



Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup

Monitoring/WQ Improvements Committee Meeting

01/17/2019 1:00 pm

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission Medium Conference Room

500 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville IL 60048

Meeting Minutes

1. Call the meeting to order

Joe Robinson called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members present were: Joe Robinson, Mike Adam, Al Giertych, Austin McFarlane, Steve Vella, Leslie Burns, and Rosemary Heilemann. A quorum was present.

Other attendees present were: Tom Morthorst, Brian Dorn, Mike Warner, Joe Marencik, Max Spehlmann, Mike Prusila, Ashley Strelcheck

3. Approve Previous Meeting minutes (12/20/18)

Joe R. wanted to make the following amendment:

- In item 5, option 3. "14 sites annually, with entire watershed every 5 years."

Motion to approve December 20, 2018 DRWW Monitoring/WQI Committee Minutes as amended:

First motion: Rosemary H.

Second Motion: Austin M.

Motion passed unanimously at 1:05

4. Public Comment

Mike Warner introduced Joe Marencik as the new technical coordinator. Joe will be picking up some of the tasks formerly assigned to Beth Adler. Mike Warner, SMC Staff, and Max Spehlmann will be also be picking up some tasks. This solution will be in place for at least a year.

5. Suburban labs contract for 2019

Joe Robinson outlined changes in the new contract:

- a) A new site below the riffle near the Des Plaines Wetland Research Lab will be added. The new site will be a tier four site.
- b) Suburban Labs increased hardness cost from \$13 to \$19 per sample. This change increases the total sampling cost \$50.
- c) Suburban Labs Increased Total Phosphorous sample cost from 15\$ to 20\$. This change increases the total sampling cost \$2,000.
- d) A chlorophyll monitoring run was added in May. There will now be 4 chlorophyll samples taken at each site every year- May, July, August, and October
- e) The total cost of the sampling program is now \$88,240.

Committee members noticed that,

- a) The contract calls for 22 sites to be sampled, but there are 24 sites that need to be sampled.
- b) The contract uses inconsistent language. Steve V. suggests replacing “should” with “shall” or “must.”
- c) A section on calibration of sampling equipment in the field should be added.

Joe R will work with Suburban Labs to correct/amend contract with above changes. Joe R reminds the committee that whatever changes are made to the contract must be in agreement with the QAPP.

Motion to approve Suburban Labs contract conditional on the above modifications:

First Motion: Leslie B.

Second Motion: Joe R.

Motion passes unanimously at 1:27 pm

6. Nutrient Advisory Board Executive Summary

- Joe Robinson believes the Des Plaines River watershed is in the 1st through 4th order stream category; therefore, the Phosphorous limit would be set to 0.113 mg/L and the Nitrogen limit would be set to 3.979 mg/L.
- The report states that NSAC did not have sufficient water quality data to make these recommendations. NSAC needs more benthic chlorophyll data. The public comment period is ongoing.
- Mike A. would like DRWW to make comments on the NSAC report.
- Brian Dorn states that IAWA will be commenting.
- Joe R. suggests writing a joint letter with the other watershed working groups (Fox, DuPage, North Branch).

- Joe R.: if the nutrient criteria become law, then the WWTPs will have to spend a lot of money on new nutrient reduction technology, and they will not have an incentive to remain involved in watershed working groups. This defeats the purpose of the watershed work groups.
- Mike A.: The report recommends increased diurnal DO monitoring. These changes are already incorporated in the DRWW monitoring program.
- Joe R.: The report may implement site specific limits, which would benefit the DRWW because the monitoring data has already been collected
- Joe M. and Leslie: This report will likely not be acceptable because the IEPA stated that they did not have enough data to make conclusions.
- Mike A. volunteered to collaborate with other work groups to write up some comments.

7. Sampling Plan Recommendations for 2025

No new information to report. Joe Robinson would like the group to continue considering the three options.

8. Draft of 2018 Accomplishments

Mike Warner introduces the 2018 DRWW Annual Accomplishments. He would like committee members to email their suggestions to Angela Panateri, APanateri@lakecountyil.gov.

9. Other Business:

- All of the Committees should be getting meeting packets from every other committee. Joe M. will facilitate.
- MBI 2019 contract will be approved by the Executive Board. The work is much the same as previous years.
- Proposed Chloride standards for IL are currently in public comment period until March. Seasonal limits would be: chronic-230 mg/L, acute-860 mg/L for summer; and chronic-640 mg/L, acute-1,010 mg/L in the winter. Chronic is the average of four consecutive samples.
- Chris Yoder of MBI would like to use Power BI to present the IPS tool. The use of Power BI should be approved by the Executive Committee.
- Rosemary would like to add a 10-minute talk on coal tar sealants at the general membership meeting. Cindy from the Sierra Club agreed to speak. The Committee approved. Rosemary will coordinate with Cindy. Joe M. will add it to the agenda for the Annual Meeting

10. Old Business:

Joe R. showed the monitoring committee the newly agreed upon quarterly meeting dates. There will be a January and August general meeting. In May and November, there will be a newsletter.

11. Next Monitoring/WQI Committee Meeting March 21, 2019 at 1:00 pm at the Lake County Central Permit Facility, Medium Conference Room

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. Mike Adam

Second Motion: Steve Vella

Motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.