



**DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2020 1:30-3:30 PM
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, 2220A
LAKE COUNTY CENTRAL PERMIT FACILITY
500 W. WINCHESTER RD., LIBERTYVILLE, IL**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Introductions and Announcements

Brian Dorn, called the meeting to order at 01:30 pm. Introductions were made.

Brian Dorn performed roll call. Brian Dorn, Michael Talbett, Paul Kendzior, Joe Robinson, Al Giertych, and Mike Adam were present. A quorum was present.

2. Approve 8/15/19 meeting minutes

Brian Dorn motioned to approve the 08/15/19 meeting minutes as amended to include Al Giertych's presence. The motion was seconded and approved via unanimous consensus.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. DRWW Business

a. 2020 Dues and Budget – Michael Talbett, *Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, DRWW Administrative Agent.*

i. Adjusted Due Structure

Perspective members in jurisdictions with low population density have indicated they are interested in joining the DRWW but dues are too high because they are based on land area and there is no consideration

for population. To make dues fair for all members the board has proposed a per capita cap to dues.

ii. Suburban Labs Contract

The DRWW executive board approved a contract for Suburban Labs to conduct water quality sampling.

iii. MBI Contract

The DRWW executive board approved a contract for the Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) to assist with strategic design.

b. Committee Updates

i. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee – Joe Robinson, *North Shore Water Reclamation District, Chair*

The Water Quality Improvement Committee and Monitoring have combined into one committee.

The 2018 monitoring has shown that five sites reached full attainment of the fish and aquatic life designated use. This is the first time that a site in the Des Plaines River has achieved full attainment status. The upper reaches of the watershed have the lowest macroinvertebrate and fish Index of Biological Integrity Scores (mIBI and fIBI, respectively). This is likely related to the poor habitat in these reaches. The mIBI and fIBI improve downstream. The influence of wastewater treatment effluent is shown by increases in phosphorus concentrations downstream of discharge points. The high turbidity observed is likely due to erosion of unstable stream banks.

MBI is working on an Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) model. This is a statistical model developed to identify which stressors are having the largest impact in the watershed and calculate a restorability factor for each site. The IPS model is a collaboration of five watershed workgroups.

Sediment data is showing high PAH concentrations. The main source of PAHs in the watershed is coal-tar based pavement sealants. The committee is working on creating a PAH press release urging

municipalities to ban the use of coal tar sealants. Highland Park, Vernon Hills and Deerfield have already implemented PAH bans.

The 2020 monitoring strategy will focus on nutrients in anticipation of the Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP). The monitoring will continue to maintain all necessary elements for MS4 permit compliance. The committee is also developing a continuous monitoring program to implement year round monitoring of multiple parameters at three sites on the Des Plaines River Mainstem. The data will be used to assess chloride applications impacts, sedimentation impacts, and to inform the development of a NARP. The MBI partial biological assessment will continue to occur every other year and the full monitoring will occur approximately every six years.

Lakes Committee – Mike Adam, *Lake County Health Department, Chair*

The Lake County Health Department conducted monitoring at three glacial lakes in 2018 and three engineered lakes in 2019. The monitoring looked at the loading of nutrients at the lake's inlets and outlets.

The committee also did an aquatic plant identification workshop and the DRWW sponsored a deicing workshop in 2019. The committee is continuing to seek additional education and outreach opportunities.

ii. Task Force – *Michael Talbett, Village of Kildeer*

The task force is working on a program for fall 2020 to allow for continuing education credits. More information will be distributed once everything is finalized.

iii. NARP ad hoc Committee – *Brian Dorn, North Shore Water Reclamation District*

The publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) members will be subject to permit conditions that require the development of a NARP to submit to the Illinois EPA by December 2023. Geosyntec was contracted to create a preliminary NARP workplan in preparation of this requirement. Geosyntec has created a draft report that is currently being reviewed by DRWW.

5. Guest Speakers

Brian Dorn, *North Shore Reclamation District and Executive Committee Chair* discussed his retirement and reflections on his work with the DRWW. While officially formed in 2015, efforts to create the DRWW began in 2013. The group was formed to monitor and address water quality impairments on a watershed basis in hopes of negating stringent requirements from the Illinois EPA that would not impact the impairment status of the watershed. Once formed, the DRWW implemented an extensive monitoring effort and provided match funds for the creation of a watershed-based plan for the Des Plaines River. The DRWW continues to collect water quality data, fulfill members MS4 permit requirements, and make progress in reducing phosphorus impairments in the watershed. With the large amount of data collected, the DRWW has seen substantial improvements in water quality in the Des Plaines River, largely due to phosphorus reductions from WWTPs and dam removals performed by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The workgroup is working on a NARP and an IPS model. Once completed, these products will be used to identify projects that best improve water quality in the watershed. Moving forward the DRWW will likely reduce the extent of water quality monitoring to key sites within the watershed, address other impairments in the streams and lakes of the watershed, and strive for 100% membership participation. Brian also mentioned that he would like to see increased communication and coordination between the DRWW, other watershed workgroups, and the Illinois EPA to address water quality issues on a local level instead of a state wide approach.

Rishab Mahajan, *Geosyntec* – Explanation of Preliminary NARP Plan

The development of a NARP is required to meet special conditions in NPDES permits to address phosphorus related impairments (dissolved oxygen and nuisance algae). The NARP will also help achieve MS4 permit requirements. Once created, permitted effluent limits will be based on the NARP. The objectives of the NARP are to establish watershed-specific water quality targets, determine phosphorus reductions needed to achieve site-specific water quality targets or if targets are infeasible, identify mechanisms to facilitate cost-effective implementation of the NARP, assess the other measures needed to address aquatic life impairments, and identify specific achievable projects to address water quality and aquatic life impairments and establish timeline for implementation.

Q: Is there any guidance or minimum requirements for developing the NARP?

There will be special conditions in each permit that will inform NARP requirements. The DRWW did not get specific guidance about what is expected.

Q: Will the NARP result in a list of potential projects in the watershed?

A list of potential projects based on the NARP and IPS tool would be the next step after both are completed.

Q: What is the relationship between the NARP and the watershed-based plan that has already been completed?

The watershed-based plan identifies action recommendations that are voluntary to reduce nonpoint sources and addresses multiple impairments in the watershed. The NARP is a regulatory requirement that addresses nutrient impairments from both point and nonpoint sources.

6. Next General Membership meeting: Biannual meeting: August 20, 2020

7. Old business

There was no old business.

8. New business

a. Annual Accomplishments

The DRWW just completed its annual accomplishments brochure. It can be viewed on the DRWW website. The DRWW encourages all government members to show their elected officials this document.

b. Recognition of Brian Dorn

Brian Dorn was recognized for his significant contributions to the DRWW. His leadership was crucial to the success of the DRWW.

9. Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed with unanimous consensus.