



2020 Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) Annual Accomplishments

The DRWW continues to fulfill the monitoring requirements of its members. According to the Illinois EPA (IEPA), almost all the waterways within the Des Plaines River Watershed are impaired. To remove the watershed from the IL EPA's list of impaired waters, the Midwest Biodiversity Institute has developed a tool to identify water quality improvement. In anticipation of the permit renewal process in 2021 by the IEPA, the workgroup is addressing the regulatory requirements of its constituents. The DRWW also provided professional development opportunities to members, stakeholders and constituents.

2020 New Members

DRWW welcomed six new members for a total of 36 and collected \$243,793.00 in membership dues.

- City of Park City
- City of Zion
- GeoSyntec
- Vernon Hills Park District
- Village of Long Grove
- Wetlands Research, Inc.

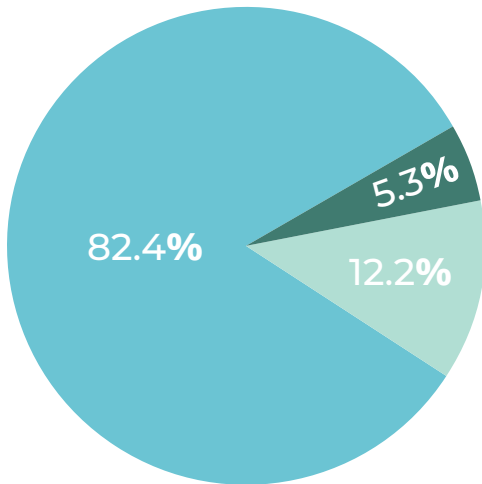
2020 New Board & Committee Members

- Dave Miller, Executive Board Vice President, NSWRD
- Steven Waters, Monitoring Committee Chair, NSWRD
- Nick Huber, Monitoring Committee, LCFPD
- Brian Kuebker, Monitoring Committee, Village of Libertyville

2020 Retirements

- Brian Dorn, DRWW President, NSWRD
- Joe Robinson, Monitoring Committee Chair, NSWRD
- Leslie Berns, Executive Board, LCFPD
- Michael Warner, Administrative Coordinator, Lake County SMC

2020 DRWW Expenses



- Biological & Water Quality Monitoring (82.4%)
- Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) (5.3%)
- Administration/Technical Services (12.2%)

2020 Continuous Monitoring

The DRWW, with the help of the North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD), began a three year continuous water quality monitoring program in June 2020. Multiprobe sondes were installed in the Des Plaines River Mainstem at Russel Road, Highway 120 and Half Day Road. The sondes will record specific conductivity, pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll a, and turbidity every 30 minutes. This data will be used to support the development of a Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Plan (NARP) for the Des Plaines River Watershed, assess watershed impacts from winter road maintenance and determine sediment transport impacts.



Major Accomplishments

2015: The DRWW was officially formed and gained 18 members in the first year!

2015-2018: Illinois EPA awarded a Section 319 grant to develop a watershed-based plan. DRWW monitoring costs of \$279,000 were utilized as grant matching funds. The watershed plan was developed and completed with DRWW's input in June 2018 and approved by the Illinois EPA.

2019: The DRWW contracted with Geosyntec to develop a Preliminary NARP Workplan with a multi-year plan to complete the NARP in 2023, satisfying the POTW NPDES Special Condition permit requirements.

2020: DRWW updated the bylaws and membership dues structure. The DRWW started a three-year continuous monitoring program through NSWRD based on the Preliminary NARP Workplan recommendations. DRWW started a Request for Proposal for completing the NARP by December 31, 2023.

Committee Reports:



Executive Board:

- The DRWW bylaws were updated to include a recapture ordinance. Participating agencies have contributed significant effort and resources to the DRWW. This update allows the Executive Board to recapture an equitable portion of these expenses from non-participating agencies who join the DRWW at a later date.
- The DRWW dues structure was updated to add a \$0.60 per capita cap and \$200 minimum for agency membership dues to address concerns about acreage calculations in dues structure disproportionately effecting municipalities with low population density.

Lakes Committee

- Hydrilla was found in the Des Plaines River Watershed in a stormwater pond in Libertyville in 2019. The Hydrilla rapid response plan was implemented to treat this pond. This will be a long-term treatment and monitoring strategy that will likely occur for the next 5-7 years.

Monitoring/Water Quality Improvement Committee

- The DRWW continues to conduct water quality and bioassessment monitoring. Data from this monitoring is used for the IPS model, NARP and MS4 compliance.
- Created a PAH press release to increase awareness of rising PAH concentrations observed in DRWW monitoring data and encourage community leaders to adopt coal-tar-sealant bans.

Illinois EPA Section 319 Grants

In 2018, the DRWW began partnering on three 319 grant applications in the watershed. The Workgroup has provided letters of support and committed approximately \$2,800 of in-kind effort for education and public outreach. All three 319 grant applications received funding.

- **Lake County Health Department: Removal of Carp to Reduce Nutrient Enrichment in Impaired Lakes in Lake County**
Carp removal began in October 2020 after initial delays due to COVID. Carp removal will occur at Crooked, Hastings, McDonald 2, Slough, Des Plaines Lake, St. Mary's Lake, Big Bear Lake and Little Bear Lake in 2021 and 2022. Removal of carp will help reduce internal nutrient cycling and increase likelihood of successful aquatic plant establishment in the project lakes.
- **Lake County Forest Preserve District: Van Patten Woods Hydrologic Restoration and Enhancement Project**
Invasive species clearing and drain tile disablement begin in December 2019. Since then, the LCFPD has retired 94.5 acres of farm field, removed/disabled approximately 11,150 linear feet of drain tile, installed seven check dams, one trail berm, 716 trees and shrubs, and a diverse native seed and cover crop mix to the remaining areas. In spring 2021, the LCFPD will be installing native wetland plant plugs in the new wetland basins. The project is anticipated to be completed by June 2021.
- **Village of Libertyville: Charles Brown Park Wetland Detention Project**
The Charles Brown project was completed in summer 2020. Two sediment forebays were installed at inlet points to capture sediments and particulate pollutants. A third sediment forebay was installed near the outlet of the basin to capture additional pollutants before discharge through a pump station. The project also included 7.45 acres of wetland enhancement. The wetland enhancement BMPs, in conjunction with the sediment forebay BMPs, provide significant water quality benefits to downstream waters.

For additional DRWW information, visit www.drww.org or call us at 847-377-7717.

DRWW Membership

Agency Members

- City of Lake Forest
- City of Park City
- City of Zion
- Ela Township
- Fremont Township
- Lake County
- Lake County Division of Transportation
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County Public Works
- Libertyville Township
- North Shore Water Reclamation District
- Vernon Township
- Village of Deer Park
- Village of Deerfield
- Village of Grayslake
- Village of Green Oaks
- Village of Gurnee
- Village of Hawthorn Woods
- Village of Kildeer
- Village of Lake Zurich
- Village of Libertyville
- Village of Lincolnshire
- Village of Lindenhurst
- Village of Long Grove
- Village of Riverwoods
- Village of Round Lake Beach
- Village of Round Lake Park
- Village of Third Lake
- Village of Vernon Hills

Associate Members

- Applied Technologies, Inc.
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering
- Geosyntec
- Hey & Associates
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- Sierra Club
- Vernon Hills Park District
- Wetlands Research, Inc.

