**Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup**

**Monitoring Committee**

**10/8/2015**

**1:30-3:00 PM**

**North Shore Water Reclamation District**

**14770 West William Koepsel Drive, Gurnee IL 60031**

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Call the meeting to order: Joe Robinson called the meeting to order at 1:39pm.
2. Approval of 9/10/15 meeting minutes: Al Giertych motioned to approve the minutes, Mike Adam seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Water Column Chemistry Monitoring Update: Joe said that the lab holding time on turbidity is supposed to be 48 hours. They did not meet that for the first few samples; they exceeded the holding time limit. Joe also talked to them about total phosphorus detection limits, whether they have the ability to measure to 0.01 mg/L or 0.05 mg/L. Likely to see 0.05 from SL because they are having problems with QC at lower detection levels.

Andrea reported that all sites were sampled on 9/23, 9/24, 9/25, and 9/28. We have reports for 23 sites, the remainder of the reports coming this week. They sent BOD out to a different lab, so they are still waiting on processing. The Monitoring Plan says May-September, November and March. Do we want them to sample in November? The group agreed to October and November. When do we want them to sample metals and water organics? The group decided possibly in October; it’s dependent on water levels since the tests are supposed to be done under low flow conditions. Metals: total hardness, iron, sodium, arsenic, manganese, mercury, copper, nickel, zinc. Water organics: PCBs, Pesticides, Methoxychlor, PNAs, VOCs. Both are annually under low flow conditions.

1. QAPP: Almost done. Andrea requested that we come back to this discussion after the next agenda item.
2. Bioassessment Request for Proposals (RFP): Joe said that everyone received a copy of Jim Bland’s comments. Jim went over his comments briefly, starting with the fact that the regulatory requirements/drivers are not clear. Macroinvertebrates are only identified to the family level method. Regulatory requirements are for MBI and mIBI. In Jim Bland’s resource manager guide appendices shows what regulatory goals vs. use attainment. Joe agrees that family level id of macros is insufficient. Genus or species level is needed.

Jim also advocated for a statistically sound approach to the monitoring and a need for historical data review. If making management decisions, we should know what happened before. This should be an explicit task in the bioassessment RFP, including the review of TMDLs, USACE, and lake reports.

Austin McFarlane mentioned that the deadline is March for data collection for water chemistry for annual report for POTWs NPDES reports.

It was decided that instructions will be provided with the RFP to include separate cost for each task, with the flow monitoring being included as an optional task. A task for background data compilation and analysis will be added. The DRWW will supply the contractor with relevant resources to provide a historical and current perspective of the watershed including TMDL report, 303d report, USACE studies involving dam removal recommendations, etc.

Joe thinks Jim’s last comment about developing a map of hazardous materials sites should be directed to the impairment committee.

Steve Vella mentioned that the introduction in the RFP regarding NPDES permittees seeing costly plant upgrades is misleading. We have not seen the effects yet.

Patty suggested making the RFP for two years with a termination clause to cover efforts for 2016 and 2017.

Randy Seebach suggested including a draft contract with the RFP that has the clauses in it.

Jim asked if the contractor suggests altering the number of sites is the group open to it. Joe said no – they should stick to the 44 sites. At this point we don’t know if a sites is relevant or not without sampling it. After they sample, then we may be open to changing the sites.

Al asked if this would be a Professional Services Contract.

Rob Flood asked if we could put a time window in for sampling. Joe suggested June through Sept. Leonard said that’s already covered by Illinois EPA’s methodology.

A suggestion was made to add a footnote to Table 2 that it is not part of this RFP, but included for reference purposes. Andrea will go through other parts of the RFP to check for sediment references – make sure it’s explicit that not part of this contract.

It was decided that collection of sediment will be listed as a separate task.

The question was raised whether Illinois EPA use QHEI? Andrea will check the habitat method. Directly ask Illinois EPA.

The group discussed what firms the RFP would be sent to: EA, Huff and Huff, Living Water, ILM, Duechler.

Patty suggested that the deadlines in the RFP be reconsidered. It was decided that the group will allow for three weeks for submittals.

Andrea will make revisions and send to the entire committee for review.

1. Next meeting: December 10th, 9AM at Lake County Stormwater Mngt Commission offices.
2. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Vella, seconded by Jim. Passed unanimously.

**Committee Members Present:**

Mike Adam, Lake County Health Department

Jim Bland, Sierra Club

Al Giertych, Lake County Department of Transportation

Austin McFarlane, Lake County Public Works

Joe Robinson, North Shore Water Reclamation District

Randy Seebach, Lake County Forest Preserve District

Steve Vella, Libertyville

**Other Attendees:**

Andrea Cline, Geosyntec

Leonard Dane, Deuchler Environmental

Rob Flood, North Shore Water Reclamation District

Patty Werner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission