



DRWW Annual General Membership Meeting Agenda

08/21/2025 01:30 pm – 03:30 pm

Lake County Central Permit Facility, 2nd Floor Conference Room
500 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 1:34pm and started introductions.

a. Roll Call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW coordinator, performed roll call. 20 members were in attendance representing 24 DRWW members: **Paul Kendzior**, DRWW President, Village of Libertyville; **Alexandria Ulloa**, representing the City of Waukegan; **Don Wilson**, EPS, Inc.; **Mike Warner**, Gewalt Hamilton Associates and representing Fremont and Ela Townships and the Villages of Long Grove and Riverwoods; **Gary Glowacki**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD); **Marc Bourgault**, 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; **John Patterson**, Integrated Lakes Management; **Brian Valleskey**, Geosyntec; **Paul Lindemann**, Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT); **Brandon Janes**, Village of Deerfield; **Ben Metzler**, Village of Green Oaks; **Nick Leach**, Village of Gurnee; **Wally Dittrich**, Village of Lincolnshire; and **Rafal Palka**, Village of Lindenhurst. A general membership quorum was present via a roll call vote.

2. Public Comment

Chris Johnson, Sierra Club, read a statement on behalf of the Sierra Club. The first takeaway from the statement is the Sierra Club supports the 2024 critique from Dr. Joann Burkholder concerning the DRWW's Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP). The second takeaway is the Sierra Club supports both community-based projects and homeowners' choices which reduce Non-Point Source (NPS) phosphorous pollution.

Jim Bland, EPS Inc., stated there has been disagreement among the members of the DRWW Monitoring Committee regarding Dr. Burkholder's critiques of the NARP. He wishes for the county to upgrade their nutrient monitoring methods for streams and lakes. He would like for the Des Plaines River to be monitored twice monthly as well as following rain events. Finally, he believes a new phosphorous model should be developed for the use of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and public works departments can use.

3. *Approve 02/20/2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as presented by Chuck Bodden, NSWRD, seconded by Michael Talbett, Village of Kildeer. The motion passed with a unanimous consensus vote.

4. DRWW Business

a. DRWW Financials

i. **Ratify DRWW Revenue & Expenditures

Motion to approve minutes as presented by Michael Talbett, Village of Kildeer, seconded by Paul Lindemann, LCDOT. The motion passed 22-0-2 via roll call vote.

ii. FY2025 DRWW Budget Review

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

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 comments from Dr. Joann Burkholder on behalf

* = DRWW Action Item

**=DRWW Roll Call Vote

of the Mississippi River Collaborative and Albert Ettinger on behalf of the Sierra Club and Friends of the Chicago River concerning the DRWW's NARP. The Executive Board has made a formal response.

ii. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee

Rob Flood, alternate for the Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Chair, provided the general membership an update on Monitoring Committee activities. Monitoring of the Des Plaines River continues to occur while the NARP Implementation Plan is being discussed. However, Flood said the committee is reviewing their sampling plan for 2026.

iii. Lakes Committee

Nicholas Psimaras, representative for the Lakes Committee Chair, provided the general membership an update on Lakes Committee activities. The Lakes Committee is compiling a list of outreach and education materials provided by the DRWW. Psimaras also stated the committee continues to reevaluate their role in outreach on behalf of the DRWW. Finally, he announced the Lakes Committee is looking for an additional member to join.

c. Old Business

i. DRWW Leaf Disposal Survey

Psimaras presented the DRWW Lakes Committee Leaf Disposal Survey to the general membership. The Lakes Committee has been reviewing portions of the NARP Implementation Plan and have developed a leaf collection survey to gage leaf collection practices. Psimaras emphasized the importance of this survey, as it provides information on NPS phosphorous in the Des Plaines River watershed. The survey has been included in the agenda packet, in addition to a QR code to access the survey online.

d. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

5. Guest Speakers

a. Wisconsin's Fox Illinois River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): Progress Update

Eric Hettler, TMDL Modeler, Water Quality Program, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Hettler presented on the progress of the Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL being performed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The presentation went through the history of the TMDL, its development, and what stage of the TMDL the DNR is currently in. A TMDL is defined as the amount of pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. The Fox River currently remains on the 303(d) list for impairments of Total Phosphorus (TS) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and therefore requires a TMDL report. Because the Des Plaines River is 1) within the Fox River Basin and 2) impaired for TS, it was incorporated into the Fox River Basin TMDL.

