



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Minutes

03/16/2023 12:30 p.m.

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

1. Chair Steve Waters called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.
2. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Steve Waters, Mike Adam, Joel Sensenig, Nick Huber, Brian Kuebker, Rosemary Heilemann

Members absent: None

Others present: Mike Prusila, Chris Johnson, Ashley Strelcheck, Rob Flood, Alana Bartolai, Jim Bland, Dave Miller, Paul Kendzior, Gary Glowacki, Mike Foster, Stephen McCracken, Michael Talbett, Rishab Mahajan, Adrienne Nemura, Brant Fleming, Scott Twait, Abel Haile, Nicole Vidales, Christine Davis, Nia Haller.

3. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. 1/19/23 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

No motion was made to approve the Minutes.

5. Old Business

- a. Monitoring Updates

- i. NSWRD Updates

Rob Flood noted that during a recent storm, a log jam at Route 22 broke the tube containing the sonde at that location, last data was through February. Route 120 sonde is fine. Sonde tube at Russell Road was ripped from the bridge when it was checked in March, likely by ice. Feedback from Geosyntec regarding re-deployment of sonde was to remove the sonde at Rt. 120 also, no additional sonde data needed for NARP. DRWW/NSWRD will determine how this will impact remaining contract value.

- ii. LCHD Updates

Alana Bartolai reported that the Health Department began monitoring in February, they are waiting on lab for results, and will run quality checks on the data and send out.

Chair Waters mentioned that the annual report to IL EPA is about ready, the monitoring plan will need to be updated once the NARP is complete.

- b. Monitoring Committee new member consideration

Committee indicated consensus, with all members indicating affirmatively, to invite Jim Bland, EPS, inc. to join the Monitoring Water Quality Impairments Committee.

c. Geosyntec NARP Coordination

i. Results of combined watershed scenarios

Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, summarized results from the January meeting. He highlighted the combined scenarios discussed at the January meeting (1: 50% reduction in upstream TP, 25% reduction in nonpoint source TP, 0.5 mg/L TP discharge from POTWs; 2: 25% reduction in upstream TP, 25% reduction in nonpoint source TP, 0.5 mg/L TP discharge from POTWs).

Key takeaways outlined were: 1) low DO impairment in the upper reaches of the river is not improved by P-related control measures; 2) Combining upstream and nonpoint source reductions with a 0.5 mg/L POTW effluent limit improves DO by reducing instream TP and Chl-a; 3) Further reducing upstream TP and Chl-a leads to improved DO during high flow period

ii. Suggestion for additional scenario related to upstream boundary DO

Geosyntec proposed running a model scenario to assess improved DO at the upstream boundary such as might be provided by a riffle/pool structure in the upper reach of the DPR in Illinois.

Rosemary Heilemann reported that the Illinois & Wisconsin Sierra Clubs had a discussion related to the TMDL that the WI DNR is performing, and the SE Wisconsin groups are going to pursue working with WI DNR.

Next steps for Geosyntec are to address comments, prepare model documentation, present results to IL EPA, and prepare the NARP implementation plan.

iii. Discussion on NARP implementation plan and relationship to IPS tool

The Committee will reach out to MBI and determine the timeframe that they can participate in a discussion.

6. New Business

a. NARP watershed management scenario discussion with Illinois EPA

Illinois EPA staff joined the meeting remotely to discuss progress on the NARP. Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, summarized the data collected for the NARP and trends discerned from the data. Data indicates high DO variability in upstream reach that decreases in variability downstream. A similar trend is evident with Chlorophyll-a. TP upstream is relatively low and increases as wastewater effluent is introduced, levels then decrease a short distance downstream from plants. IL EPA did not have questions on the apparent trends.

Rishab Mahajan described the models used for the NARP and then summarized the key takeaways from the model (key takeaways from January 2023 meeting). Upstream improvement is required to address DO and nuisance algae. The recommended path forward for the NARP is to coordinate with Illinois EPA and WI DNR to improve upstream conditions. WI DNR has TMDL underway for Fox R. which includes the Des Plaines River in Wisconsin. In addition, Develop projects and recommendations to reduce non point source loading. Reassess the system after POTWs have achieved 0.5 mg/L.

Brant Fleming asked if DRWW will continue monitoring prior to implementation of the 0.5 mg/L? Waters responded affirmatively.

Brant Fleming asked what the timeline is for POTWs for implementation of 0.5 mg/L effluent limits. The response from DRWW was that it will need to be determined over the development of the NARP.

Illinois EPA asked if Wisconsin has any treatment plants that discharge to the river. Rishab Mahajan indicated that it is primarily nonpoint.

Brant Fleming noted that what has been presented appears to fall in line with the conditions of the NARP.

Dave Miller asked how did the IL EPA review/what determination did IL EPA make on the NARP submitted by the POTW that is not participating in the DRWW?

Brant Fleming replied that IL EPA will need to take another look at that prior to responding.

7. Member Comments

Jim Bland asked if the monitoring data distinguishes between SRP and TRP. Alana Bartolai responded that both are being monitored. Jim Bland asked if there is a load reduction target that is identified for the NARP? Rishab Mahajan responded that the NARP is meant to address local impairments in the watershed, there is not a specific number for the NARP (no load reduction target).

Jim Bland asked if there is agreement between what has been generated by MBI and the NARP. Steve Waters noted that the discussion needed to be postponed due to time constraints. Jim Bland commented that Don Hey's riffle was given poor marks compared to other stream reaches. Considerations in other watersheds to adopt beavers as watershed managers, which cause dramatic shifts in water quality. He then asked if there any thought to get the NARP evaluated by other modelers or to get an independent entity to evaluate the model. Steve Waters noted that there is less than a year to complete the NARP and it would be difficult to get another consultant in to look at it.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting April 20, 2023 (LCDOT Conference Room)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mike Adam, seconded by Rosemary Heilemann to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Waters, Adam, Sensenig, Huber, Kuebker, Heilemann, Bland

NAYS: None

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.