

Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup 2016 Annual Accomplishments



The Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW or Workgroup) officially formed in 2015 with the goal of improving water quality through a collaborative, locally led process. The Workgroup has accomplished much in the first two years, from developing and sustaining the membership base to working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) on permitting to initiating monitoring programs. Below is a highlight of these accomplishments.

Membership

The DRWW has built a strong membership base by demonstrating value to members. The Workgroup has gained the support of 20 members, securing \$398,416 in membership dues. \$47,707 of additional funding was provided by the Lake County Forest Preserve District and Lake County Department of Transportation to enhance the monitoring network and baseline data. Membership dues, along with in-kind services and grant money, fund all activities of the Workgroup. Membership in the group consists of municipal and county government agencies, publically owned treatment works (POTWs), consulting firms, and environmental not-for-profits. In the next year, the DRWW will continue to work to increase membership through outreach to additional municipalities, townships, businesses, and other local government agencies. All General Membership, Board and Committee meetings are open to the public.

Grant Funding and Watershed Planning

Through working with Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC), the DRWW activities and funding contributes a match amount to support a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant funding through Illinois EPA. Lake County SMC will receive \$658,162 to complete watershed based planning in the Des Plaines River watershed and implement three best management practices (BMPs) projects to reduce nonpoint-source pollution. The Plan is a prerequisite for future grant funding opportunities which will be focused on green infrastructure and water quality improvement practices within the watershed. The DRWW also will receive \$47,500 for components of the comprehensive monitoring program through the grant awarded to Lake County SMC.

SMC held x watershed planning meetings in conjunction with the DRWW and will have x additional targeted DRWW through the completion of the plan. In 2016, a tremendous massive chapters 1 and 2 of the watershed-based plan and the Stream and Detention Basin Inventories were completed. Additionally, information was collected and analyzed on soils, demographics, land use, transportation, and water quality. The planning process will continue through 2017, ending with the final plan in 2018, which will contain a list of actionable water quality improvement projects

The Monitoring Committee was successful in receiving Illinois EPA approval for its water quality Monitoring Strategy and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for the DRWW Bioassessment and Flow Monitoring programs in 2016. The QAPPS are required in order for Illinois EPA to accept and use the monitoring data for future water quality assessments. The monitoring program includes measuring stream and river flows in addition to sampling for water and sediment chemistry and fish and macro-invertebrates at 70 sites throughout the Des Plaines watershed planning area. The DRWW will receive reimbursement of \$47,500 from the Illinois EPA grant for the Des Plaines River Watershed-Based Plan for costs associated with developing the Monitoring Strategy and QAPPs.

DRWW members participated in ___ watershed planning meetings in 2016, and successfully hosted the August 2016 watershed planning meeting at the North Shore Water Reclamation District that focused on public wastewater treatment plants in the watershed. Four DRWW member agencies participated on a panel presenting their operations and discussing challenges and opportunities related to wastewater management in the watershed.

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National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting

In March, the DRWW submitted the first “Annual Stream Monitoring Report for Member Water Reclamation Facilities” to the Illinois EPA. The report included the permit required monitoring data in the receiving stream for upstream and downstream of POTWs’ discharge. This new permit requirement, which would be costlier and less informative for POTWs to do individually, is being met with the assistance of the DRWW.

Last year, after much discussion surrounding monitoring, a new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit was issued in February, effective March 1, 2016. The new permit has extensive monitoring requirements for permittees serving populations over 25,000. The DRWW will support these new requirements for permittees, providing them with monitoring data for their annual reports.

Flow Monitoring

Burns & McDonnell was selected through a competitive bid process to develop and implement a flow monitoring program in the watershed. Through this effort, flow will be estimated in all major tributaries and the mainstem, allowing for the future calculation of pollutant loads. This information will help further determine where pollutants originate and how to prevent or remove them from the watershed.

Bioassessment and Water Chemistry Monitoring

In 2016, the baseline data collection effort of bioassessment including fish, macroinvertebrates, habitat, water column and sediment chemistry was collected for 70 sites within the Des Plaines River watershed. Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) and Suburban Laboratories were selected through a competitive bid process to complete the work. Data and preliminary results, including a full report, are expected in 2017. All data collection procedures followed the DRWW’s Illinois EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan, which outlines the procedures used to ensure data collection and analysis are uniform and consistent. In the future, monitoring will be completed on a rotating basis.

For additional details on the DRWW visit www.drww.org. If you’d like to hear more about the DRWW, please contact Mike Warner, Administrative Agent at 847-377-7700 or mwarner@lakecountyil.gov or Beth Adler at 847-381-7059 or badler@lakecountyil.gov.

Thank you to the hardworking members that have made this year a success!

DRWW Executive Board (2016)

President: Peter Kolb, Lake County Public Works

Vice President: Brian Dorn, North Shore Water Reclamation District

Treasurer: Michael Talbett, Village of Kildeer

Secretary: Paul Kendzior, Village of Libertyville

Monitoring Committee Chair: Joe Robinson, North Shore Water Reclamation District

Lakes Committee Chair: Mike Adam, Lake County Health Department

Impairments Committee Chair, Scott Phippen, Village of Lincolnshire

DRWW Membership

Agency Members:	Agency Members:
Village of Buffalo Grove	Village of Lake Zurich
Village of Deerfield	Village of Libertyville
Village of Grayslake	Village of Lincolnshire
Village of Green Oaks	Village of Lindenhurst

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Village of Gurnee Village of Kildeer Lake County Lake County Forest Preserve District City of Lake Forest	North Shore Water Reclamation District Village of Riverwoods Village of Round Lake Beach Village of Third Lake Village of Vernon Hills
<u>Associate Members:</u> Christopher B. Burke Engineering Wetlands Research, Inc.	<u>Associate Members:</u> Sierra Club Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

