



# DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

**Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Minutes**  
**7/17/2025 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); **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); **Don Wilson**, EPS Inc.; **Christine Morris**, Lake County Public Works; and **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club. A quorum was present.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Rob Flood, NSWRD; Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants; Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; Sarah Skolozynski, SMC, and Ashley Strelcheck, SMC.

### **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

#### **a. \*06/12/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Bartolai to approve the 06/12/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes with the addition of James Bland's comments to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### **5. Old Business**

#### **a. \*Approval of the DRWW Response to Sierra Club Comments to the DRWW NARP**

Motion by Bartolai, seconded by Huber to recommend to the Executive Board to approve the DRWW Response Letter to Sierra Club Comments to the DRWW Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) to submit to the Illinois EPA. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **b. Discussion of the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Plan**

Niedzinski presented the draft of the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Plan with the previous meetings comments incorporated and opened the floor for discussion. The Monitoring Committee would like to have a watershed specific map with the current 303(d) listed waters. There was also a recommendation to have bioassessment and sediment analysis under separate headers under monitoring type.

There was a question and discussion on whether there is a baseline level for chlorophyll for the watershed and if the current chlorophyll monitoring frequency of 4 times a year is sufficient. Chlorophyll data is collected at 18 sites four (4) times a year, and during the NARP continuous chlorophyll monitoring was performed at three (3) sites. The NARP Report did not specify a specific level of chlorophyll but did specify a phosphorus level for effluent from Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). The chlorophyll sampling that is performed is done during the peak growing season between May and September. Chlorophyll is not sampled during the February sampling month.

There was discussion on the frequency of performing bioassessment and sediment analysis and if a period of six (6) years is too long of a span between sampling events. The DRWW has reached out to other watershed groups and received feedback from the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW). DRSCW performs a rolling six (6) year sampling program and what the agency as found is that there are often big swings in the concentration and types of wildlife, but very little change in sediment results. As a result, they are planning on changing their monitoring strategy to reduce the frequency of sediment analysis. After consulting with Chris Yoder from MBI he recommends breaking up the watershed into 3 portions. Rishab Mahajan, from Geosyntec Consultants, recommends waiting to resume bioassessment and sediment sampling 2-3 years after 2030 when POTW effluent levels will be at 0.5 mg/L of phosphorus and the watershed has time to adapt to that level.

## 6. New Business

### a. Illinois EPA July 8, 2025, Reissuance of the General Storm Water Permit for MS4s

Niedzinski provided an overview of the recently released General Storm Water Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). The Illinois EPA signed the reissued permit on July 8, 2025. The previous MS4 storm water permit became effective March 1, 2026 and expired February 28, 2021, since expiration it has been administratively continued by the Illinois EPA. SMC is currently reviewing the permit and compiling resources for Lake County MS4s. After reviewing the document there are increased training requirements and there were minimal changes to monitoring requirements the current monitoring strategy is compliant with the new permit requirements. The Illinois Water Environment Association will be hosting a MS4 webinar on August 1, 2025. The MS4 permit becomes effective August 1, 2025.

### b. \*Recommendation of DRWW Annual Sponsorship of Regional Deicing Events

Motion by Morris, seconded by Johnson to recommend to the Executive Board to approve the DRWW Annual Sponsorship of Regional Deicing Events for a Not-to-Exceed cost of \$1000. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### c. Discussion of Village of Mundelein Compliance Committee Acceptance

Waters provided an overview of the Illinois EPA Village of Mundelein Compliance Committee Acceptance letter. Per deliberation of the Illinois EPA Mundelein would have to follow the effluent limits stipulated in the NARP report completed by DRWW. The Village of Mundelein did not contribute to the development of the NARP. The Committee discussed the letter, it was agreed that having Mundelein follow DRWW's NARP, they cannot take credit for a document they did not contribute to and that it sets a bad precedent for future projects. The Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to Illinois EPA to reconsider their decision, and a letter should be drafted for review at the next meeting.

### d. Resignation of Jim Bland from the Monitoring Committee

Waters notified the Monitoring Committee of Jim Bland's resignation. It was brought to the Executive Board's attention that during the development of Geosyntec's response on comments received on the NARP that the draft document was to remain internal to the DRWW and it was shared out to non-members and violated Open Meetings Act on several occasion. Several committee members regret Bland's resignation stating that he brought a wealth of knowledge to the Monitoring Committee. Johnson requested that Bland's Resignation letter be included in the meeting minutes.

## 7. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

## 8. Next Meeting(s)

a. DRWW General Membership Meeting August 21, 2025 at 1:30pm, Lake County Central Permit Facility (500 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, Second Floor Conference Room)

b. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting September 18, 2025 at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

## 9. Adjournment

Motion by Morris, seconded by Bartolai to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:32 pm.