



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Minutes
3/21/2024 12:30-1:30 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

Steve Waters, Monitoring Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30.

2. Roll Call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator performed roll call. Members present: Chair **Steve Waters**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Public Health; **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; **Brian Kuebker**, Village of Libertyville; and **Jim Bland**, EPS, Inc. A quorum was present.

Others present: Christine Morris, Lake County Public Works; Ashley Strelcheck, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Anna Niedzinski, Lake County SMC; Steve Stickler, Donohue; Don Wilson, self; and Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. *Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Kuebker, seconded by Bartolai to approve the 01/18/24 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Old Business

a. Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) POTW Permit Modification Update

A template of the POTW Permit Modification Update was made and distributed to the POTWs. The permit modification letter is due March 28, 2024 to the Illinois EPA.

6. New Business

a. MBI "Biological and Water Quality Assessment of Upper Des Plaines River 2022" Draft Report

The draft Biological and Water Quality Assessment of Upper Des Plaines River 2022 report was sent out to members of the Monitoring Committee for review and comment on March 11. MBI is requesting that all comments be submitted by March 28 so that MBI can submit a final report by April 5th for final review and potential approval at the April 18 meeting. The committee complimented MBI for their thoroughness and detail, and acknowledged that it is a difficult document to thoroughly review in the period provided. Several global questions that were encountered were the attainability criteria used, use of IPS model, the

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size of maps and tables, and concerns that MBI is using metrics not recognized by Illinois EPA. MBI will be contacted to allow additional time for the Monitoring Committee to review the draft report.

i. *MBI Contract Amendment #3

Due to unexpected constraints, MBI requested a no-cost time extension to May 1, 2024 for review and comment on the draft report. A motion was made by Bland, seconded by Johnson to recommend to the Executive Board to approve the MBI Contract Amendment #3 with the amended date of July 1, 2024 to allow additional time to review the draft report. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

b. DRWW 2023 Annual Report and Cover Letter Review

Waters presented the Annual Report Cover Letter for review due to updates to the cover letter because of the completion of the NARP. The Annual Report is due to the Illinois EPA on March 31st, and it is to cover the monitoring requirement for the ILR40 (MS4) permits.

c. Monitoring Committee Alternate Member Consideration: James Fitzgerald

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Bland, to nominate James Fitzgerald as alternate Monitoring Committee member to replace Mike Adam who is stepping down. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

d. NARP Implementation and Schedule Discussion

Rishab gave an update on the status of the NARP report. From conversation with the Illinois EPA, the agency has no intention of approving Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plans (NARP), their intent is to incorporate NARP recommendations into NPDES permits. Per Christine Davis, specific projects will not be put into permits, but projects specified in the NARP are available for grant funding, however this is not official policy yet. The IEPA is reviewing the NARPs from 78 Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and will be sending out notice of violation to seven (7) POTWs.

The NARP Implementation and Schedule table was distributed before the meeting for discussion, it was requested that the plan be broken into smaller sections to make discussion more manageable.

7. Member Comments

Bland requested that Geosyntec or another firm do a presentation to the Monitoring Committee on AI and water quality analysis.

Niedzinski brought to the attention of the committee the DRWW Workplan, which was a five-year action plan with steps and set goals for the DRWW to achieve.

Niedzinski mentioned that the DRWW May Newsletter is coming soon, and there may be a draft available for review at the April 18 meeting.

8. Next Meeting:

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting April 18, 2024 at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Huber, seconded by Kuebker. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:20pm.

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