



Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup

Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee

07/15/2021 11:00 am

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Waters called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

2. Roll Call

Mike Prusila performed the roll call. MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Steve Waters, Mike Adam, Al Giertych, Austin McFarlane, Rosemary Heilemann, Brian Kuebker (arrived at 11:30).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Huber

Others present: Tom Morthorst, Alana Bartolai, Rob Flood, Chuck Bodden, Rishab Mahajan, Mike Prusila, Ashley Strelcheck

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of 06/17/21 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting

Motion to approve minutes as presented by Waters, seconded by Heilemann.

AYES: Waters, Giertych, McFarlane, Heilemann. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Adams. Motion passed 4-0-1.

5. Old Business

a. Monitoring Updates

NSWRD -Rob Flood provided updates on the North Shore Water Reclamation District continuous monitoring. Data was submitted to Lake Co. Health Dept. for quality control, and they are looking into the question regarding sonde vs. grab sample measurements of Dissolved Oxygen. They

will take DO measurements in-situ right next to probe/sonde. The District also checked into option of replacement sonde; the manufacturer could furnish replacement sonde, but could not monitor for Chlorophyll A. Alana Bartolai asked how often is data sent for quality assurance/quality control? Flood responded that he was not sure if frequency was specified in the contract, but they could send monthly if desired. Waters noted that the contract does not specify data transfer, but they invoice quarterly and send data then, and could send more frequently. Bartolai indicated they are fine with quarterly data submittal.

Bartolai provided updates on the Lake Co. Health Dept. water quality monitoring. The May data was submitted to the Stormwater Management Commission for quality assurance/control. Flood asked if there was any chance to compare Chlorophyll A to Dissolved Oxygen for the days they were collected? Bartolai indicated they have not had a chance to compare data. Flood cited concerns with probe vs. lab measurements.

6. New Business

a. Geosyntec Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Plan (NARP) Updates-

Rishab Mahajan provided a presentation of the status of Geosyntec's work on the NARP, which included the timeline and summary of data availability, both discrete and continuous. They are analyzing periods for development of the model. Periods from 2013, 2017, 2018, and 2020 have both continuous and discrete data. Critical flow analysis is being completed using the downstream-most gage (USGS 05528100). Work completed is review of data, identification of periods of critical low flows and watershed delineation. 2013 & 2020 had lowest summer precipitation and lower river flows. Critical periods for model are 2013 and 2020, with more continuous data available for 2020 (6/25-12/30)

Mike Adam asked how the model is adjusted if the flow goes out of bank? Mahajan responded cross sections are in the model, merged with lidar, and a rating curve is put into the model which will predict water depth in channel and overbank. For water quality, the focus is on low flows.

Mahajan noted he is looking for feedback on subwatershed delineation (89 subwatersheds). Next steps are analysis of data to develop conceptual understanding of impact of Total Phosphorus on algae/Dissolved Oxygen in the Des Plaines River and tributaries and hopes to present high-level results at next DRWW meeting, perhaps go into more details at next monitoring committee meeting.

Waters asked if any gaps in data were identified that need to be addressed? Mahajan responded that so far everything looks good.

b. Topics/Speakers for DRWW General Membership Meeting August 19, 2021

The Committee was asked for potential topics/speakers for the upcoming General Membership meeting. The committee provided the following: IEPA status of NPDES permits; Greenest Region Compact II (outreach to municipalities, contact: Edith Makra); other workgroups' activity, particularly updates from DuPage River/Salt Creek Workgroup; and updates from the watershed group working to rename Squaw Creek.

7. Member Comments

- a. Rosemary Heilemann asked if there would be an upcoming meeting of the steering committee for Des Plaines River watershed plan. Prusila responded that it is penciled in for Fall, however Stormwater Management is short-handed and needs to take care of other commitments before this can be taken on again.

8. Next Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting 09/16/21 at 11:00 AM

9. Adjournment

Adam motioned, seconded by Waters, to adjourn.

AYES: Adam, Waters, Giertych, McFarlane, Heilemann, Kuebker. NAYS: None.

Motion Passed 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM