



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes
01/15/2026 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

Rob Flood, Alternate Monitoring Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:31pm.

2. Roll Call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator, performed roll call. Members present: Alternate Chair **Rob Flood**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; and **Don Wilson**, EPS, Inc. A quorum was present.

Others present: Ashley Strelcheck, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Sarah Skolozynski, SMC; Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; and Yifan He, Geosyntec Consultants, attended virtually.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *11/20/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Bartolai to approve the 11/20/25 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Old Business

There was none.

6. New Business

a. DRWW 2026 Monitoring Update

Bartolai said sampling will begin in February 2026. Bartolai reminded members that E. coli and Sestonic Chlorophyll-a will not be sampled until May according to the 2025 DRWW Monitoring Strategy.

i. DRWW Water Column Chemistry Summary

Bartolai shared she is working with SMC to create a water quality data dashboard through GIS. This dashboard will showcase multiple years of data.

b. Review of Draft USGS Next Generation Water Observation Station (NGWOS) Request for Proposal (Super Gage)

Niedzinski provided a Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for a gaging station capable of continuous water quality monitoring (Super Gage) and presented areas for discussion including what is the contract period, what is the RFP submission period, what is the maintenance period and plan, and how often should the consultant share the station's data. Cost sharing with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and/or USGS is still an option for the DRWW. Bartolai suggested the addition of Dissolved Oxygen to the station's parameters. Niedzinski will add an aerial map and background information regarding the station site to the RFP. Strelcheck suggested the consultant pitch their own format for data management and state the station's power source. Strelcheck also suggested an attorney review any contracts, and the addition of a contract appropriation to the RFP with annual contract review. Morthorst suggested addressing Quality Assurance and Quality Control in the RFP. Huber said the station manufacturers could be useful resources.

QUESTIONS

* = DRWW Action Item; Consensus vote

** = DRWW Action Item; Roll call

Is the RFP submission date able to be changed? Yes.

Is this a new station or is this replacing a station? This is a new additional station. USGS currently has a gage at Russell Road, but it does not collect water chemistry data.

Will data from the station be shared with the Wisconsin DNR? It can be shared.

Is chlorophyll data being collected by LCHD at Russell Road? Yes, it is collected by a grab sample.

Where would the station go? It would be on a Lake County Division of Transportation right of way.

When would the station be installed? Fall 2026 (RFP currently says November 30).

Do we have a list of contractors? DRWW can use SMC's portal.

How much was the RFP from Geosyntec? \$130,000 initial cost; \$70,000 every year after.

c. Overview of Section 604(b) – Water Quality Management IL EPA Grant Program

Sarah Skolozynski, SMC, provided an overview of the Water Quality Management IL EPA Grant Program. This is a reimbursement program for a two-year project. Funds can be used to determine the nature, extent, and causes of point and nonpoint pollution through monitoring (among other projects). Previous grant amounts ranged from \$50,000 to \$350,000.

QUESTIONS

How much grant money is set aside for larger planning entities? The exact amount is not currently known.

d. Lakes Committee Update

i. New Lakes Committee Member – Dave Kraft, Village of Lindenhurst

Bartolai shared the Lakes Committee approved a new member: Dave Kraft from the Village of Lindenhurst.

ii. Lakes Committee Recommendation to Purchase Equipment for DRWW Education and Outreach with a Not-to-Exceed Cost of \$500

Bartolai shared the Lakes Committee's recommendation to the Executive Board to purchase equipment for education and outreach with a not-to-exceed amount of \$500.

iii. Phosphorus Education Materials

1. Draft Phosphorus Education Library

Bartolai presented the Phosphorus Education Library webpage for Monitoring Board review. There were no comments or questions.

2. Phosphorus Factsheet

Bartolai presented the Phosphorus Factsheet for Monitoring Committee review. There were no comments or questions.

e. *DRWW 2025 Workplan Scorecard Review and Recommendation for Approval

Niedzinski presented the DRWW 2025 Workplan Scorecard for Committee review. Johnson motioned to recommend the scorecard for Executive Board approval, seconded by Bartolai. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

f. *DRWW 2025 Annual Newsletter and Recommendation for Approval

Niedzinski presented the DRWW 2025 Annual Newsletter for Committee review. Bartolai motioned to recommend the newsletter for Executive Board approval, seconded by Huber. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

7. Member Comments

- a.** Strelcheck provided an Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) Model Update from the Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI). The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) provided MBI with data for the IPS model but did training on their own. Representatives from DRSCW will present training options and costs at the March 19, 2026, DRWW Monitoring Committee meeting. Flood asked if this tool is open to consultant use, and Strelcheck said it would be possible.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a.** General Membership Meeting February 19, 2026, at 1:30pm, Lake County Public Works (648 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, Conference Room)
- b.** Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting March 19, 2026, at 12:30pm (LCDOT Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Bartolai, seconded by Johnson to adjourn. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Flood adjourned the meeting at 1:41pm.

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