



DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda

04/20/2023 12:30 p.m.

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

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Following:

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Waters called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Steve Waters, Mike Adam, Austin McFarlane, Nick Huber, Brian Kuebker (Departed 1:43 PM), Chris Johnson, Jim Bland, Rosemary Heilemann (arrived 12:44 PM)

Members absent: None

Others present: Ashley Strelcheck, Rob Flood, Alana Bartolai, Rishab Mahajan, Deanna Doohaluk, Ed Rankin

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. 1/19/23 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mike Adam, seconded by Nick Huber to approve the 1/19/23 minutes.

AYES: Waters, Adam, McFarlane, Huber, Kuebker, Johnson, Bland

NAYS: None

Motion passed 7-0.

b. 3/16/23 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Brian Kuebker, seconded by Mike Adam to approve the 3/16/23 minutes.

AYES: Waters, Adam, McFarlane, Huber, Kuebker, Johnson, Bland

NAYS: None

Motion passed 7-0.

5. Old Business

a. Monitoring Updates

i. NSWRD Updates

Rob Flood reported NSWRD is still trying to find the missing data sonde (near Route 22) and intend to bill DRWW their last invoice as part of three-year contract soon. Still planning to

come in under budget. There are still a few months left on the monitoring permit and the sondes and structures will be removed unless the Workgroup says otherwise.

ii. LCHD Updates

Alana Bartolai reported that DRWW site 13-13 in Gurnee has very high chloride levels (1,800mg/L) and the LCHD will be investigating the source of this and report back to the workgroup.

b. Geosyntec NARP Updates

Rishab Mahajan discussed the characteristics of dissolved oxygen (DO) levels at the upstream boundary (Site 13-6/Russell Road). There was discussion about the possible cause of the elevated oxygen demand at site 13-6, and it was noted that chlorophyll levels are high coming into the workgroup monitoring area from Wisconsin. Geosyntec has run a "proof of concept" to determine if reaeration would have an impact on DO at this site and it appears that it might.

Consensus of the Committee was that Geosyntec proceed with how increased reaeration could be achieved in the NARP implementation phase.

Jim Bland reported that Dr. Dave Lampert from Illinois Institute of Technology would review the model pro-bono. The Committee suggested that Dr. Lampert provide a proposal describing what he will review and that the proposal could be discussed at the next meeting.

6. New Business

a. Lake County Health Department representation request: Alana Bartolai-designated representative, Mike Adam-alternate

Heilemann motioned, seconded by Bland to approve the change in representation request.

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

NAYS: None

Motion passed 7-0.

b. Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) Model Discussion, Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation

Ed Rankin, MBI and Deanna Dooholak, The Conservation Foundation, presented the IPS model and DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup's (DRSCW) approach to the IPS model and NARP. The presentation generally addressed how the model was developed, how the nutrient benchmarks and thresholds were derived. Fish and macroinvertebrate data were evaluated along with stressor data (e.g., pollutants) to determine sensitivity of species and thresholds for stressors. Phosphorus identified as important stressor according to analysis of biotic integrity data. The DRSCW wanted to develop a watershed-specific target for instream phosphorus. Keiser & Associates was engaged by DRSCW to peer review this data and concluded that the data were generally reasonable. DRSCW sees higher phosphorus loads in streams with point sources of phosphorus. Based on modeling, none of the streams in the DRSCW will achieve the IPS-based phosphorus threshold at a 0.5 mg/L total phosphorus (TP) effluent limit, so DRSCW is looking at a 0.35 mg/L TP limit.

Jim Bland suggested that MBI include IL EPA's schedule for grading attainment/non-attainment of stream systems. He also noted that the IPS does not use flow directly as part of its criteria, and that there is a third grading step that is missing, which is that there should be a prioritization of where projects should be located on the ground.

Ashley Strelcheck suggested that IPS questions should be written down so that they can be addressed at a future meeting.

7. Member Comments

Rosemary Heilemann reported that she would like to invite the WI DNR to present the Fox/Des Plaines TMDL for SE Wisconsin at the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting June 15, 2023 (LCDOT Conference Room)

9. Adjournment

Mike Adam motioned, seconded by Nick Huber to adjourn.

AYES: Waters, Adam, McFarlane, Huber, Heilemann, Bland

NAYS: None

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 PM.