



## Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup

### Monitoring Committee

6/3/2015

2:00-2:45 PM

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order. Please see the list below for meeting attendees.

1. Approve the Minutes from the previous Monitoring Committee meeting, May 7, 2015. Mike Adam made the motion, Randy Seebach seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Discussion - **Monitoring Strategy and 319 Grant Scope:** Andrea Cline gave a summary of the 319 grant situation. SMC received an Illinois EPA 319 grant scope, in part to complete watershed-based planning in the Des Plaines River watershed within Lake County. In addition, there is \$47,500 to complete a monitoring strategy document for the DRWW. DRWW membership dues will be used as required match for the grant. The grant application was submitted approximately one year ago. In the interim, the DRWW Monitoring Committee has developed a monitoring plan by working backwards from the amount of dues available for monitoring. Feedback was sought by the DRWW from Illinois EPA and Chris Yoder from Midwest Biodiversity Institute on the current monitoring design. Comments received from Chris Yoder and the draft SMC 319 scope are included. Mike Warner added the clarification that permitted activities are not eligible match. He also advises the group that a contingency should be left in the budget. Peter Kolb said that it would be helpful to know ahead of time, in May, what dues are being committed. Mike Warner stated that the timeframe of the grant is through June 30, 2018, encompassing two monitoring seasons. John Heinz asked if the budget situation in Springfield would have any impact on these grant funds. Patty Warner stated that the money is federal money, so no, the state budget would not have an impact. Peter Kolb reminded the group that wet weather sampling will be covered in kind through the Lake County Health Department, Lake County Public Works, and North Shore Water Reclamation District. Joe Robinson said it would be helpful to receive that in writing from Illinois EPA. Brian Dorn asked if there was any update from Illinois EPA. Mike Werner said that he talked to Amy Walkenbach from Illinois EPA and that the statewide MS4 permit is being revised to add in general language regarding watershed workgroups. Al Giertych asked how many municipalities are committed to participating in the DRWW. There are 14 municipalities out of 33 that have sent in commitment letters.

A discussion regarding the amount of match required for the grant followed. The grant match is \$279,000 in DRWW dues. A QAPP needs to be developed and approved by Illinois EPA before any monitoring begins. Andrea noted that the QAPP used by the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup and the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition was revised and submitted to

Illinois EPA with the 319 grant application last year. Comments were received. Mike Warner said that the next step is to develop a monitoring strategy that Chris Davis at Illinois EPA approves. It just needs to consist of the three tiers and a narrative explanation. Andrea will write this document.

Mike Warner noted that Lake County SMC will not bill the DRWW anymore. They will handle invoicing, but not bill their time for this service.

Jim Bland said that it is important for the monitoring strategy to take into account the statistical analysis and how the data will be linked back to the biology. Patty Warner reminded the group that the budget for these tasks is \$40,000 for the strategy and \$7,500 QAPP. Funds can't be expended until the grant agreement is executed. SMC will approve the agreement the following day, but the agreement then needs to be countersigned by Illinois EPA.

Jim Bland stated that monitoring samples this year would be useful. Mike Warner asked if the DRWW dues could be used to pay for the watershed planning.

It was decided by consensus that Andrea will develop a two page monitoring strategy and make revisions to the QAPP. These documents will be submitted for approval to Illinois EPA. Monitoring under the Water and Sediment Chemistry RFP will be conducted this year. A refined monitoring strategy will be developed using grant funds later this calendar year, but issuing a separate RFP. The QAPP will be further refined by this same selected consultant. The full monitoring strategy will take effect next calendar year.

3. **Discussion - 319 grant and NPDES compliance:** 319 grant funds are not to be used for permit compliance, including NPDES permit compliance. The use of the DRWW membership dues as match for SMC's 319 grant and the funds available for a monitoring strategy document have been called into question. See further discussion above.
4. **Water and Sediment Chemistry RFP Response:** Two proposals were received. Copies will be distributed as well as evaluation procedures and next steps will be determined.
5. **Next Meetings:** Selection Committee Meeting June 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am at North Shore Water Reclamation District  
Membership Meeting August 11<sup>th</sup>
6. **Meeting Adjourned:** Al Giertych motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mike Adam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Monitoring Committee Members Present:**

Al Giertych, Lake County Department of Transportation

Austin MacFarland, Lake County Public Works

Jim Bland, Sierra Club

Joe Robinson, North Shore Water Reclamation District

Mike Adam, Lake County Health Department

Randy Seebach, Lake County Forest Preserve District

Steve Vella, Village of Libertyville

**Others Present:**

Brian Dorn, North Shore Water Reclamation District

John Heinz, Village of Libertyville

KC Doyle, Lake County

Michael Talbet, Village of Kildeer

Mike Novotney, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Mike Warner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Patty Werner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Peter Kolb, Lake County Public Works