



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2012

Present: Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay, NWPA Vice-Chair; Kane County Board Member Maggie Auger; North Aurora President Dale Berman, Lake County Board Member Bonnie Carter; Wauconda Mayor Mark Knigge; Mayor David Kaptain of Elgin; McHenry County Board Member Mary McCann, Tower Lakes President Kathleen Leitner; Montgomery Village President Marilyn Michelini.

Also Present: Janet Agnoletti, Barrington Area Council of Governments Executive Director; Colin Duesing, Will County Land Use Planner; Chris Gentes, Lake County Municipal League Executive Director; Chris Staron of Northwest Municipal Conference, Paul Schuch of Kane County, Peter Wallers, President EEI, TAC Chairman; Angela Zubko of Kendall County, and Mary Randle, Metro West Executive Director. Guest: Margaret Schneemann, Water Resource Economist.

Karen McConnaughay opened the meeting at 10 a.m.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the January 9, 2012 executive committee meeting were approved after a motion by President Berman and a second by President Kathleen Leitner. (There were no minutes from the March 8, 2012 meeting because there was not a quorum.)

Presentation: Full Cost Water Pricing: Vice-Chairman McConnaughay introduced speaker Margaret Schneemann, a Water Resource Economist whose position is part of a partnership between Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the University of Illinois Extension. Her office is located at CMAP. She leads projects supporting implementation of sustainable water supply planning in the Chicago metropolitan area. She also teaches courses in sustainable development and economics.

Ms. Schneemann said if she had to give a grade on Illinois' water infrastructure, it would be a D-plus. It is estimated that the cost of addressing our needs to maintain and improve the infrastructure is about \$21.5 billion. Why full cost of water pricing? This implies that all private and social costs associated with the production or activity are including in the cost. For water, the environmental costs and scarcity costs should be added to direct costs of capital costs and operation and maintenance. Water rates should include all of those cost factors.

Groundwater use. 1) This will be depleted if the rate of use exceeds the rate of recharge. 2) Effective allocation of a scarce resource requires that a scarcity cost be associated with its use. 3) The price of water typically does not include the scarcity cost.

Infrastructure Scarcity: 1) sustainable infrastructure planning, 2) community rate setting, 3) outreach.

Water Scarcity: 1) Scarcity cost education, 2) regional coordination.

CMAP has a page on sustainable water pricing on its website. It includes a module on how to talk to Boards about this issue. Ms. Schneemann may be reached at 312.676.7456.

Ms. Schneemann reported that there is an important workshop for water operators on Monday, June 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on January 19 at the McHenry County Government Center: **Project Development and Sustainable Infrastructure Planning: Getting Your Project to Flow Smoothly**. Members of the Executive Committee suggested that it would be important to include elected officials in the workshop.

Chairman McConnaughay asked if there is any possibility that CMAP might create a grant opportunity for communities to have their infrastructure assessed.

Financial Report: Interim Administrator Mary Randle presented the January -February 2012 and March -April 2012 financial reports. She stated that the Northwest Water Planning Alliance bank balance stands at \$6,411.15 as of April 30, 2012. The reports were approved as presented after a motion by Mayor Kaptain and a second by President Michelini.

Approval of Bylaws: The final bylaws were presented for approval. The document includes the revisions that had been requested. The Bylaws were approved after a motion by Bonnie Carter and a second by Mayor Knigge.

Incorporation: Steve Andersson has filed the Incorporation Application with Mayor Tom Weisner, Kane County Board Chairman McConnaughay, and North Aurora Village President Dale Berman listed as directors. Our officers include Mayor Weisner as President, Karen McConnaughay as Vice-President, Dale Berman as Treasurer and Mayor Kathleen Leitner as Secretary. This slate was approved after a motion by President Michelini and a second by McHenry County Board Member Mary McCann.

Resolution to Open Bank Account: Mary Randle requested a resolution to open a separate bank account for the Northwest Water Planning Alliance at Fifth Third Bank in Aurora. This was approved by the board after a motion by President Berman and a second by Mayor Leitner.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: TAC Chairman Pete Wallers presented the TAC report. The TAC is making progress on developing a model unified water conservation ordinance for the NWPA. The Metropolitan Planning Council has been a great help with this project. The TAC will also address drought planning. They hope to have the model ordinance ready for executive committee approval by September at the latest. They have also still been working to support changes to the state plumbing codes that would enable the use of greywater. The TAC is also looking at the issue of water loss. The AWWA has a more sophisticated way of measuring water loss.

In July the Illinois State Water Survey will report to the executive committee and the TAC on the follow-up to the Water 2050 Report: Opportunities and Challenges of Meeting Water Demand in Northeastern Illinois.

Next meeting date: Thursday, July 12 at The Centre of Elgin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Submitted by _____

Mary Randle, Recorder