



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda
9/11/2025 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 12:31pm.

2. Roll Call

Ashley Strelcheck, interim DRWW Coordinator, performed roll call. Members present: **Steve Waters**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Brian Kuebker**, Village of Libertyville; **Christine Morris**, Lake County Public Works; **James Fitzgerald**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); and **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club. A quorum was present.

Others present: Don Wilson, EPS Inc.; Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants; and Sarah Skolozynski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC).

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *07/17/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Fitzgerald, seconded by Kuebker to approve the 07/17/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Old Business

a. *Approval of 2026 DRWW Monitoring Strategy

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kuebker to approve the 2026 DRWW Monitoring Strategy with the addition of discussed edits. Edits include:

1. Field measurements and laboratory measurements will be separated in the strategy description.
2. Language under the Water Column Sampling Program will be updated to show
 - conductivity, pH, temperature, and Dissolved Oxygen collected 5x/year
 - hardness, sulfate and chloride collected 2x/year.
 - E. coli collected 4x/year.
3. Language surrounding the bioassessment program will be softened to allow for annual review.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

QUESTIONS:

How quickly do species return to a body of water once water quality improves?

Because there has not been dramatic change in water quality of the Des Plaines River, there has not been a dramatic change in (fish and macroinvertebrate) species numbers. However, DRWW expects to improve water quality with the addition of projects to the workgroup's budget.

b. *Approval of Village of Mundelein Compliance Letter

Waters presented a draft letter in response to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Compliance Commitment Acceptance of the Village of Mundelein. Mahajan recommended the letter cite the Special Condition 21

of Mundelein's NPDES permit. Waters agreed, and said Special Condition 21 should be added after the draft's current reference to Libertyville's Special Condition 9. Some grammatical edits were also made during the discussion. Motion by Morris, seconded by Kuebker to recommend the draft for Executive Board review with discussed adjustments made. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

c. USGS Next Generation Water Observation Station (NGWOS) Discussion (Super Gage)

Waters presented the discussion of the potential purchase of a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Next Generation Water Observation Station (NGWOS) "Super Gage" within a cost-share with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wisconsin DNR). The Super Gage would monitor water quality at a site on Russell Road (Illinois-Wisconsin state line). Members were interested in the cost-sharing option but wanted more information from Wisconsin DNR and the USGS. Members were also open to using other organizations and/or working only with the Wisconsin DNR to carry out the project.

d. NARP Implementation Table Continued Discussion

Strelcheck presented a table for NARP Implementation which categorized short-, medium-, and long-term task columns. Members were supportive of the table's format on implementation and agreed on considering the production of a survey for DRWW General Membership meetings that takes account of watershed projects. The discussion ended with the review of administrative tasks, actions to address dissolved oxygen and algae impairments, and actions to provide ancillary benefits under the NARP Implementation table. These tasks were identified as being short-term, medium-term, long-term, and/or ongoing.

6. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

7. Member Comments

Chris Johnson read a statement to Monitoring Committee members. The main takeaways of the statement was Johnson's disagreement with the resignation of Jim Bland from the DRWW Monitoring Committee, and Johnson's appreciation of the knowledge Bland brought to the watershed workgroup.

Don Wilson clarified a previous comment regarding the existence of a USGS "Super Gage" in the Des Plaines River. Wilson meant to say Mill Creek.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting October 16, 2025 at 12:30pm, Lake County Division of Transportation (600 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

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