



Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Agenda

May 21, 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

Steve Waters, Monitoring Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at **12:30 pm**.

2. Roll Call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator, performed roll call. Members present: Alternate 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; **Brian Kuebker**, Village of Libertyville; and **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club. A quorum was present.

Others present: Chuck Bodden, NSWRD; Tom Morthorst, Village of Third Lake; Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec; and Michelle Payne Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) attended in person. Ashley Strelcheck, SMC, attended virtually.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *03/16/26 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Bartolai to approve the 03/16/26 Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Old Business

a. DRWW 2026 Monitoring Update

Bartolai provided an update on monitoring activities. During the May sampling event all sites were sampled and a summary of monitoring results from the February were presented. Bartolai solicited feedback from the Committee on how to present the data at future meetings. The Committee had several questions regarding in-stream standards. Bartolai indicated the instream standard on the chloride graph, but there is currently no in-stream standard for nitrates and nitrites. There was discussion concerning the elevated

levels of chlorides in the waterways and potential next steps whether to contact MS4s upstream of the site or increase monitoring in regularly elevated locations.

b. USGS Next Generation Water Observation Station (NGWOS) at Russell Road Proposal Update

Niedzinski provided an update to the Committee on the status of the proposal for USGS Next Generation Water Observation Station (NGWOS) at Russell Road. The proposal currently is under USGS review. The Committee discussed the possibility of applying for 604b grant funding, and that if the DRWW decides to pursue the grant a consultant will need to be hired to perform grant writing services in addition to a QAPP amendment, which was recommended by Mahajan. The Committee discussed the scope of services to be drafted and agreed to review the scope once the DRWW receives the proposal from USGS.

6. New Business

a. *Discussion of 2026 Draft Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report DRWW Public Comments

The Committee discussed the 2026 Draft Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and reviewed the draft DRWW Public Comment letter. The Committee wanted additional information on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) for the Fox-Illinois River system and information on the USGS NGWOS included in the public comment letter. Niedzinski will take the input and will send out a modified draft copy for review, before sending to the IEPA before the public comment period closes. The Committee noted that in 2022 DRWW decided to not pursue submitting its monitoring data to the IEPA Water Quality Report due to the amount of work required in formatting. The Committee discussed revisiting the idea of submitting the monitoring data by using AI to reformat the data in addition to doing a joint effort with NBWW to submit during the next reporting cycle.

b. Demonstration of Draft DRWW Monitoring Location Analysis Web Tool

Payne provided a walk-through demonstration of the Draft DRWW Monitoring Location Analysis Web Tool. The Webtool will be used to display the monitoring data at the monthly Monitoring Committee meetings, to provide DRWW members with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits a summary of local water quality data, and finally to provide an annual watershed water quality summary. Payne answered several questions on how to utilize the tool.

7. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

8. Next Meeting(s)

- a. Monitoring/Water Quality Improvements Committee Meeting June 18, 2026 at 12:30pm, Lake County Division of Transportation (600 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, Conference Room A)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Bartolai, seconded by Kuebker to adjourn. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Waters adjourned the meeting at 1:22pm.