



## DRWW Annual General Membership Meeting Agenda

02/20/2025 01:30 pm – 03:30 pm

Lake County Public Works Conference Room at 648 W. Winchester Road Libertyville, IL 60048

### Discussion and Possible Approval of the Following:

#### 1. Introductions and Announcements

Paul Kendzior, DRWW President, called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and started introductions.

##### a. Roll Call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW coordinator, performed roll call. 18 members were in attendance representing 21 DRWW members: **Paul Kendzior**, DRWW President, Village of Libertyville; **Higinio Jasso**, City of Waukegan; **Don Wilson**, EPS, Inc.; **Mike Warner**, Gewalt Hamilton Associates; **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department; **Gary Glowacki**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD); **Christine Morris**, Lake County Public Works; **Anna Niedzinski**, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); **Chuck Bodden**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; **Andrea Larson**, Village of Buffalo Grove; **Michael Talbett**, Village of Kildeer; **Tom Morthorst**, Village of Third Lake; **Peter Kolb**, Applied Technologies, Inc.; **Vince Mosca**, Hey and Associates; **John Patterson**, Integrated Lakes Management; **Rafal Palka**, Village of Lindenhurst; and **Karolina Cho**, Gewalt Hamilton Associates, representing Ela and Fremont Townships and the Villages of Long Grove and Riverwoods. A general membership quorum was present via a roll call vote.

#### 2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### 3. \*\*Approve 08/15/24 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as presented by Chuck Bodden, Northshore Water Reclamation District, seconded by Andrea Larsen, Village of Buffalo Grove. The motion passed with a unanimous consensus vote.

#### 4. DRWW Business

##### a. DRWW Financials

###### i. Ratify DRWW Revenue & Expenditures

There were no revenues nor expenditures to ratify.

###### ii. FY2025 DRWW Budget Review

Anna Niedzinski presented the FY2025 DRWW Budget. There were no questions on this agenda item.

###### iii. \*\*Approval of FY2025 DRWW Memberships Dues

Niedzinski presented the FY2025 DRWW memberships dues for general membership approval. The draft membership dues were set by Executive Board recommendation during the 11/21/2024 Executive Board meeting. Motion to approve the FY2025 DRWW memberships due as presented by Steve Waters, NSWRD, seconded by Michael Talbett, Village of Kildeer. The motion passed 18-0-3 via roll call vote.

##### b. Committee Updates

###### i. Executive Board

###### A. Comments on the Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) Report

Paul Kendzior, DRWW President, provided the general membership an update on Executive Board activities. In the end of 2024 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) received from Dr. Joann Burkholder on behalf of the Mississippi River Collaborative and Albert Ettinger on behalf of the Sierra Club

\*\* = DRWW Action Item

and Friends of the Chicago River. The Executive Board will be engaging in a contract with Geosyntec Consultants to respond to the comments received which will be discussed at the next regular meeting on March 20, 2025.

**ii. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee**

Steve Waters, Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Chair, provided the general membership an update on Monitoring Committee activities. The Annual Report which contains the monitoring data for Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) to fulfill the monitoring requirement for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits is getting compiled for submission to the IEPA. The Annual Report is due March 31, 2025.

**iii. Lakes Committee**

Alana Bartolai, Lakes Committee Chair, provided the general membership an update on Lakes Committee activities. Members of the Committee organized several education events last year and is in the process of organizing an event this year.

**c. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**d. New Business**

**i. \*\*DRWW Biennial Executive Board Elections**

Motion to approve the Executive Board elections as presented by Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake, and seconded by Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton Associates. The motion passed with a unanimous consensus vote.

**ii. DRWW Leaf Disposal Survey**

Bartolai presented to the general membership the DRWW Lakes Committee Leaf Disposal Survey. The Lakes Committee has been reviewing the portions of the NARP Implementation Plan and have developed a leaf collection survey to gauge leaf collection practices. The survey has been included in the agenda packet, in addition to a QR code to access the survey online.

