



**Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda**  
**04/17/2025 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); **James Fitzgerald**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); **Christine Morris**, Lake County Public Works; **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Brian Kuebker**, Village of Libertyville; **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; 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; Rob Flood, NSWRD; Don Wilson, EPS Inc.; and Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants.

**3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**a. \*03/20/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes**

Johnson noted a correction to the minutes, the second to last line in item 6, the word "competition" should be replaced with the word "completion". Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kuebker to approve the 03/20/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes with the correction. Motion passed with a consensus vote.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Discussion of the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Plan**

**i. DRWW Program Goals**

The Monitoring Committee discussed the program goals. There was discussion of lakes and lake monitoring within the watershed, and it was decided that the Lakes Committee would discuss the DRWW Monitoring Strategy at an upcoming meeting. The Committee suggested the addition of a map containing the sample sites, jurisdictional boundaries, impaired segments, and where TMDLs have been implemented within the document. It was proposed that the Monitoring Strategy should be designed to support a feasible water quality model.

**ii. Water Column Sampling**

\* = DRWW Action Item

The Monitoring Committee discussed the water column sampling program. There was a correction of the type of chlorophyll-a sampling. There were several questions on several parameters, including sulfates, hardness, and E. coli, and the NPDES permit requirements and the frequency of sampling. The LCHD 2026 contract will need to be reviewed for accuracy. A member suggested doing a comprehensive water quality summary utilizing the DRWW's data to identify impaired sections and to focus monitoring.

**iii. Sediment Sampling**

The Monitoring Committee discussed sediment sampling. The Committee decided that the DRWW should reach out to Chris Yoder and ask for his feedback on how frequently sediment should be sampled.

**iv. Bioassessment Monitoring Program**

The Monitoring Committee discussed the frequency of the Bioassessment Monitoring Program. The Committee decided that the DRWW should reach out to Chris Yoder as well as from other watershed workgroups and ask for feedback on how frequently a bioassessment should be performed.

**v. Continuous Monitoring**

The Monitoring Committee discussed possibly resuming continuous monitoring. The Committee discussed the range of continuous monitoring. The DRWW has reached out to the United States Geological Service (USGS) concerning installation of their Next Generation Water Quality Monitoring Station at the Wisconsin-Illinois border. The USGs provided a rough estimate of approximately \$130,000 for installation, with an annual operation and maintenance cost of \$70,000. It was proposed that the DRWW can cost share the gage with Wisconsin. If there is interest in resuming continuous monitoring utilizing NSWRD. A Committee member brought up analysis of the additional data, potentially using AI.

**6. New Business**

**a. \*Recommendation to Publish 2024 Annual Report data to the DRWW website**

Fitzgerald motioned to recommend to the Executive Board to publish the 2024 DRWW Water Quality Data on the DRWW website seconded by Morris. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**b. Overview of Supreme Court ruling on San Francisco vs. EPA**

Bland provided a summary of the Supreme Court ruling on San Francisco vs. EPA which stated that the EPA's generic prohibitions without providing clear metrics standards exceeded its authority.

**c. DRWW June 2025 Meeting Schedule Change to May 15, 2025**

Fitzgerald motioned to move the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Monitoring Committee meeting to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, seconded by Kuebker. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**7. Member Comments**

Mahajan provided an update on Burkholder's comments and have found some issues in some of the assertions Burkholder has made and will be referencing data and recent literature.

**8. Next Meeting(s)**

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting May 15, 2025 at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

**9. Adjournment**

Motion by Kuebker, seconded by Fitzgerald to adjourn. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:44pm.