



Special Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda
05/15/2025 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 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); Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Rob Flood, NSWRD; Don Wilson, EPS Inc.; Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; and Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants. With Ashley Strelcheck, SMC, attending virtually.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *04/17/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Kuebker, seconded by Huber to approve the 04/17/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Old Business

a. Discussion of the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Strategy

Waters proposed limiting discussion of the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Strategy to 30 minutes to allow sufficient time to address the remaining agenda items, the members of the monitoring committee agreed.

i. DRWW Program Goals

The Monitoring Committee discussed shortening the language of the monitoring program goals, and the goal be positioned closer to the front. There was modification so several of the monitoring goals: changing "creation of a defensible hydrological model" to "support future modeling efforts", making the language more succinct for the language for the first program goal, and reordering the goals.

ii. Water Column Sampling

The Monitoring Committee discussed water column sampling. There was agreement on simplifying the Teir system to Teir 1 which receives Chlorophyll-a sampling and Teir 2 which does not receive Chlorophyll-a sampling. Bland proposed increase the number of phosphorous sampling events to bi-monthly with the addition of stormwater sampling. Waters proposed waiting on modifying the sampling frequency until after the Illinois EPA reviews the DRWW NARP and provides feedback. There were questions on monitoring requirements for MS4 permit

requirements and why E. coli, hardness, and sulfates are performed twice a year. These questions will be discussed at the June meeting.

iii. Sediment Sampling and Bioassessment Monitoring Program

Waters and Niedzinski updated the Monitoring Committee on several follow-up items from the April meeting. Waters contacted Chris Yoder and asked for a proposal for sampling the Des Plaines River watershed. Niedzinski contacted the DuPage River Salt Creek Watershed (DRSCW) workgroup and provided the monitoring committee an update on the DRSCW bioassessment and sediment sampling monitoring plan and methodology.

iv. Continuous Monitoring

The Monitoring Committee discussed the continuous monitoring program. Bartolai proposed to archive that program, and to implement it when there are projects implemented. Bland proposed re-establishing the program to collect data on Dissolved Oxygen (DO). Flood proposed waiting until a response from Illinois EPA is received due to the cost.

6. New Business

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

Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants, presented Geosyntec's response to Dr. Burkholder's comments on the DRWW NARP. There were three themes in comments: lack of local knowledge on the watershed, a lack of experience building models, and here is a presupposition on the target in mind. Studies that were quoted were outside the DRWW study area and Illinois. One study which was performed in Illinois on how nutrients inform chlorophyll had sample sites within the Upper Des Plaines River watershed which did not show a linear condition. Bland disagreed with Mahajan's statement that Burkholder has a lack of knowledge and experience due to her performing assessments in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). Bland asked Mahajan if Geosyntec collected sufficient data. Mahajan replied that Geosyntec collected sufficient data, to which Bland respectfully disagreed. The Monitoring Committee will have until May 30th to providing comment, to which Geosyntec will revise the draft document and provide a final version for review before approval at the June meeting. Waters reminded the committee that the document is for internal DRWW review.

b. Review of DRWW Response to Ettinger comments

Niedzinski provided an overview of the draft DRWW Response to Comments received from the Sierra Club and asked for feedback on the draft letter. There were three main themes in the Sierra Club letter; lack of public outreach, target levels, and reduction plans which the letter is addressing. The letter will be updated with feedback received from the monitoring committee.

c. *DRWW Monitoring Committee Meeting Schedule Change to June 12, 2025, 12:30-1:30pm

Due to the June 19, 2025 falling on a Federal Holiday it is proposed that the next Monitoring Committee meeting is moved to June 12, 2025 from 12:30-1:30pm. Kuebker motioned to change the meeting date to June 12, 2025, and Bartolai seconded the motion.

7. Member Comments

Niedzinski, announced that The Lake County Sustainability Commission has released an Urban Tree Survey that will be open until June 13, 2025. Feedback from this survey will be used to form the Lake County Urban Forestry Strategic Plan.

8. Next Meeting(s)

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

9. Adjournment

Motion by Morris, seconded by Keubker to adjourn. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.