



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
6/20/2024 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Lake County Division of Transportation
600 W. Winchester Rd.
Libertyville IL 60048

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Following:

1. Call to Order

Rob Flood, alternate Monitoring Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30.

2. Roll Call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator performed roll call. Members present: Chair **Rob Flood**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Public Health; **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; **Brian Kuebker**, Village of Libertyville; and **Jim Bland**, EPS, Inc. A quorum was present.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Brandon Janes, Village of Deerfield; Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec; and Ashley Strelcheck, Lake County SMC (attending virtually).

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *04/18/24 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kuebker to approve the 04/18/24 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Old Business

a. LCHD 2024 Monitoring Update

Bartolai reported that the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) collected the monitoring samples in May and the data is being analyzed. The next collection of samples will be in July. It was asked how frequently phosphorus monitoring is performed. Bartolai responded that it is performed five (5) times in a year during each sampling event.

b. Validation of Illinois EPA and DRWW Monitoring Station Codes Update

Bartolai updated the Monitoring Committee on the validation of Illinois EPA and DRWW Monitoring station codes. SMC has provided historical site code information, the information will be reviewed, and an update will be provided sometime in Fall 2024. The goal is to have the station codes verified with the Illinois EPA by March 2025.

* = DRWW Action Item; Consensus vote

** = DRWW Action Item; Roll Call

6. New Business

- a. ***MBI “Biological and Water Quality Assessment of Upper Des Plaines River 2022” Report Approval**
Motion by Bland, seconded by Kuebker to make a recommendation to the Executive Board to approve MBI’s “Biological and Water Quality Assessment of Upper Des Plaines River 2022” report. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

- b. ***DRWW May 2024 Newsletter Approval**
Motion by Bland, seconded by Bartolai to make a recommendation to the Executive Board to approve the Annual Newsletter for distribution to the General Membership with the amended second paragraph concerning the NARP update. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

- c. **Burkholder Comments on Draft NARP Report Discussion**
Albert Ettinger, Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter Counsel, submitted a letter and comments on the draft NARP report to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The review and comments were written by Dr. JoAnn Burkholder, from the Mississippi River Collaborative, questioning the validity of the modeling, the amount of data, and the conclusions of the NARP report. Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec stated that Ettinger has submitted comments to other groups that have submitted NARPs, and Geosyntec stands behind the presumptions of the model. The Illinois EPA has not asked for a response. In Spring 2024 the Illinois EPA posted NARP reports that have been submitted on the Illinois EPA website. With the DRWW NARP report posted to the public, these comments can be the only response, or the first response of many. Geosyntec stated that the Illinois EPA has not approved the Fox River Implementation Plan (FRIP), but Illinois EPA has been working with the Publicly Owned Treatment Plants (POTWs) to fulfill the conditions. Chuck Bodden, NSWRD, will reach out to IAWA to see what their response to Illinois EPA will be. The Monitoring Committee agreed that response to the Burkholder comments will wait until further review on the comments can be done and the Illinois EPA has been contacted and consulted.

- d. **NARP Implementation and Schedule Discussion: Monitoring and Modeling Studies**
The Monitoring Committee discussed the Monitoring and Modeling Studies category of the NARP Implementation Plan and Schedule. The Monitoring Committee is waiting for a response and potential approval of the NARP report from the Illinois EPA as well as any changes to that are made to NPDES permit requirements for POTWs and MS4s before making changes to the monitoring program. The Monitoring Committee would like to work with watershed partners to develop a watershed-wide tracking program of development and restoration projects. Geosyntec noted that during the NARP development process it was difficult getting feedback from DRWW members on water quality improvement projects that stakeholders were planning and implementing. The committee agreed that more outreach to the communities will be necessary to make this objective work. The final item that was discussed was to work with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other stakeholders to consider establishing a Next Generation Water Observing Station on Des Plaines River at Illinois-Wisconsin border. The committee agreed that a letter of encouragement should be drafted and sent to the USGS.

- e. **Oil & Grease Monitoring Discussion**
Flood provided background on the “oil and grease” parameter noted in the current Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit language. After speaking with Chris Yoder, MBI, it is thought that this parameter was left off the monitoring list because oil and grease would be difficult to detect at detectable levels in ambient waters outside of a spill. Flood proposed DRWW to perform visual inspections during sample

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collection and adding that parameter to the collection form. The Monitoring Committee agreed, and LCHD will start implementing Flood's suggestions at the next sampling event.

7. Member Comments

Northern Moraine Wastewater Reclamation District has been working with the Illinois EPA to add water quality trading as part of their NPDES permit. That would enable the group to fund projects in the watershed instead of reducing the amount of phosphorous in the effluent.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting July 18, 2024 at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bartolai, seconded by Bland. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:43pm.

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