



SPECIAL DRWW MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

November 29, 2023 8:00 am – 9:30 am

**Central Permitting Facility,
2nd Floor Large Conference Room,
500 W Winchester Rd, Libertyville, IL 60048**

DRWW Monitoring Committee Meeting Agenda:

1. Call the meeting to order

Steve Waters called the meeting to order at 8:00am. Introductions were done before roll call.

2. Roll call

Members present: Chair Steve Waters, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); Alana Bartolai, Lake County Public Health; Joel Sensenig, Lake County Public Works; Nick Huber, Lake County Forest Preserve District; Brian Kuebker, Village of Libertyville; Chris Johnson, Illinois Sierra Club; and Jim Bland, EPS, Inc.

Others present: Scott Twait, Illinois EPA; Jaime Rabins, Illinois EPA; Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc.; Paul Kendzior, Village of Libertyville, Public Works; Johnathan Happ, Libertyville Township; Paul Lindemann, Lake County Division of Transportation; Gerard Urbanozo, Lake County Public Health; Ashley Strelcheck, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Anna Niedzinski, Lake County SMC; Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec; Adrienne Nemura, Geosyntec; Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Rob Flood, NSWRD; Nick Leach, Village of Gurnee; Don Wilson, EPS, Inc.; Rafal Palka, Village of Lindenhurst; Phil Gaughran, Village of Lindenhurst; and Wally Dittrich, Village of Lincolnshire.

3. Public comment

There was no public comment.

4. New business

a. Illinois EPA Discussion & Feedback: DRWW NARP Implementation Plan & Schedule

Rishab Mahajan presented on the DRWW NARP Implementation Plan and Schedule. It was broken down into 4 parts: Background and Objectives, Recap of Previous Meetings with the Illinois EPA, Implementation Plan, and Summary and Next Steps. Rishab gave a detailed overview of the DRWW mission, history of the workgroup, its membership, and the development of the NARP Workplan.

Rishab then presented a recap of previous meetings. He went over the data sources that was used and the sources; the 2020-2023 NARP focused monitoring plan consisted of fifteen (15) water column sampling sites and three (3) continuous monitoring sites measuring DO, temperature, TSS, pH, Chlorophyll-a, and conductivity. Since 2015, the Total Phosphorous (TP) loading from POTWs has decreased (as a general trend) due to POTWs capturing phosphorous. Once Geosyntec had watershed scenario models they ran different load reduction scenarios. Key NARP takeaways: POTW TP reductions less than 0.5 mg/l have minimal impact on water quality, upstream TP reduction



reduces sestonic chlorophyll-a and improves dissolved oxygen during high flows, tributary TP reduction reduces chlorophyll-a but have minimal effect on DO, improving upstream dissolved oxygen addresses the impairment in the upper Des Plaines River, and a combined reduction in loads from point, nonpoint, and upstream improves water quality.

An Implementation Plan was then developed, and it is encompassed in four (4) categories; administrative actions, actions to address DO and nuisance algae, actions to address other impairments, and monitoring studies. First DRWW will have to evaluate its role in project(s) implementation, educational material for water quality impairments, and future meetings. Actions to address DO and nuisance algae, is focused on POTW's reaching 0.5 mg/L POTWs by utilizing technologies including biological phosphorous removal, chemical dosing, and alum treatments. Bodden is not sure how the implementation plan will affect POTWs on an individual basis. Twait replied that each facility would need to explain their exception and circumstance to provide justification for not reaching 0.5 mg/L, and to include the specific reason in the NARP and a plan to reach the target goal.

Actions to address DO impairments is to focus on upstream load reductions. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is developing the Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL which includes an instream target on 0.1mg/Land they are in the modeling phase. Currently, at the Wisconsin-Illinois border chlorophyll levels are very high. Projects on stream aeration to mitigate low DO conditions need to be explored, but they are not being recommended as a NPDES permit condition, but as a collaboration opportunity. Twait mentioned the Illinois EPA is trying to get NARP projects into the permit. The Illinois EPA wants specific language and projects for what each permittee is doing, and not broad requirements.

Actions to address other WQ impairments by reducing non-point source loading including policy changes (development of TSS standards, impervious surface regulations, etc.), site specific BMPs from a watershed-based plan, or implementing projects through a grant program.

Monitoring studies is the last category of the Implementation plan. It was suggested that the DRWW should continue monitoring to meet NPDES requirement and establish a monitoring program for post NARP change (2033+) to assess impact. Finally, the DRWW should work with USGS to establish a Next Generation Water Observing station to have a station on the border, to monitor the impact of nutrients in-stream.

The next step is to submit the NARP report to fulfill the special conditions of the POTW NPDES permits. Once the NARP report is reviewed address comments from the Illinois EPA, and work with the Illinois EPA to update the special condition for permit renewal based on NARP recommendations. Rabins, Illinois EPA, responded that when the conditions of the permit have passed or been fulfilled new projects will be added. Twait from Illinois EPA mentioned a discharger into Fox River, found that 1 mg/L is feasible, but they cannot reach 0.5mg/L. But they have identified projects to offset the TP in the watershed, which may be an option for some POTWs.

5. Old business

There was no old business to discuss.

6. Next meeting:



- a. DRWW Monitoring Committee meeting: January 18, 2024 @ Lake County DOT (600 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville)

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Joel Sensenig, seconded by Nick Huber. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:57am.