



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda
10/17/2024 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

Steve Waters, Monitoring Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:32.

2. Roll Call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator performed roll call. Members present: Chair **Steve Waters**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Public Health; **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; and **Don Wilson**, EPS, Inc. A quorum was present.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Christine Morris, Lake County Public Works; Linda Tilton, Sierra Club; Brian Valleskey, Geosyntec; and Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake. Attending virtually Adrienne Nemura, Geosyntec; and Ashley Strelcheck, Lake County SMC.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *09/19/24 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion Bartolai, seconded by Wilson to approve the 09/19/24 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a consensus vote, with Huber abstaining.

5. Old Business

a. LCHD 2024 Monitoring Update

Bartolai provided an update to the Monitoring Committee on the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) monitoring program. LCHD has completed sampling for 2024. The data and invoice for the August 2024 sampling have been submitted, and the September data and invoice will be submitted soon. Bartolai anticipates a summary of data for 2024 will be provided at the November meeting.

6. New Business

a. *Geosyntec Proposal to Address Comments to the DRWW NARP

Adrienne Nemura, Geosyntec, provided a cost breakdown of Geosyntec's proposal to address comments received concerning the DRWW's Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) report. The DRWW received two letters commenting on the NARP report from Dr. JoAnn Burkholder and from the Sierra Club of Illinois. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) recommended that the DRWW submit a response to the two letters IEPA received which commented on the NARP. There were questions by the Monitoring Committee on whether the DRWW should submit a formal response since the DRWW is not legally obligated to do so, and how other watershed groups are responding to the Sierra Club of Illinois letter. Nemura responded that the comments received are part of the public record and opens the permit holders to risk when it is time to renew their NPDES permit. By responding to the letters, the DRWW is proactively providing a document on the public record, avoiding future back and forth with IEPA. Nemura added that the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup is in process of writing a response to IEPA. A motion was made by Bartolai to table the Geosyntec proposal to address comments

* = DRWW Action Item

made to the DRWW NARP report until the DRWW has a chance to discuss the comments with Burkholder or until the January Monitoring Committee meeting, seconded by Johnson. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

b. NARP Implementation and Schedule Discussion: Actions to provide ancillary benefits Agriculture and Stream & Wetland Restoration

The Monitoring Committee discussed Actions to Provide Ancillary Benefits for Agriculture and Stream & Wetland Restoration category of the NARP Implementation Plan and Schedule. For actions involving agriculture the Monitoring Committee agreed that it needs to find contacts within the communities listed in the Implementation Plan to share the DRWW NARP report with them and to initiate contact with them. For items concerning the stream and wetland restoration project within the watershed there was a question on whether SMC was monitoring the watershed for the implementation of these projects as part of the Watershed Based Plans that SMC has developed. Ashley Strelcheck, SMC, stated that the SMC had a Des Plaines River Steering Committee which would keep track of ongoing and potential projects. However, due to the pandemic, the committee was put on hold and meetings have not resumed due to a lack of staff time. SMC does however track internal projects which can be shared with the DRWW, however municipalities that perform their own projects are not tracked. The Monitoring Committee wants to explore different methods of tracking projects within the watershed, and highlighting projects in the biannual newsletter.

c. Discussion on USGS to consider establishing a Next Generation Water Observing Station on Des Plaines River at IL-WI border

Waters opened discussion about pursuing contact with the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) to establish a Next Generation Water Observing Station (NGWOS) on the Des Plaines River. At a recent Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) the USGS were presenting, and a member of the DRWW reached out and contacted the member of the USGS in charge of the NGWOS program. The Monitoring Committee agrees to pursue contact and discussion with the USGS, further information about the NGWOS will be provided after the meeting.

d. Overview of WDNR “Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL Project Update Webinar”

Niedzinski provided an overview of the Fox-Illinois River Basin TMDL Project Update webinar which occurred on September 25, 2024. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has almost finished completing their model of the watershed and soon will be inputting data to run different watershed scenarios. A recording and slides of the webinar is available on the WDNR website, and the modeling report is open for public comment until December 6, 2024.

e. Overview of NLRs “NARPs and NPDES: What We have Learned and Next Steps”

Bartolai provided an overview of the NARPs and NPDES: What We have Learned and Next Steps presentation at the NLRs Nutrient Monitoring Council meeting on September 26, 2004. Albert Ettinger and Mila Marshall from the Environmental Law and Policy Center representing the Illinois Sierra Club presented their comments on the NARP process and their findings, which include inadequate stakeholder engagement and a lack of necessary conditions in submissions.

f. *Monitoring Committee alternate member consideration: Christine Morris

Motion by Bartolai, seconded by Huber, to nominate Christine Morris as alternate Lake County Public Works Monitoring Committee member to replace Joel Sensenig. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

7. Member Comments

Johnson requested that the Monitoring Committee add the upcoming Waukegan Airport Runway expansion as an agenda item to a future meeting. The airport will be expanding into the Des Plaines watershed and there may be environmental impacts to the watershed.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting November 21, 2024 at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bartolai, seconded by Huber. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Flood adjourned the meeting at 1:44pm.

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