



**DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2016 1:30-3:30 PM
LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS TRAINING FACILITY
650 W WINCHESTER RD, LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048**

MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Introductions and Announcements** – Peter Kolb, Director of Public Works for Lake County and DRWW President, called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm, conducted introductions, and provided an overview of the meeting.
- 2. Approve 8/18/16 meeting minutes.** Brian Dorn motioned to approve the minutes, Mike Talbett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Public Comment.** None.
- 4. Guest Speakers**

a. Tom Slawski - Southeast Fox River Partnership

Tom formed the Southeast Fox River Partnership – a watershed that is shared between 2 states, WI and IL. The partnership was formed to work on these priority issues: Land Use Planning and Zoning; Loss of Wetlands; Loss of Habitat; Protecting ground water; and Education about local natural resource issues. WI has a long history of stewardship, many lake associations and river groups have been around since the 1900's. The next Fox River Summit will be March 10, 2017 (Beyond Education – Action!). The IL Fox River Group (IFRG) is a collaboration of POTW's that collect data and share it.

Protect/Reconnect/Restore

(land)/ (corridors) / (developed land)

Resources:

- Habitat Management Guidance - University authored for protection of amphibians (<http://www.parcplace.org/parcplace/publications/habitat-management-guidelines.html>). Fox River Water Trail Initiative (<http://foxriverecosystem.org/trail.htm>). WI Water Action Volunteers (<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/pubs.html>).
- Stream Functions Pyramid – A guide for assessing and restoring stream functions. (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/stream_functions_pyramid.pdf)
- WaterSMART Study (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) (<http://usbr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=043fe91887ac4d4dc92a4c0f427e38ab0>)
- Great Lakes Basin WaterSMART Pilot Project. Pilot project on the Fox River. <https://water.usgs.gov/wateravailability/greatlakes/>

b. Donald Hey – Use of Wetlands for producing Water Quality Credits – a pilot project (handout: Summary of Sullivan Woods, Vernon Hills, IL)

Pilot site is on Indian Creek in Vernon Hills. Don met with IEPA about this pilot project in Oct. 2016 and IEPA was keen on allowing a mixing zone and open to making revisions to permits to facilitate the trade. Wetlands remove Nitrogen (“N”) out of river water. The pilot project would collect data to verify this. There are water quality (“WQ”) markets right now in the Eastern States. Wetlands create a lot of credits, but there must be monitoring to verify the number of credits. Cash could flow from POTWs to wetland credit producers and POTWs would be able to offset these costs by reducing their energy input, mixing and hold times, etc. The Des Plaines River Wetland Project is getting excellent N removal and good phosphorus (“P”) removal. The amount depends on the hold time of the water. Denitrification slows down in the winter, but it still occurs. N is high in our waters in April thru June, hypoxia occurs in the Gulf of Mexico in July as water from the Des Plaines is arriving there.

Pilot project partners are Vernon Hills Park District, Vernon Hills Public Works, and the DRWW. Goal of the project is to restore riparian wetlands and establish a credit market using wetlands. The site of the pilot project was formerly a wetland; we know that because the soils are hydric. The land now has trees on it, trees are not good at removing N and P, so floodplain trees would be removed and replaced with sedges. Riffle structures would raise the water level by 2-3 feet, this would create 51 acres of wetlands. The cost is \$3M. Research would be done to answer these questions: How much methane does a wetland produce (air monitoring)? How much carbon does it sequester? How much calcium carbonate is formed in the soil due to water level fluctuations (P attaches to calcium carbonate)?

IEPA is willing to give a variance to POTWs who participate – to increase their discharge of N with an offset from the wetlands.

Comment: This isn't a N limit for POTWs now, but there is a P limit.

Peter Kolb: The \$800,000 from POTWs will be the problem.

Don Hey: Wisconsin has nutrient sharing guidelines but IL is not using them yet. U.S. EPA wrote guidelines in 2003.

Question: Do wetlands reduce chlorides?

Don Hey: Chloride needs to be sequestered, it is highly soluble, so pulling it out of solution is tough.

Peter Kolb: Lets continue this discussion with the DRWW's Executive Board. POTWs need a mechanism for funding projects like these.

