



Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) 2016 Annual Accomplishments

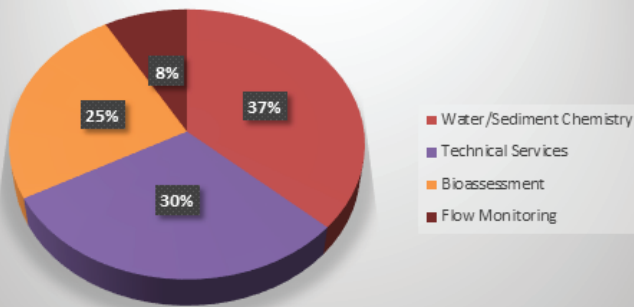
The DRWW's primary goal is improving water quality through a collaborative, locally led process and has accomplished much in the first two years. Below are highlights of these accomplishments.

Membership

DRWW continues to be a value to its membership and has grown to 22 members (up 22% from 2015), while securing an increase of dues to \$232,667. Also, \$47,707 in additional funding was provided by the Lake County Forest Preserve District and Lake County Department of Transportation to enhance the monitoring network and baseline data. Membership dues, along with in-kind services and grant money, fund all DRWW activities. The group members are municipal and county government agencies, publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), consulting firms, and environmental not-for-profits. Efforts to increase membership will continue through outreach to additional municipalities, townships, businesses, and other local government agencies. All meetings are open to the public.



DRWW 2016 Expenses



Grant Funding and Watershed Planning

The DRWW monitoring activities and funding leverages grant match to support a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant through IEPA. Lake County SMC was awarded \$658,162 to complete a watershed-based Plan in the Des Plaines River and implement three best management practice (BMPs) projects to reduce non-point source pollution. The Plan is a prerequisite for future grant funding opportunities which will be focused on green infrastructure and water quality improvement practices.

Chapters one and two of the Plan and the stream and detention basin inventories were completed. Additionally, information was

collected and analyzed on soils, demographics, land use, transportation, and water quality. The Plan will continue through mid-2018, which will result in an action plan for implementation of prioritized water quality improvement projects.

The Monitoring Committee was successful in receiving IEPA approval for its Monitoring Strategy and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and of those direct expenses, \$47,500 is reimbursable through the grant. The monitoring program includes: flow measurement, sampling for water and sediment chemistry, fish, and macro-invertebrate assessments, at 69 sites throughout the watershed.

DRWW members participated in nine Plan meetings in 2016, and hosted the August 2016 meeting at the North Shore Water Reclamation District that focused on POTW member agencies. Lindenhurst, Libertyville, NSWRD and Lake County Public Works all presented their operations and discussed challenges and opportunities related to wastewater management. Now we know 'Honey Wagons' are not delivering honey!

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting

Discussions and face-to-face meetings are ongoing with both IEPA and USEPA on nutrient control strategies as a tool for members to realistically and most economically meet WQ standards using a watershed planning and project implementation approach. More news on this will be provided as the efforts continue.

POTW: In March, the DRWW submitted the first "Annual Stream Monitoring Report for Member Water Reclamation Facilities" to the IEPA. The report included the permit required monitoring data in the receiving stream for upstream and downstream of POTWs' discharge. This new permit requirement, which would be costlier and less informative for POTWs to do individually, is being met for members of the DRWW.

MS4: The IEPA ILR40 Permit, for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) was reissued on March 1, 2016 expands monitoring requirements, and specifically allows collaborative watershed monitoring efforts. This is a significant regulatory recognition of the DRWW effort and achieves permit compliance, for the monitoring component, for all MS4 DRWW members. The DRWW will support these new requirements for members, providing them with monitoring data for their annual reports.

Flow Monitoring

Burns & McDonnell, the DRWW contractor, purchased and installed pressure gages, performed field surveying and has taken initial event based flow measurements. Through this effort, flow will be estimated in all major tributaries and the mainstem, allowing for the future calculation of pollutant loads. This information will help further determine where pollutants originate and how to prevent, reduce, or remove them.

Technical Coordinator

The Executive Board advertised, interviewed, and contracted with a half-time (1/2 FTE) Technical Coordinator to manage the challenging technical service needs. Beth Adler started in October 2016 and has a Civil Engineering (Environmental) degree from University of Michigan and Law Degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law, including 12 years of experience with the USEPA. Beth has hit the ground running and been involved in every aspect of the DRWW work program.

Bioassessment and Water Chemistry Monitoring

Baseline data collection efforts of bioassessment including fish, macroinvertebrates, habitat, water column, and sediment chemistry were collected for 69 sites. Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI), (Bioassessment) and Suburban Labs (Chemistry) are the DRWW contractors. A database is being utilized and expanded as sampling information is received. All data collection and analysis follow the DRWW's IEPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan, which ensures quality of information through technically proper field methods, data handling, and reporting. Starting in 2017 and moving forward, the monitoring will be completed on a three-year rotation schedule in order to match revenues with expenses in this work program component.

DRWW MEMBERSHIP		
AGENCY MEMBERS		
<i>Village of Buffalo Grove Village of Deerfield Village of Grayslake Village of Green Oaks Village of Gurnee Lake County Forest Preserve District Lake County Public Works</i>	<i>City of Lake Forest Village of Kildeer Lake County Village of Lake Zurich Village of Libertyville Village of Lincolnshire</i>	<i>Village of Lindenhurst Village of Third Lake Village of Vernon Hills North Shore Water Reclamation District Village of Riverwoods Village of Round Lake Beach</i>
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
<i>Christopher B. Burke Engineering Wetlands Research, Inc. Applied Technologies, Inc.</i>	<i>Sierra Club Lake County Stormwater Management Commission</i>	

For additional details on the DRWW, visit www.drww.org. If you'd like to hear more about the DRWW, please contact our Technical Coordinator, Beth Adler, at 224-209-3176, badler@lakecountyil.gov or Mike Warner, Administrative Agent at 847-377-7700, mwarner@lakecountyil.gov.

Thank you to the hardworking members that have made 2016 a continuing success!

DRWW Executive Board (2016)
 President: Peter Kolb, Lake County Public Works
 Vice President: Brian Dorn, North Shore Water Reclamation District
 Treasurer: Michael Talbett, Village of Kildeer
 Secretary: Paul Kendzior, Village of Libertyville
 Monitoring Committee Chair: Joe Robinson, North Shore Water Reclamation District
 Lakes Committee Chair: Mike Adam, Lake County Health Department
 Impairments Committee Chair, Scott Pippen, Village of Lincolnshire