The first step in the TMDL project was monitoring. Monitoring took place across 13 sites from late 2019 through mid-2022. The second step was conceptualization, which included agricultural surveys that looked at factors such as crop rotations, tillage practices, and fertilizer applications. After monitoring and conceptualization, a model was formed using the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT+). The model ultimately helps determine allocations for the river basin. The model is then calibrated and validated to ensure accuracy. The final portion of the TMDL is allocation outputs. These outputs determine what percent reductions must be achieved to meet EPA water quality standards. This TMDL must specifically meet the Grass Lake criterion due to its existing TMDL under the Chain O' Lakes. The DNR is now entering the implementation phase of the TMDL project. Implementation includes the 1) incorporation of allocations into permit limits, 2) support and content for existing implementation plans, and 3) the identification of high-loading watersheds and locations within the river basin.

Questions:

Will there be cost-sharing opportunities for monitoring occurring at the Illinois-Wisconsin border? Erik Hettler will reach out to the DRWW following the release of the next Federal Appropriations Bill.

Was P-Flux assessed in this TMDL and, if yes, how was that done? The TMDL model which was developed is known as a Jensen model. It does include sediment-released phosphorus in Grass Lake.

Follow up: Would you say this is a document driven model? Yes, and the Jensen model is an empirical model.

b. 10 Years of the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup

Paul Kendzior, DRWW President & Michael Talbett, DRWW Treasurer

Talbett shared his reflections on celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the DRWW. Kendzior then did an overview of accomplishments and membership growth over the past decade. The workgroup officially began in 2015 with 18 members, and a mission for "Improving water quality through a collaborative, locally led process." The goals which continue to guide the group today include water quality improvements, local decision making, cost savings, NPDES permit compliance, and

education/outreach efforts. Today the group has 41 members, and has accomplished a variety of monitoring, outreach, and education goals.

Questions:

What accomplishments are expected in 2026? Feedback on the NARP is the major goal, as well as the continuation of our monitoring efforts.

c. 2025 Illinois Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

Anna Niedzinski, Stormwater Coordinator, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC)

Niedzinski provided an overview of changes made to the Illinois MS4 Permit released on August 1, 2025. Notices of Intent (NOI) and other MS4 reports are now required to be electronically submitted through Central Data Exchange (CDX) beginning December 21, 2025. Additionally, if an MS4 submitted an NOI in 2021, they do not need to submit another for the reissued permit. Such permittees are encouraged to contact the Illinois EPA to confirm an NOI was received in 2021. MS4s who did not submit an NOI in 2021 must submit one before October 29, 2025.

There were also updates in the MS4 Special Conditions. MS4s now have 12 months to implement the TMDL. Moreover, MS4 permittee's who perform deicing activities shall participate in a watershed workgroup, where feasible. SMC has asked for a clarification on the definition of 'feasible.' Communities may apply for a waiver from electronic reporting that cannot exceed 5 years.

Additionally, the new permit contains updated requirements in each of the 6 Minimum Control Measures Program Areas. Under public education and outreach, there are new Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) requirements. MS4s must identify and analyze their target audience(s) and develop at least 3 appropriate messages based on at least 3 industrial/commercial issues and at least 3 residential issues. These issues may overlap. The permittee shall also annually assess changes in public awareness and behavior. Under public participation and involvement, there are new Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) requirements. MS4s must utilize public input in SWMP development, identify any workgroups and participate with other stakeholders, and join said watershed workgroups, if feasible, if deicing activities are performed. Under Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), there are new SWMP requirements. MS4s must promptly report releases and must create a program to respond to illicit discharge reports in 30 days. Written IDDE procedures must be included within the SWMP document. Finally, within 7 days the permittee shall remove the illicit discharge or notify the MS4 jurisdiction where the source of pollution is occurring. Under Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control, there are new SWMP requirements. MS4s must maintain an inventory of all active public and private construction sites that disturb 1 or more acres of land and track the number of inspections. All staff implementing the construction storm water program shall be qualified and trained. Finally, the MS4s must develop outreach tools to control operators regarding storm water controls. Under Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment, there is a new SWMP requirement. During the annual evaluation of post-construction storm water management best management practices implemented, a percent reduction in storm water runoff and pollutants must be provided. MS4s are no longer required to train contractors who are managing green infrastructure. Under Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations, there are new SWMP requirements. MS4s must develop a Municipal Facility and Stormwater Control inventory with a map that includes storm water outfalls, receiving waters, and the manager of each facility with contact information. At each facility in the inventory, there must be quarterly dry weather inspections and quarterly wet weather inspections. MS4s must also assess and prioritize catch basins, and develop a cleaning schedule. There must also be an annual evaluation of street sweeping and cleaning programs.

