



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
11/20/2025 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 12:30pm.

2. Roll Call

Ashley Strelcheck, interim 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; and **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club. A quorum was present.

Others present: Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Rob Flood, NSWRD; Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants; Sarah Skolozynski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; and Mike Hogan, Geosyntec Consultants (virtual attendance).

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *10/16/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Bartolai, seconded by Huber to approve the 10/16/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. New Business

a. Water Column Chemistry Sampling Updates & Discussion

Bartolai provided an update on Water Column Chemistry Sampling. Water column chemistry sampling has been completed for 2025, and data was accepted after SMC's Quality Assurance and Quality Control by both LCHD and SMC.

b. **LCHD 2026 Technical Services Agreement Recommendation to Executive Board

Bartolai provided an overview of the 2026 LCHD budget for the workgroup within the Agreement. The cost increased from \$89,000 in FY2025 to \$99,264 in FY2026. This increase in cost is due to two factors: 1. The workgroup decided to test for E. coli 4 times, compared to 2 times in the previous LCHD contract 2. Analysis fees have increased for some parameters. Bartolai emphasized that LCHD typically comes in under budget due to number of samples successfully collected. Motion by Morris, seconded by Huber to recommend the LCHD 2026 Technical Services Agreement to the Executive Board. Roll call: Waters - aye, Bartolai - abstain, Morris - aye, Huber - aye, Johnson - aye. Motion passed via roll call (4-0-1).

* = DRWW Action Item; Consensus vote

** = DRWW Action Item; Roll call

6. Old Business

a. USGS Next Generation Water Observation Station (NGWOS) Update (Super Gage)

Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants, presented an estimate summary for the Super Gage at Russel Road at the Lake County, Illinois and Wisconsin border proposal, including installation, equipment, and annual maintenance labor. Strelcheck said a representative from USGS reached out to her regarding interest for a formal proposal for the Super Gage and Strelcheck said the workgroup was still interested in receiving a proposal. Finally, Waters shared the collection of data from the Super Gage likely aligns with current DRWW monitoring. It could be helpful to compare data from LCHD monitoring to the Super Gage data.

QUESTIONS:

- i. *Does the maintenance labor cost include repairs?* Not at this time, that would be additional costs.
- ii. *If the workgroup wanted interpretation of collected data, would that be an additional cost?* Yes.
- iii. *Who provides permission for the placement of the data sonde at Russel Road?* Lake County and Lake County Forest Preserve and any other landowner that would be impacted by the utilities.
- iv. *Is specific equipment needed for the USGS Super Gage?* A power source is needed to collect phosphorous data.

b. NARP Implementation Table Continued Discussion

Strelcheck presented the ongoing NARP Implementation table to update short-, medium- and long-term tasks the DRWW may be interested in pursuing. Members successfully filled out the table. This will be an on-going agenda item (as a living document) to be updated until the table is prioritized, and members would like to annually evaluate the table.

7. Member Comments

- a. Flood suggested the Monitoring Committee create a summary table or online dashboard for water column chemistry data. This could inspire project ideas, such as nitrogen- or chloride-reducing projects.
- b. Mahajan suggested the group research 604(b) grant funding for monitoring costs including equipment and maintenance.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting January 15, 2026, at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Morris, seconded by Bartolai to adjourn. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:31pm.