

DRWW/DRSCWG Meeting 4-5-2017

Attendees

Peter Kolb - Applied Technologies Inc
Brian Dorn - NSWRD
Joe Robinson - NSWRD
Michael Talbett - Kildeer
Jim Bland - Sierra Club
Leslie Berns - FPD
Jim Anderson - FPD
Dave Gorman Lombard - President DRSCWG
Tara Neff - DRSCW
Stephen McCracken - DRSCW
Mike Adam -LCHD
Beth Adler - DRWW Coordinator
Jennifer Hammer - The Conservation Foundation
Deanna Doohaluck - The Conservation Foundation

Brian and Joe kicked off meeting with introductions and purpose of the meeting - have 2 years of data and need to know what to do next.
Also interested in learning about the transition from data collection and analysis to implementing projects

DRSCW

Work group formed in response to TMDL in 2004. Made dues pledges in 2004 for beginning of dues collection in 2005.

Started with .8 FTE 13 years ago, have 2.6 FTE of TCF staff for work group that are funded from dues now.

Started as a data gathering and analysis group with focus on figuring out what they needed to do to make improvements, and getting the right members to the table to discuss issues and solutions. Goal to improve aquatic life.

Tried to get NPDES permit fees returned to group for funding. Who did they talk to at IL EPA to try and get fees? IL EPA started having to use NPDES fees for staff, that were covered by general funds in previous years. Therefore, DRSCW stopped their request because they didn't want to take staff salaries. They are now using Village of Addison fine for project implementation?

Calculated \$40-120 million in WLA costs to communities for the TMDL.

Jim Anderson asked how the DRSCW moved from data collection to project identification. MBI produced technical support documents where they do a comprehensive assessment of WQ (biological, physical, chemistry).

TMDL required improved DO - not sure if the IL EPA mandates via the TMDL were the best methods to improve aquatic life. So DRSCW tackled the aquatic life issues. Met with MBI to figure out how to use the data to solve the aquatic life problem. (Presented to DRWW in Feb - ID stressors, barriers and what is needed to address the barriers).

IPS model: Put all of the stressors on the table not just the 303D listed pollutants (flow patterns etc). Looked at density of streets in the watershed, land use etc.

Reduced to 44 stressors and eventually down to 9 (4 chemical and 5 physical), which they decided to address. Missed including the flow and dam issues in the statistical analysis - will be doing that in the next iteration of the stressor analysis. USEPA river resource working group CADDIS stressor statistical tools were used for analysis. It is a multi-variant statistical analysis. Need people who are knowledgeable about the stream as well as statistical expert to verify the data and adjust it as needed.

DRSCW is happy about DRWW data being added to CADDIS to expand its veracity.

DRSCW does summer monitoring for chloride via the bioassessment

Winter program with conductivity meters - need to decide if winter levels impair biology.

Jim with Huff and Huff is trying to answer the question of whether higher levels of chloride in winter impair aquatic life, goal to take down the spring tail-off of chloride that may be influencing reproduction etc.. Marrying flow data with concentration to determine influence.

Lakes need load allocations for nutrients.

Annual increases being seen in chlorides regionally including Lake Michigan.

Had Qual2Ks done in 2008-2010 - HDR did these models to address DO. Work group collected additional data and reran the models with better data points.

IPS modeling – DRWW to consider doing a cost-sharing agreement with DRSCW to do the modeling. Larger scale is an advantage for modeling. More data is better. Can cost-share data collection and running GIS model.

Need to make sure that the data that is collected works with the modeling we need.

USEPA now making DRSCW take habitat restoration projects out of the watershed plan.

Some watershed plan recommendations will mesh with IPS model recommendations, but there may be IPS model recommended projects that will not be suitable for the watershed plan.

Jim Bland - issue with watershed planning models. Toxicants not being incorporated into watershed planning.

Look for the IPS white paper on the DRSCW website as well as QAPP and Region 5 paper. Met with Patrick Ireland and George Accevado at US EPA.

Is this a deferment of eventual nutrient removal capacities at WWTP, or is it a permanent solution? Bugs and fish in creek trumps everything in impairment assessment by IL EPA. Selling the O&M savings of nutrient removal for alternative investment in aquatic life improvement projects - DRSCW has a white paper on this also.

Are the IL EPA aquatic life criteria reasonable and achievable? Not practical to have the same quality standards for urban watersheds as in pristine streams. TALU (Tiered Aquatic Life Use) will probably be coming into play to address the differences between urban and pristine streams.

WI and MN have TALU standards written. IEWA in Illinois is working on this system.

Deana: Nutrient Implementation Plan (NIP) is a 2023 deliverable for DRSCW. Have hired consultants to develop nutrient trading program as part of the NIP. Their NIP will be appropriate for all POTW members in workgroup including the Lower DuPage - will include nonpoint source wash off (out) model. Will include leaf litter removal with street sweeping practices program in the NIP. One stream impaired for nuisance algae that will also have to be addressed by NIP.

If DRWW is not ready to prepare NIP yet, need to talk with permit writer to show what is planned (with something of value) with a request for an extension of the deadline for the NIP.

See if Lake County can do the GIS work for the IPS. Stephen McCracken is working on time requirement and models for GIS.

Suggestion to check in with IL EPA to verify validity of the aquatic life goal for the DRWW.

Requested a collaborative meeting with DRWW and DRSCW to go down to Springfield to meet with the IL EPA.

Jim A requested the list of workgroups in the Chicago region.

FRSG

DRWW

DRSCW

Lower DuPage

Lower Des Plaines

NBWW

Hickory Creek

DRWW may want to collaborate on the NIP - esp. wash off model.

Post meeting discussion with Deana about the wash off model and any potential tweaks or coordination with the DPR NPS modeling being done by Northwater:

- DRSCW has \$130K budgeted for this modeling for P in DR/SC watershed.
- DRSCW is going to pay experts from modeling companies to meet with them about the best model design.
- They will develop an RFP and scope based on the results of these conversations.

Discussed what WI is doing. We will look at EMCs that Roger Bannerman has tweaked for potential use in NW's model for the DPR.