Andrea Cline: Funding mechanism could be different depending on the project.

Maybe we need an “approach to funding.”

Jim: Need to find out what project will give the biggest bang for the buck.

Peter Kolb: This is the watershed plan team's job.

5. **DRWW Business** – Peter will lead the group DRWW business matters.

a. **Membership Update** - 2016 was our second full fiscal year. 20 members this year and \$226,000 in dues. There will be a full financial report at the February Annual Meeting. Financially, the DRWW is looking good. Lake County SMC is the administrative agent. SMC is provided many hours of admin to the DRWW at no charge, which is why SMC requested the DRWW find a 0.5 FTE Technical Coordinator for the DRWW. How to sell paying dues to your municipalities - if the POTW servicing your community gets hit with a costly upgrade to meet new discharge requirements, this cost will get spread to all the customers of that plant, so municipalities, as customers will share that cost. Now IL EPA also requires monitoring from MS4's with a population over 25,000. Watershed monitoring as a group is most cost-effective way to collect this data. Beth Adler is our new Technical Coordinator, she has excellent qualifications, BS Civil Engineering from University of Michigan, law degree from Chicago-Kent and 12 years working for U.S. EPA. Peter Kolb and Scott Pippin are both officially retiring from the DRWW today, so let's give them a big hand. Patty Werner at SMC is leading up the Watershed Plan. Beth will be working on a draft Workplan for the DRWW.

b. **Committee Updates**

i. **Monitoring Committee** – Joe Robinson, Monitoring Committee Chair, presented a summary. Collecting baseline data; our last water column sample will be taken next week to complete our 2-year baseline monitoring. 49 sites were sampled for water chemistry, 69 sites for sediment and fish and macroinvertebrates. All the data is now collected, we will start interpreting the results and based on what we're finding we will eliminate some parameters so we will be able to spend less going forward. The plan is to break the watershed into thirds and sample fish and macroinvertebrates at 1/3 of the watershed over the next 3 years. Your presence and participation are always welcome at the Monitoring Committee Meetings.

ii. **Lakes Committee** – Alana Bartolai for Mike Adam, Lakes Committee Chair, presented an update – lake county health Dept monitored 7 lakes in the Watershed, re-assessed 17 lake shorelines. The committee is working on compiling all lake data across all organizations and come up with the best way to present all the data. Will be sending a survey out to all lake groups in the county to get feedback on their needs, challenges, etc. Our next meeting is Jan 26 and all are welcome.

iii. **Impairments Committee** – This committee has not convened yet.

6. **Next meeting: Quarterly meeting: February 16th at Lake County Public Works new training facility. 650 Winchester Road, Libertyville.**

7. **Old business:** None
8. **New business:** DRWW meeting schedule for 2017. Jim Anderson made a motion to approve the meeting schedule, Al Giertych seconded. The schedule was approved unanimously.
9. **Adjournment:** Michael Talbett made a motion to adjourn. Joe Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Cake was served to celebrate outgoing DRWW members, Peter Kolb, Scott Phippen and Andrea Cline.

Members and Delegates Present:

Alana Bartolai for Mike Adam, Lake County Health Department
Jim Anderson, Lake County Forest Preserve District
Jim Bland, Sierra Club
Brian Dorn, North Shore Water Reclamation District
Betty Harrison, Village of Lake Zurich
Brandon James, Village of Deerfield
Paul Kendzior, Village of Libertyville
Peter Kolb, Lake County Public Works
Austin McFarlane, Lake County Public Works
Wally Dittrich, Village of Lincolnshire
Joe Robinson, North Shore Water Reclamation District
Michael Talbett, Village of Kildeer
Mike Warner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Additional Attendees:

Beth Adler, DRWW Technical Coordinator
Clint Bailey, USGS
Caitlin Burke, GHA
Andrea Cline, Geosyntec
Paul Cacioppo, Wastewater Superintendent Village of Mundelein
Rob Flood, North Shore Water Reclamation District
Donald Hey, Wetlands Research, Inc.
Kathleen Paap, Wetlands Research, Inc.
Steve Vella, Village of Libertyville
Patty Werner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Tom Slawski, SEWRPC
Gerard Urbanozo, LCHD
Vince Mosca, Hey and Assoc.