



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Minutes

01/19/2023 12:30 p.m.

Lake County Division of Transportation
600 W. Winchester Rd.
Libertyville IL 60048

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:32pm.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Flood, Adam, McFarlane, Huber, Kuebker, Heilemann (arrived 12:35)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tom Morthorst, Mike Prusila, Ashely Strelcheck, Rishab Mahajan, Karoline Qasem

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. 11/17/22 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Adam motioned, seconded by Mr. McFarlane to approve the Minutes of the 11/17/22 meeting.

Ayes: Flood, Adam, McFarlane, Huber, Kuebker. Nays: None

b. 12/12/22 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Special Call Meeting Minutes

Mr. Adam motioned, seconded by Mr. Huber to approve the Minutes of the 12/12/22 special call meeting.

Ayes: Flood, Adam, McFarlane, Huber, Kuebker. Nays: None

5. Old Business

a. Monitoring Updates

i. NSWRD Updates

Flood reported that the continuous data sondes are still in the Des Plaines River, although the Russell Rd. sonde was removed due to freezing conditions in December. Data submitted are up to date through November. NSWRD will check December data next week. The sonde program will run through May 2023

ii. LCHD Updates

There were no updates from LCHD, they will begin 2023 monitoring in February.

b. Monitoring Committee member vacancy

Many municipal members are on the committee, might be nice to have another sector represented. It will be posted in the newsletter.

c. Geosyntec NARP Update – Karoline Qasem

Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec, presented the update on the Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP).

The first item discussed was a review of the NARP Requirement. It was assigned by IL EPA for “risk of Eutrophication” and is based on dissolved oxygen & pH. Upstream station at Russell Rd. has the highest & most frequent exceedances of DO & pH thresholds, downstream stations suggest water quality improves downstream. IL EPA also uses a median chlorophyll value of 26 ug/L and the median value throughout the Des Plaines River does not exceed this value.

The baseline scenario was presented to the Monitoring Committee in November 2022. The simulation period was May-Oct 2021. Periods chosen for comparison were the entire growing season (May-Oct), a low DO period from July 10-17, 2021, and a high flow period from May 1-31, 2021.

Last meeting 4 management scenarios were chosen: 1) Reduce upstream Phosphorus (P) 75% and POTWs discharging P at 0.5 mg/L; 2) reduce nonpoint P 75% and POTWs discharging P at 0.5 mg/L; 3) Reduce upstream Phosphorus (P) 75% and POTWs discharging P at 0.1 mg/L; and 4) reduce nonpoint P 75% and POTWs discharging P at 0.1 mg/L.

The take-aways from the model results are: 1) upstream boundary has most benefit/greatest effect on total Phosphorus (TP) in system; 2) 75% nonpoint source reduction provides nominal improvement. When POTWs are limited to 0.5 mg/L P and 0.1 mg/L P instream TP is reduced, and DO swings are slightly reduced, but it is not a major reduction.

The committee agreed to move forward with 2 additional scenarios, both of which include POTWs modeled as discharging 0.5 mg/L: 1) P reductions of 25% upstream and 25% nonpoint; and 2) P reductions of 50% upstream and 25% nonpoint.

6. New Business

a. Recommendation to Exec. Board RE: Geosyntec 2023 Scope of Services

Consensus of the Committee was to recommend the Executive Board accept the 2023 rates presented by Geosyntec.

b. DRWW Website Mapping Application & Monitoring Data (Discussion)

Ms. Stelcheck reported that she is bringing DRWW pages up to date, need to update maps and data as well as applications. Monitoring data will be posted as .xls or .pdf files.

c. Monitoring Strategy Update (Discussion)

Ms. Stelcheck reported that the DRWW is still using a version of the monitoring strategy from 2020 or earlier. The Committee might want to consider updating using a multi-year strategy that does not need to be updated every year. The Committee members can review and discuss in March.

d. DRWW FY23 Workplan Update (Discussion)

Ms. Stelcheck reported that the DRWW is still operating under the 2017-2021 workplan. The DRWW should reach a decision to update the workplan or proceed with no action.

e. EPA Memo: Guidance to States to Reduce Harmful PFAS at their source (Discussion)

Ms. Stelcheck reported that she is trying to find a speaker for the February general membership meeting on this topic. It is probably worth discussing at future meetings, particularly the possibility of monitoring PFAS.

7. Member Comments

- a. Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec noted 2 considerations, 1) groups typically have a call with IL EPA at this milestone regarding what will be shown in the NARP; and 2) after that, Geosyntec will give an outline to Monitoring Committee of the NARP report.
8. Next Meeting(s)
 - a. General Membership Meeting: February 16, 2023 (Lake County Public Works Maintenance Room)
 - b. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting March 16, 2023 (LCDOT Conference Room)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Adam, seconded by Ms. Heilemann to adjourn.

Ayes: Flood, Adam, McFarlane, Huber, Kuebker, Heilemann. Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.