



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda
03/20/2025 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; **Christine Morris**, Lake County Public Works; **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; and **Jim Bland**, EPS Inc. A quorum was present.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Ashley Strelcheck, SMC; Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; and Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants.

3. Public Comment

Rishab Mahajan notified the Monitoring Committee that at the Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) conference staff members from the Illinois Environment Protection Agency (IEPA) announced that the MS4 permit will be coming out soon with an effective date of May 1st, 2025. IEPA received feedback on the draft permit and removed some items.

Mahajan notified the Monitoring Committee that at the Illinois Association of State Floodplain Managers (IAFSM) conference the Bulletin 76 Rainfall Atlas has been released, which has proposed climate change models for 2050 and 2100 for Illinois. It is a recommendation and not a design requirement.

Bland notified the Monitoring Committee that the Supreme Court ruled on San Francisco vs. EPA. The ruling has an impact on agencies that administer NPDES permits. After a preliminary reading by the IEPA the ruling might not affect what IEPA does, however IEPA is still reviewing.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *01/16/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Bartolai, seconded by Huber to approve the 01/16/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a consensus vote.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

6. New Business

a. ***Recommendation of Geosyntec Proposal to Address Dr. Burkholder's Comments to the DRWW Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP)**

The Monitoring Committee discussed the recommendation of Geosyntec's proposal to address Dr. Burkholder's comments to the DRWW NARP. Niedzinski provided an update on the changes to the proposal, since the Monitoring Committee decided to respond to the Sierra Club comments. The new proposal amount will be \$10,376. Bland commented that he is against the cost of the proposal, and that Geosyntec should defend their work without the DRWW paying an additional cost. Mahajan responded that during the process of completing the NARP there were several rounds of public comment and revision. The comments were received after completion of the NARP and are not covered in the scope and budget of the original contract.

Questions:

- 1) The proposal cost on the cover letter is different from the cost on the service order. Which is the correct cost? Mahajan confirmed that the cost presented in the service order (\$10,376) is the correct cost.
- 2) How long will it take for Geosyntec to write the response? Mahajan responded that it should take a month. A draft will be available for comment from the Monitoring Committee, and then Geosyntec will incorporate the comments, provide a cover letter, and submit the document to the IEPA.
- 3) Is this response necessary? Waters, members of the Monitoring Committee have been corresponding with IEPA, and the IEPA has recommended that the DRWW proactively respond to the comments before they review the DRWW NARP.
- 4) Does the DRWW have sufficient funds to pay for this proposal? Niedzinski, the Executive Board allotted funds to respond to comments received concerning the DRWW NARP in the 2025 budget. The proposal from Geosyntec is below the funds allotted.

Motion by Morris, seconded by Huber to Christine to recommend Geosyntec's Proposal to Address Dr. Burkholder's Comments to the DRWW NARP to the DRWW Executive Board. The motion passed 4 for the motion, and 1 opposed.

b. ***Recommendation of the Dual County MS4 Workshop Sponsorship**

Niedzinski presented the request from Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and McHenry County for a Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping Workshop not-to-exceed \$500 sponsorships to the DRWW Monitoring Committee for recommendation to the Executive Board for approval. There were no questions. Bartolai motioned to approve the not-to-exceed \$500 sponsorship for the Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping Workshop, seconded by Morris. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

c. **DRWW 2024 Annual Report Update**

Waters provided an update on DRWW's 2024 Annual Report. The report is complete and will be submitted to the IEPA, before March 31st, 2025, deadline.

d. **LCHD 2024 Monitoring Update**

* = DRWW Action Item

Bartolai provided an update on the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) 2024 monitoring activities. In February sampling was performed almost half of the sites were frozen and inaccessible. The next scheduled sampling event will be in May.

e. Discussion of the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Plan Update

The Monitoring Committee discussed updating the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Plan. Continuous monitoring was stopped after the NARP. The DRWW 2020 Monitoring Strategy was reviewed. Mahajan reminded the Monitoring Committee that included in the DRWW NARP it was recommended to perform additional monitoring after Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) reach the 0.5 mg/L effluent limit of phosphorus, which would be after 2030. It was noted by several monitoring committee members that the cost of monitoring was an inhibiting factor during the development of the NARP.

f. Summary of 2024 Discussion of the NARP Implementation and Schedule

The Monitoring Committee discussed the summary of the NARP Implementation and Schedule. The NARP Implementation Plan was included in the DRWW NARP report, many of the items within the implementation plan are waiting for feedback from the IEPA. However, there are items that have been completed.

7. Member Comments

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting April 17, 2025 at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Bland, seconded by Alana to adjourn. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:38pm.