MS4 Reporting shall now cover the period from March 31st of the previous year to March 31st of the current year. Additional annual reporting requirements are found in all 6 Minimum Control Measures Program Areas.

SMC has a variety of resources for permittees. They perform activities related to each MS4 program area and provide technical assistance to MS4s in Lake County. SMC is also partnering with IWEA and APWA to host an in-person MS4 Workshop on October 10, 2025 at the Lake County Central Permit Facility. DRWW also has resources for permittees including the fulfillment of NPDES MS4 Monitoring and Program requirements and education/outreach materials.

Questions:

How are communities who are not members of the DRWW able to comply with the MS4 permit requirements? The DRWW has identified 8 MS4 communities within the watershed who are not members. The DRWW continues to reach out to them and encourage they become members to ensure they can comply with the permit and enjoy the benefits of the workgroup.

What types of communities fall under the MS4 permit? Villages, cities, townships, certain drainage districts, and counties.

Do unincorporated areas of the county fall under the MS4 permit? They fall under the jurisdiction of the county and the county's MS4 permit.

How are communities supposed to calculate the percent reduction in stormwater runoff required in the annual evaluation? SMC has contacted the Illinois EPA for clarification on this section of the permit and will share their response when it is received.

When are communities required to be in compliance with the permit updates? Communities must be in compliance 12 months after the postmarked date of their coverage letter.

Can the slideshow be shared with DRWW Members? Yes, the slides will be posted to the DRWW website.

6. Watershed Updates & Announcements

a. Lake County SMC FY2026 Watershed Management Board (WMB) Request for Project Proposals

The Lake County SMC Watershed Management Board is accepting requests for proposals for FY2026 projects. Applications will close at 2pm CST on September 30, 2025. Proposals can be submitted through the SMC INFLOW portal (<https://inflow.lcsmc.org/login>). Questions can be directed to Jacob Jozefowski (JJozefowski@lakecountyil.gov) who is the Des Plaines River Watershed representative at Lake County SMC.

b. 2025 Deicing Workshop & Lake County Calibration Event

Registration is now open for 2025 Deicing Workshops hosted by the Salt Smart Collaborative. An in-person workshop will be held in Libertyville, IL at the SMC office on September 30. Additionally, there will be a Lake County Calibration Event on November 4. Registration is now open at <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/Activities/Activity/Detail/2025-Lake-County-Calibration-Event-317>. A flyer has been attached to the meeting agenda showcasing both the workshops and calibration events.

7. Member Remarks

Question: Would Erik Hettler, Wisconsin DNR, be able to share his slides regarding the Fox IL River Basin TMDL?

Answer: Yes.

8. Next General Membership Meeting: February 19, 2026 1:30 p.m.-3:30pm, Location TBD

9. Adjournment – 3:29pm

Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake, motioned to adjourn, seconded by Chuck Bodden, NSWRD. The motion passed with a unanimous consensus vote.

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.

August 21, 2025 Meeting Attendees

| Name | Organization |
|-------------------|--|
| Alexandra Ulloa | City of Waukegan |
| Alyssa Casey | Sylvan Lake |
| 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 |
| Brandon Janes | Village of Deerfield |
| Brian Valleskey | Geosyntec |
| Cecelia Anderson | Village of Lincolnshire |
| Chris Johnson | Sierra Club |
| Chuck Bodden | North Shore Water Reclamation District |
| Don Sonnefeldt | Village of Lindenhurst |
| Don Wilson | EPS Inc. |
| Fred Witte | Village of Wadsworth |
| Gary Glowacki | Lake County Forest Preserve |
| James Fitzgerald | Lake County Health Department |
| Jim Bland | EPS Inc. |
| John Paterson | ILM |
| Marc Bourgault | Lake County Public Works |
| Marty Neal | Libertyville Township Highway Department |
| 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 |
| Mike Prusila | Lake County SMC |
| Nick Huber | Lake County Forest Preserve District |
| Nick Leach | Village of Gurnee |
| Nick Psimaras | Lake County Health Department |
| Paul Kendzior | Village of Libertyville |
| Paul Lindemann | Lake County & Lake County DOT (1 member) |
| Paul Spiewak | Lake County Lake Lovers |
| Quin O'Brien | Village of Gurnee |
| Rafal Palka | Village of Lindenhurst |
| Rob Flood | North Shore Water Reclamation District |
| Sarah Skolozynski | Lake County SMC |
| Steve Waters | North Shore Water Reclamation District |
| Stuart Lannoye | Lake County Public Works |
| Tom Casey | Lake Loch Lomond |
| Tom Morthorst | Village of Third Lake |
| Wally Dittrich | Village of Lincolnshire |