**Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup**

**Monitoring Committee**

**9/10/2015**

**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 1:33 pm.
2. Approval of 7/9/15 meeting minutes: Steve Vella made a motion to accept the minutes. Mike Adam seconded the motion. Joe Robinson clarified that on the top of page 2, there are two tests – dissolved reactive and total phosphorus, both reported as P, that are referred to.
3. Public Comment: Mike Warner mentioned that we have two new members: Lake County Forest Preserve District and Vernon Hills. Joe addressed the chlorophyll a question. Chlorophyll a is on the parameters that Illinois EPA asked for upstream and downstream monitoring. The group decided not to include because of the cost of the test.
4. Water Column Chemistry Monitoring Update: Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) update. Andrea Cline talked about updating the QAPP. She’s asked for additional information from Suburban Labs including the precision and accuracy and the training of their staff. Patty Werner relayed that the grant manager at Illinois EPA, Chris Davis, said that sampling could be started without an approved QAPP but if there is a change in methodology the data will not be able to be used as match. Joe and Mike A. proposed that sampling should be conducted in September, October and November this year. Andrea will contact Suburban Labs to let them know and help them get started.

Patty said she also received verbal comments from Chris Davis regarding the monitoring strategy. She will provide those to Andrea. Andrea said she will wait for written comments before making revisions.

Randy Seebach needs to know when Suburban Labs will be sampling 10 days in advance and the contact information of who will be sampling for the rangers. North of Route 41 on the Des Plaines River mainstem is the only site that requires Forest Preserve District key. The group discussed moving the Belvidere Road Tributary site to Lake County grading property. Joe will go talk to Lake County Grading.

1. Wet Weather Sampling Program: Andrea said that she heard Jeff Hutton from Illinois EPA at a DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup meeting. She will provide a copy of the presentation when she receives it. Jeff presented six monitoring options: upstream downstream (of the municipality), annual outfall based on land use, site specific of high value areas, sewersheds, Best Management Practices, and collaborative watershed monitoring. Joe talked about how we would handle wet weather monitoring if required: the watershed would be divide into three subareas, north, central, and south. Mike A says we should strategize this winter. Joe reminded Austin that Lake County Public Works volunteered to handle all oil and grease samples; North Shore Water Reclamation District does not process oil and grease.
2. Informational Letter regarding monitoring program: The group determined that the letter would be sent out via email through SMC database to all municipalities within the Des Plaines watershed as well as to Lake County Department of Transportation, Lake County Forest Preserve District, and Libertyville Township. Randy asked to include map. Patty said that Chris requested a new map be made showing sample locations without the aerial photograph background.
3. Bioassessment Request for Proposals (RFP): Andrea asked whether we should split this RFP into two: one for the refinement of the monitoring plan and one for the actual monitoring and analysis. Her reasoning was that if the firm proposing determines that changes need to be made to the monitoring plan, it would be difficult to compare bids on the actual monitoring portion. Joe recommended that one RFP be issued, but that the estimate for the monitoring be based on the current plan. The question was asked who would we send the RFP to: Duetschler, Hey, MBI, Wetland Research Inc. It was recommended that the group ask the Fox River Study Group who they have used as sampling contractors. Andrea will send the RFP to SMC for review and SMC will send to the Monitoring Committee.

Joe brought up Jim Bland’s desire for flow monitoring. Al asked what type of relationship we are trying to establish. Mike A explained that we are trying to determine loading, especially for the watershed planning efforts, that Illinois EPA is interested in pollutant loads. Joe asked if this should be included in the RFP. Flow monitoring can be included as an alternate task. It was also recommended that the group contact USGS and the State Water Survey to see if they would be interested.

1. Next meeting: Thursday, October 8th 1:30-3 at NSWRD
2. Adjourn: Mike A. made the motion to adjourn, Al seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Members Present:**

Mike Adam, Lake County Health Department

Dave Brown, Vernon Hills

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

Robert Garcia, Lindenhurst

Kathy Paap, Wetlands Research Inc.

Mike Warner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Patty Werner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission