



**Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup**

**Lakes Committee - Virtual Meeting**

**01/28/2022 10:00am - 11:00 am**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Discussion and Possible Approval of the Following:**

**1. Call to Order**

Adam called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

**2. Roll Call**

Ashley Strelcheck performed roll call. Mike Adam, Alana Bartolai, Mike Prusila, Rob Flood, Tom Morthorst, and Nick Huber were present. A quorum was present.

Other meeting attendees: Ashley Strelcheck, Leonard Dane, Joel Sensenig, Gerry Urbanozo (not voting today).

**3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**4. Approve 04/22/21 Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes**

Prusila motioned to approve the 04/22/21 DRWW Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Morthorst and passed with unanimous consensus via roll call vote.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Carp Removal Project Updates**

Bartolai gave an update that the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) removed 8,012 carp (approximately 34,000 lbs) as part of the Removal of Carp to Reduce Nutrient Enrichment Project through an Illinois EPA Section 319 funded project. An increase in aquatic vegetation in the project lakes has been observed at multiple lake locations since the removal of the carp. 2022 will be the last year of the carp removal and in 2023 water quality monitoring will be performed. Funding for this project is provided, in part, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.



There was a question about any impacts from the St. Mary's Lake dam (any drawdown effects observed). The LCHD was unaware of any dam activity during their carp removal and did not observe any drawdown or drawdown effects.

**b. Hydrilla Status**

From plant surveying of the ponds, there has been no observed resprouting of Hydrilla; this effort is in coordination with ILM, Village of Libertyville and the IDNR. For this past year of monitoring there was no new to report (no news is good news in this case) and there will be upcoming discussion for monitoring this year. Last year, there was some Starry stonewort observed at the pond so the LCHD will be on the lookout for that this year.

There was a question asking if ILMA will be getting the word out about starry stonewort. Bartolai is only aware of Starry stonewort being a presentation topic at the upcoming conference.

**c. Lake Recommendations to the Executive Board**

Adam created a list of Lake Recommendations for the Lakes Committee to consider recommending to the DRWW Executive Board to have them review on a regular basis. Feedback from the rest of the Lakes Committee was requested. Strelcheck: A suggestion to bring the recommendations to the DRWW Monitoring Committee first to provide additional comments then to the Executive Board.

Morthorst: Another consideration is to consider how the carp are being disposed of (potentially harvested). A suggestion of an intern to help look through potential financial options, but the LCHD may be able to utilize an existing intern as part of their summer program to assist with this task. Bartolai will look into this possibility.

Flood: Other issues to be considered include additional water quality research and products for solutions (something to add to the existing recommendation categories).

Prusila: Under Lakes Management Plans, consider adding language to indicate specific projects identified within each plan. A question was asked if the LCHD knows how many lakes have lakes management plans. Answer: No, but LCHD can add this question to this year's lakes surveys that are sent out. Another suggestion to combine the last two bullets into one (Project Implementation).

**6. New Business**



# DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

**a. Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Plan (NARP) Updates**

Geosyntec will be providing an update on the NARP at the February 17, 2022 DRWW General Membership meeting (similar to the one presented at the December DRWW Monitoring Committee meeting).

**b. Water Quality Monitoring Updates**

The LCHD is conducting the annual routine Des Plaines River Watershed water quality monitoring. The North Shore Water Reclamation District is conducting continuous monitoring at select site locations in the watershed through the deployment of Sondes. The Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) is performing a bioassessment of the Des Plaines River this year, following by creating a report in 2023. 2024 may be a year of the 6-year bioassessment cycle rotation for performing bioassessment sampling on all DRWW monitoring sites.

**7. Next Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting 04/28/2022**

Adam asked if the Lakes Committee should move the Committee meetings to being held right before the DRWW Monitoring Committee meetings (based on previous discussions)? After some discussion, because the meetings remain virtual at this time the Committee was fine to watch for further guidance and reassess if a hybrid or full in-person meetings occur.

**8. Adjourn**

Prusila motioned to adjourn at 10:46am. The motion was seconded by Morthorst and passed with unanimous consensus via roll call vote.