



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda
01/16/2025 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 12:30.

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; **Christine Morris**, Lake County Public Works; **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Brian Kuebker**, Village of Libertyville; **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; and **Jim Bland**, EPS Inc. A quorum was present.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Ashley Strelcheck, SMC; Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Rob Flood, NSWRD; Don Wilson, EPS Inc.; and Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *11/21/24 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Kuebker, seconded by Huber to approve the 11/21/24 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a consensus vote.

5. Old Business

The was no old business to discuss.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion of Dr. Burkholder's "Comments on the draft Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) for the Upper Des Plaines River" presentation at the November 21, 2024 Monitoring Committee Meeting

i. Overview of "Comments on the draft NARP for the Upper Des Plaines River"

The Monitoring Committee discussed Dr. Burkholder's presentation. It was noted that Jim Bland does not agree that model used in the DRWW NARP is sufficient in establishing effluent standards.

The NARP was the culmination of several years' worth of data collected by the DRWW using limited resources to submit a report within the timelines described in permits that the Illinois EPA implemented. Mahajan respectfully disagreed with Bland. Geosyntec had a scope and a clear approach to the NARP, in addition to several meetings with the DRWW membership and the Illinois EPA to obtain feedback to incorporate into the NARP. Johnson recommends that the Monitoring Committee reviews Geosyntec response to Dr. Burkholder's comments. The Illinois EPA is reviewing the NARP and the DRWW has yet to receive a response from the Illinois EPA.

ii. Discussion on DRWW's approach to addressing comments to the NARP

The Monitoring Committee discussed DRWW's approach to responding to the comments addressed to the NARP. It was agreed that it is important for the Workgroup to respond to the Illinois EPA, ultimately up to Illinois EPA to decide if the agency will accept the DRWW NARP. The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) submitted a response to the Illinois EPA on comments received from the Sierra Club. Bodden Illinois EPA is looking at NARP reports on a watershed basis, the Des Plaines River watershed is at the top. The Monitoring Committee discussed drafting a response to the comments received from the Sierra Club concerning stakeholder engagement, and at the next meeting will vote upon Geosyntec's proposal to address Dr. Burkholder's comments.

b. Overview of the NRCS Upper Des Plaines Watershed Plan meeting

Niedzinski provided an overview on the Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) meeting. NRCS had a public meeting on December 10 going over the Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA) for the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed in 2024-2025. The primary goal of the project is to reduce flooding in the watershed, secondary project goals are environmental protection, improve habitat, and increase recreational opportunities. The NRCS is doing modeling for the reasons of design work which will be contingent on future Federal funding.

c. *Lakes Committee Leaf Disposal Survey Recommendation

Bartolai presented the Lakes Committee leaf disposal survey to the Monitoring Committee for review and for a recommendation for approval to the Executive Board. The Leaf Disposal Survey will be distributed at the DRWW Annual Membership meeting on February 20, 2025. The data collected from the survey will help guide the Lakes Committee in how to best approach education. Motion by Kuebker, second by Bland to recommend to the Executive Board the approval of the Lakes Committee Leaf Disposal Survey. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

d. *2024 DRWW Annual Newsletter Recommendation

Niedzinski presented the DRWW Annual Newsletter to the Monitoring Committee. Motion by Kuebker, second by Bartolai to recommend to the Executive Board the approval of the 2024 DRWW Annual Newsletter. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

e. 2025 IWEA Government Affairs Conference

Niedzinski notified the Monitoring Committee that Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) will be hosting a Government Affairs Conference on Friday, January 31st, 2025. The presentations will be covering integrated planning, federal and state regulation updates, and Illinois EPA Permit Updates. Niedzinski and Strelcheck will be attending the conference, and will provide updates to the workgroups afterwards.

f. Lake-McHenry County MS4 Workshop Sponsorship Discussion

Niedzinski informed the Monitoring Committee that Lake County SMC and McHenry County will be co-hosting an MS4 Workshop on May 21st, 2025 in Libertyville. Niedzinski is the SMC program manager for this workshop. The workshop topic will either be Updates to the new MS4 permit, Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping, or Green Infrastructure. The workshop will be open to all MS4s and if the topic is Pollution Prevention or Green Infrastructure it will cover the annual training requirement. Currently SMC and McHenry are finalizing the operating costs, it is both counties' goal to provide the workshop for free of charge so will be asking for sponsorships from local stakeholders.

g. Overview of DRWW Member Protocols

Niedzinski reviewed DRWW Member Protocols, including Robert's Rules of order, Open Meetings Act (OMA) rules and clarifications, and the DRWW By-Laws with the Monitoring Committee. A reminder will be sent out to the Monitoring Committee members who have not completed the OMA training.

h. DRWW June 2025 Meeting Schedule Change

Niedzinski informed the Monitoring Committee that the June Monitoring Committee meeting falls on June 19th, 2025, Juneteenth, which is a fixed County holiday. Lake County buildings will be closed, and Lake County staff will not be working. The Monitoring Committee agreed that if there are no pressing items the meeting can be cancelled, or if there are pressing items the meeting can be moved to the 2nd or 4th Thursday of June. The Monitoring Committee would like to revisit this at the April meeting.

7. Member Comments

Niedzinski announced that the DRWW will be having elections this year. If there are there any people or agencies that will be stepping away from the Monitoring Committee notify Waters and Niedzinski by January 31st, 2025. Petition(s) presenting additional nominees for the Executive Board may be submitted to the Executive Board by Workgroup members no later than 10 calendar days before the Annual Meeting. A petition must contain the signatures of Workgroup members representing a minimum of three Agency Members and each nominee's signature. Only the names of the individuals who have been nominated according to the procedures described herein will be considered, and no nominations shall be permitted from the floor.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. DRWW General Membership Meeting February 20, 2025 at 1:30pm, Lake County Public Works (650 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, Conference Room)
- b. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting March 20, 2025 at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Kuebker, seconded by Huber to adjourn. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:28pm.