



Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup

Executive Board and Du Page Salt Creek Watershed Workgroup

4/5/2017

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Addison Village Hall, 1 Friendship Plaza, Addison, IL

Meeting Minutes

1. Call the meeting to order: Brian Dorn called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.
2. Roll Call – see attendee list below.
3. Public Comment: None.

Joe R. gave an overview of the DRWW Monitoring program.

Stephen M. stated that in 2004 there was a group of interested folks, in 2005 they became a 501(c)4 and began data gathering and analysis. Stephen said the DRSCW consistently applies their methodology (to get water quality (WQ) improvements), and consistently get results.

The DRSCW tried to get NPDES funds back from the state of IL, but because of a re-allocation of these funds to pay IEPA staff, they stopped pursuing it.

DRSCW was driven by a TMDL initially. It was estimated to cost POTWs \$40-120M to meet the TMDL.

Stephen shared that he likes the kind of work MBI does. Biological assays, physical, chemical, things going on in the stream, and then it all gets tied back to an IBI number.

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).

Modeling

DRSCW staff met with MBI and created a process to prioritize projects. The ultimate question was: How do we improve aquatic life, what are barriers to aquatic life?

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.

They did not include Flow or Dams in their original assessments.

Chloride Data

DRSCW is collecting grab samples during the summer from one watershed each year. In the winter, the top and bottom of each watershed has a datasonde. They feel it is important to have a winter and summer relationship.

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 Acevedo 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.

Deanna: 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 Deanna about the wash off model and any potential tweaks or coordination with the Des Plaines River Non-point Source 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.

Brian Dorn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe Robinson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Executive Board Members Present:

Brian Dorn, DRWW President, NSWRD

Al Giertych, DRWW Vice President, Lake County DOT

Michael Talbett, DRWW Treasurer, Kildeer

Joe Robinson, DRWW Monitoring/WQ Improvements Committee Chair, NSWRD

Jim Anderson, DRWW Member at Large, Lake County Forest Preserve District

Peter Kolb, DRWW Ex-Officio (Past President), Applied Technologies

Mike Adam, DRWW Lakes Committee Chair, LCHD

Other Attendees:

Jim Bland - Sierra Club

Leslie Berns - FPD

Dave Gorman Lombard - President DRSCWG

Tara Neff - DRSCW

Stephen McCracken - DRSCW

Beth Adler - DRWW Technical Coordinator

Jennifer Hammer - The Conservation Foundation

Deanna Doohaluk - The Conservation Foundation