**5. Guest Speakers**

**a. *Phosphorus Reduction from Street Sweeping and Leaf Collection: State of the Science and Future Research* Bill Selbig, Research Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey (USGS) – Upper Midwest Water Science Center**

Selbig presented on reducing phosphorus in urban stormwater and understanding the importance of technology versus frequency. The study objectives were to determine if removal of leaf litter would result in a change in nutrient load and to evaluate two common forms of leaf collection methods (transfer and vacuum-mulch) and frequencies (weekly and bi-weekly), in addition to the effects of two common street cleaning methods which consisted of regenerative air and mechanical broom. Key findings showed that regenerative air sweepers and greater frequency were more efficient at lowering phosphorus levels. In addition the street tree canopy also affects the level of phosphorus that is released. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), has used this data to develop a street sweeping calculator for MS4s to use to obtain phosphorus reduction credits for leaf collection and street cleaning.

A follow-up study was performed with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to look at the amount of leachable phosphorus from common urban street trees which showed that the leaves or green ash and certain maple species have a high potential of releasing phosphorus. In Wisconsin and several states the “i-Tree Stormwater Credit Calculator” has been developed which provides an estimate on the reduction of pollutant loading and stormwater runoff from tree planting projects. Some additional areas of study is if leaf management influence the downstream performance of best management practices, and whether they gain or lose efficiency.

***PDHs are self-reporting.*** If attendees want to apply DRWW meetings towards their professional license, keep the certificate, agenda, and minutes with sign-in sheets. Acceptance of these materials for credit is at the discretion of the licensing authority.

***MS4 Program BMP fulfillment.*** If attendees want to apply DRWW meetings and education towards their MS4 Program BMP Measurable Goals, keep the certificate, agenda and minutes with sign-in sheets. Acceptance of these materials for MS4 program credit is at the discretion of the Illinois EPA.

Questions:

Have any communities decided to replace trees with low phosphorus trees? The City of Winona is updating their urban forestry plan and thinking about how to replace old and damaged trees due to the emerald ash borer. Because of the emerald ash borer there is a push for a greater diversity in urban tree canopies, which would have to be balanced with the impacts to water quality.

Is the transport of phosphorus from the leaf litter precipitation dependent? Yes, if you don't have rain events in the fall the percolation effect will not occur.

**b. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRDGC's) Efforts to Meet Effluent Limits for Phosphorus**

**Robert Swanson, Senior Environmental Research Scientist, MWRDGC – Monitoring and Research Department**

Swanson, presented on MWRDGC's efforts to meet effluent levels for phosphorus. The MWRDGC serves 5.19 million people in Cook County and operates seven (7) water reclamation plants (WRPs) which cumulatively discharged 1.2 billion gallons a day on average in 2024 into the Chicago Area Waterway System and the Lower Des Plaines River Watershed. These plants are the Stickney WRP, Calumet WRP, O'Brian WRP, Kirie WRP, Hanover Park WRP, John E. Egan WRP, and Lemont WRP. Swanson provided a description of the NPDES Permit Schedule for each of the treatment plants and the plans to reduce the phosphorus load into the effluent to meet the IEPA NPDES permit requirements. Each treatment plant that MWRDGC operates consist of different ages, operating methods, and service areas (residential, industrial, and commercial) which requires different phosphorus reductions methods consisting of biological phosphorus removal (bio-P) or chemical phosphorus removal, phosphorus reducing projects, or a mix of phosphorus reduction methods to be used to reach permit requirements.

Questions:

In the feasibility study what is the cost to go down to .1 mg/L? A lot. Currently, at the Calumet WRP for chemical phosphorus reduction has used 700 truckloads in the last 8 months, while the Stickney WRP has only used 100 truckloads, even though it is larger.

At the Calumet WRP what is the sludge production like? Not involved with that process. But can email you the answer when back in the office.

With the other plants are you running bio-P and then polishing? Yes, currently MWRDGC is using that process at Stickney WRP. And the same process will be eventually set up at the Egan WRP.

It seems that there is a high up front cost for bio-P but the efforts are longer lasting than chemical phosphorus removal. Is there a preference for bio-P removal? It is the speaker's preference, however the engineering groups and maintenance and operations departments at MWRDGC make the final decision. At the O'Brian WRP a new battery is being built to perform bio-P. It would be preferred to do bio-p if the structure of the plant allows. But, at Calumet WRP, which receives industrial wastewater it would be better to dose with either carbon or a ferric salt.

Is the chemical phosphorus method harder on the system? There are studies that show pH can cause degradation over time. But a lot of the tanks are old so it's hard to see if degradation is from age or the chemical process.

