kolb represented Ann Arbor in the state House for six years and served six years on the Ann Arbor City Council. He has been president of the MEC for six years.

Lawrence Reynolds, M.D., is a pediatrician in Flint who serves as president of the Mott Children’s Health Center. He received his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and has been in practice for 36 years. He has served as president of the Genesee County Medical Society and the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of

Pediatrics. He has been honored for his humanitarian and advocacy efforts on behalf of children from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Eric Rothstein is a national water issues consultant and principal at the Galardi Rothstein Group. He served as an independent advisor on the creation of the Great Lakes Water Authority. Rothstein also has served as Jefferson County, Alabama's rate consultant and municipal adviser for litigation related to the county's bankruptcy and issuance of \$1.7 billion in sewer warrants and led strategic financial planning for the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management. He has more than 30 years of experience in water, wastewater and stormwater utility finance and rate-making assessments.

Ken Sikkema is a senior policy fellow at Public Sector Consultants, where he specializes in public finance, environment, and energy policy. Prior to joining the firm, Sikkema served in both the Michigan House and Senate, culminating with four years as Senate majority leader. He has also served as both an adjunct and visiting professor at Grand Valley State University.

The FWATF was formed by Governor Snyder to review actions regarding the Flint water system and offer recommendations both for Flint and Michigan to protect the health and safety of state residents.

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