



Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

6/21/2018 2:30-3:30 pm

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission Medium Conference Room

500 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville IL 60048

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Following:

1. Call the meeting to order: Brian Dorn called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.
2. On roll call the following Board Members were present: Brian Dorn, Michael Talbett, Joe Robinson, and Mike Adam – a quorum was present.
3. Approve Previous Meeting minutes (5/17/18): Mike A. made a motion to approve the minutes, Joe R. seconded. On roll call the vote was 4-0 with all Board Members present voting “aye.” Motion declared carried.
4. Public Comment: Beth Adler introduced May Keen as the new SMC intern and Mike Warner explained the position. May was hired to support the DRWW, the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) and Lake County’s new MS4 coordinator. She will be supporting these 3 groups for the next 6 months.
5. Approval of Monthly Financial Report (including new revenues and invoices for payment): Mike W. presented the financial report. New dues payments (revenues) and 3 invoices submitted by Beth Adler were discussed. Michael T made a motion to ratify revenues received and invoices. Joe Robinson seconded. On roll call the vote was 4-0 with all Board Members present voting “aye.” Motion declared carried. Brian D. asked how LCSMC will invoice the DRWW for its staff’s time? Mike W responded that LCSMC will invoice DRWW monthly beginning the end of June.
6. Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) Discussion – Barnes & Thornburg & Geosyntec: Brian D. gave some background information to the group. New NPDES permits will be issued soon to most of the POTWs in the DRWW watershed. After many years of negotiations between IEPA, IAWA and NGOs, the new permit will set a Phosphorus discharge limit of 0.5 mg/l on an annual geometric mean for any POTW discharging to an “impaired water.” Brian shared that there had been a lot of discussion about what an “impaired waterway” is. POTWs in a Watershed Workgroup will be relieved from meeting the 0.5 mg/l Phosphorus on an annual geometric mean. POTWs discharging into an impaired waterway will be required to produce a NARP. Barnes & Thornburg (law firm) does a lot of work for IAWA. The proposal from Geosyntec and Barnes & Thornburg was distributed to the Executive Board a few hours before the meeting. Geosyntec is a national consulting company working with environmental issues who has

experience with NARP development nationally. Erica Powers of Barns & Thornburg and Adrienne Nemura of Geosyntec were present at the meeting. Erica started off by defining an impairment as anything that will affect water quality standards. The NARP will identify what needs to be done to improve water quality in the watershed, but only as related to Phosphorus, DO, algae and aquatic plants. The “endpoint” of the NARP is risk of eutrophication (not increased IBI index). When the nutrient modeling is done, Nitrogen “comes along for the ride.” The model will look at the reaches of stream with a major POTW discharge and also at the whole watershed. The Model will look at Phosphorus, DO swings, algal growth and aquatic plant growth problems. It will also will look at low flow conditions – what level of Phosphorus can the POTW discharge at low flow? Mike A. asked how lakes will be incorporated. They will be represented as run of the river, but not looking at each individual lake to solve its problems. The NARP determines what the phosphorus limit should be and considers the prioritization/cost-effectiveness of BMPs. Phosphorus and nitrogen will be considered during nutrient analysis and expansion is possible. Legal and technical strategies are required to be able to tell the EPA’s that this would be DRWW’s best path forward, and it is cost effective. Each possible endpoint must meet a legal standard, which is why there is a need for legal counsel. You must have legally defensible answers. It was asked if Geosyntec would build the model from the ground up? Geosyntec looks at FEMA models and adds a water quality model to that, but it is really looking at questions. To calculate the correct algae and Phosphorus levels you need to have the hydrology right.

The steps are:

- a. Get all the data together.
- b. What questions need to be asked?
- c. What does the data show or not show?
- d. Create a screening level model – build a model, does it reflect what the data shows?
- e. Collect additional data.
- f. Calibrate the model with the new data.

There was discussion about the fact that this document would have a significant impact on the DRWW’s yearly budget and cash flows. Increasing dues was suggested as one way to meet the financial need of the document.

[Al Giertych arrived at approximately 2:20 pm].

It was suggested that there may be a need for competitive bids.

Then there was some discussion about how MS4’s also need to meet nutrient standards, but that the IEPA looks at the MS4 permit differently than the POTW permit. MS4 is a program that is expected to improve over time and allows the MS4 to propose what is reasonable with an adaptive loop. Source control was found to be more effective than end-of-pipe BMPs. MS4s need to meet nutrient requirements, but not by any particular date.

There was a suggestion that we might want to find out how others might approach the NARP before entering into a contract.

There was some discussion about whether or not Lake County is allowed to hire legal assistance for Lake County, or if only the State’s attorney can hire legal counsel.

Brian D. suggested we at least move forward on the work plan.

Al G. stated that by law, Lake County had to follow the procedure of putting out a request for qualifications, developing a SOW, response for qualifications, interview firms and then enter into a contract with the highest ranked firm.

Rodney W. wanted to know whose acquisition rule the DRWW should follow?

Mike W responded that it would be LCSMC’s as they are the DRWW’s administrative agent. But that the SMC board might let DRWW use a faster process depending on circumstances.

Brian D offered to write up a SOW.

Geosyntec suggested we contact Limnotech, Tetra Tech and CDM for qualifications.

7. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Update: Joe R. started the update stating that sestonic chlorophyll-a has not been collected by the monitoring program, but it is

important for the NARP. The total cost of sestonic sampling is \$2,800 or \$80 per sample for 36 samples. A response from Suburban Labs and a decision will be made by the July meeting. E. coli hot spot source investigations will be made upstream with additional sampling. Flow monitoring program and logger data is being downloaded by Mike A. Peter K. asked what the monitoring recommendation is after 2018? There is one more year of monitoring with MBI, then in 2020 we could stop collecting data that is not permit required for 5 years. This would reduce the monitoring budget by half, or \$80,000 less. Al G. suggested continued chloride monitoring to help out the MS4s and Joe R. said that chloride monitoring would be continued.

8. Lakes Committee Update: Mike A. gave the update. LCHD has initiated the sampling of the in-flows and out-flows from a handful of lakes. Sampling will continue throughout the summer with estimating and matching external and internal loads within lakes.
9. Task Force Update: Michael T. gave the update. Beth is doing a great job getting the ½ day Green Infrastructure Training put together for the MS4 members.
10. Old Business: none.
11. Other Business – Packets for July meeting will go out on July 5, financials will go out separately around July 12th. Beth is on Vacation July 7 – 18. August General Membership Meeting - NARP update by Brian Dorn for 10 min, LCHD chloride data presented by Alana B (10 min) and Leslie Berns will present a video of progress being made at Ethel’s Woods.
12. Next Executive Board Meeting July 19, 2018 at 2:30 pm at the Lake County Central Permit Facility.
13. Adjourn: Mike Talbett made a motion to adjourn, Mike Adam seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Executive Board Committee Members Present

Brian Dorn, DRWW President, NSWRD

Michael Talbett, DRWW Treasurer Village of Kildeer

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

Al Giertych, Vice President, LCDOT

Mike Adam, Lake County Help Department

Leslie Berns, Alternate, LCFPD

Other attendees:

Beth Adler, DRWW Technical Coordinator

Mike Warner, LCSMC

May Keen, LCSMC

Austin McFarlane, LCPW

Erica Powers, Barnes & Thornburg

Adrienne Nemura, Geosyntec

Rodney Warden, LCPW

Brandon Janes, NBWW/DRWW/Deerfield

Peter Kolb, ATI