What is the greatest challenge for phosphorus reduction? It's possible, but dependent on cost. At the Stickney WRP the air in the aeration tanks is hard to manage making it hard to do manage bio-p. At the Calumet WRP there are phosphorus peaks and spikes due to the industrial loading. O'Brien is the oldest WRP and is currently being completely designed, so that would be the biggest challenge.

Do you have any information on the anaerobic granular sludge process that is used at the O'Brian WRP? No, but can email you the answer when back in the office.

Were your watershed projects written into your permits? Yes, there is a table of projects were included under Condition-19 in MWRDGC's NPDES permit.

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Who is funding the projects? The DuPage-Salt Creek Watershed Group is funding the project. The agency has a dues structure similar to DRWW. One such project was a dam removal in DuPage County.

## 6. Watershed Updates & Announcements

### a. 2024 DRWW Annual Accomplishments Newsletter

Niedzinski announced that the 2024 DRWW Annual Accomplishments Newsletter has been approved and has been published onto the website. Members will be provided a copy with their membership dues.

### b. SMC Comprehensive Plan Update

Ashley Strelcheck, SMC, updated the membership that SMC is updating Lake County's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan and will be hosting a series of open houses to inform stakeholders in Lake County and to obtain feedback.

## 7. Member Remarks

Peter Kolb, Applied Technologies, Inc., asked if there has been any pushback on the NARP, especially the point that the analysis showed that there was little benefit going past 0.5 mg/L of phosphorus. Kendzior responded, the Sierra Club did not like the number, and they had concerns on the lack of stakeholder engagement with many of the NARPs that were submitted. However, the cost of reducing effluent to 0.1 mg/L phosphorus would not be financially feasible for the POTWs and the communities they serve. Dr. Burkholder's comments were based on DRWW's interpolation of the data and the model utilized. IEPA has recommended that the DRWW respond to the comments received. Geosyntec will be contracted to form a technical memorandum to the comments. However, there is a rate of diminishing returns when it comes to reducing phosphorus in effluent.

Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton Associates, told the membership that Northern Moraine Water Reclamation District has a memorandum of understanding with the IEPA that the agency can buy credits in the watershed for projects that remove phosphorus. Also Warner provided clarification on Wisconsin's 0.1 mg/L phosphorus limit, the limit goes into effect in 2030 however NPDES permit holders are able to file for variances.

### 8. Next General Membership Meeting: August 21, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., Lake County Public Works Conference Room, 648 W. Winchester Rd, Libertyville, Illinois 60048

### 9. Adjournment – 3:08 pm

Brian Kuebker motioned to adjourn, seconded by Andrea Larson. The motion passed with a unanimous consensus vote.

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## February 20, 2025 Meeting Attendees

Name	Organization
Alana Bartolai	Lake County Health Department
Andrea Larson	Village of Buffalo Grove
Anna Niedzinski	Lake County SMC
Ashley Strelcheck	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Ben Metzler	Village of Green Oaks; Clark Dietz
Bill Selbig	United States Geological Survey (attending virtually)
Brandon Janes	Village of Deerfield
Brian Kuebker	Village of Libertyville
Christine Morris	Lake County Public Works
Chuck Bodden	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Don Sonnefeldt	Village of Lindenhurst
Don Wilson	Self
Gary Glowacki	Lake County Forest Preserve
Higinio Jasso	City of Waukegan
Joanna Colletti	GRAEF
John Paterson	ILM
Karolina Cho	Gewalt Hamilton Associates; and representing Antioch, Avon, Ela, and Fremont Townships and the Villages of Long Grove, Prospect Heights, Riverwoods, and Wadsworth
Leonard Dane	Hey and Associates, Inc.
Marc Bourgault	Lake County Public Works
Michael Talbett	Village of Kildeer
Michael Warner	Gewalt Hamilton Associates; and representing Antioch, Avon, Ela, and Fremont Townships and the Villages of Long Grove, Prospect Heights, Riverwoods, and Wadsworth
Nick Huber	Lake County Forest Preserve District
Nick Zaluzec	RES
Paul Lindemann	Lake County & Lake County DOT (1 member)
Peter Kolb	Applied Technologies, Inc.
Rafal Palka	Village of Lindenhurst
Rishab Mahajan	Geosyntec
Rob Flood	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Robert Swanson	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Steve Waters	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Tom Morthorst	Village of Third Lake
Vince Mosca	Hey and Associates, Inc.

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