



Technical Advisory Committee

June 28, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, representing MWCOG, Chairman; Kurt Thomsen, KDT Environmental, representing BACOG, Bryan Faivre of City of DeKalb, representing MWCOG; Angela Zubko representing Kendall County; Paul Schuch representing Kane County, Cassandra McKinney representing McHenry County, John Schmitt of Village of McHenry, representing MCCOG, Dennis Burmeister of Village of Barrington, representing NWMC and John Dillon, City of Batavia, representing MWCOG.

Also Present: Allen Wehrmann, ISWS; Josh Ellis, MPC; Dr. Tim Loftus, CMAP; Lenore Beyer-Clow, Openlands; Kyla Jacobsen of City of Elgin, representing IL Section of AWWA; Jim Urek of Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc.; Chris Staron representing NWMC, and Mary Randle of Metro West.

Chairman Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Welcome and introductions - Peter Wallers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

No changes were made to the agenda. Peter distributed copies of Water 2050, the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply and Demand Report.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the May 24, 2011 meeting were approved after a motion by John Dillon and a second by Paul Schuch.

NWPA Executive Committee Update – Peter presented the prioritized NWPA goals that had been developed by the Executive Committee. The overarching goal is to provide a sustainable water supply for the NWPA region in a manner that is both environmentally and economically sound. Dr. Loftus inquired if the TAC could also develop goals and objectives to present to the Executive Committee for approval. Peter's response was, "yes."

Allen Wehrmann of ISWS was asked to comment on goal #11: "Determine sustainability of current supply with existing practices." He noted there are many things that can be done with the deep aquifer model. We can also look at what would happen if certain cities or areas were to stop pulling water from the aquifer.



Peter stated that we need to address the Executive Committee's prioritized goals. The Education Subcommittee is recommending that we send an introductory letter and then send out water billing inserts from CMAP with the NWPA logo on them. Mary Randle will send the NWPA logo to Dr. Loftus. We could print the inserts in mass quantities, allowing counties and municipalities to order them in advance.

Kyla Jacobsen said that Elgin's Environmental Change Organization (ECO) presents a major event (next year on May 12th) that would be a good venue for distributing materials on water conservation. Community festivals and county fairs would be excellent venues for getting the word out to the public regarding water conservation.

Illinois State Water Survey Funding Challenges – Allen Wehrmann stated that the ISWS and the other Surveys are experiencing funding challenges. Their funds somehow were not included in the Illinois State Budget. The University may help them until the Veto Session although the Surveys are not part of the University's budget. The ISWS also has some external contracts such as the studies for McHenry and Kendall Counties. If the ISWS' Department of Agriculture grant proposal is approved, it may provide some funding for coordinating existing groups. There may be a larger amount of money available at the end of this grant period if the project is successful.

Recommendation to Send Letter of Support for ISWS State Funding – Josh Ellis suggested that the Councils of Government should be supportive of ISWS getting its funding from the State of Illinois. Peter stated the TAC should recommend to the NWPA Executive Committee that it send a letter to support funding for the ISWS, referencing the Illinois Water Inventory Program. That was approved after a motion by Paul Schuch and a second by Kurt Thomsen. The Prairie Research Group encompasses all of the Surveys. Tell municipalities how they will benefit directly from the services of the ISWS. Mr. Wehrmann will send us the piece the Surveys' executive director is working on to help us develop our letter of support.

Recommendation to Support ISWS Grant Proposal – We need to alert the NWPA Executive Committee that ISWS is making a grant proposal to the Department of Agriculture: "Watersheds in Transition I the Chicago-Milwaukee Megalopolis: An Initiative to Prioritize Solutions." After a motion by Paul Schuch and a second by Cassandra McKinney, the TAC voted to recommend to the Executive Committee that the NWPA send a letter of support on behalf of the grant proposal.

Peter stated that we need to involve other water professionals in the NWPA such as the Illinois section of the AWWA to take advantage of their technical assistance. Our counties' TAC representatives will send names and emails of additional groups that should be added to our TAC meeting invitations database. John Dillon offered to send out a request to include more water professionals within COGs and Counties in our email messages. We need one or two contacts within each of those entities.



Funding Plan – Dr. Loftus stated that we need a funding plan. We need to develop a budget and propose how to find the money to fund it. This plan needs to be approached on a regional basis. What would it take to support the important water initiatives such as the ISWS. Peter stated it would be helpful to develop some goals regarding water conservation, specific goals and how to measure the correlation between water supplies. Perhaps the TAC should start a committee to address gaps in knowledge and to determine what funding is available.

TAC Education Sub-Committee Update – Peter reported that the Education Committee had a productive meeting. They did find, however, that the NWPA is “the best kept secret” in our area. Many of the Public Works professionals had no idea what the NWPA is. Bryan Faivre noted that most DeKalb County municipalities aren’t aware of the NWPA. Mary Randle noted that this was complicated by the fact that many DeKalb County municipalities are not members of Metro West.

We need to build an email database for water managers and one for Mayors/Presidents and Managers/Administrators. We need to introduce them to the NWPA and let them know what we want to accomplish. It is very important that we establish an identity and present a unified message. We may also use the databases to disseminate educational materials. Josh Ellis suggested that we add utility committees of municipalities to the list.

Peter stated that we need to develop a clear vision of how we will move the NWPA forward. Dr. Loftus said that perhaps CMAP could help develop an article about the NWPA that could be used in newsletters by counties and municipalities. Al Wehrmann noted the importance of ensuring that rural areas are also included in these efforts.

Dr. Loftus suggested that Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) should be included in the NWPA.

Illinois Water Inventory Program – There was a discussion about the ISWS’s Water Inventory Program. The ISWS has been recording measurements of water levels from municipal wells; however funding shortages will impact that program this year. Peter stated the NWPA has offered to get municipalities to take their own measurements and forward them to the ISWS. We would need to do some pre-planning. Some municipalities may need to add a special gauge to their air lines. The NWPA would ask everyone to take the measurements during the same designated week. Perhaps the larger municipalities could help others that may be lacking the proper equipment. Al Wehrmann said that the ISWS could follow up with any communities that are having trouble taking their measurements.

The ISWS may develop a form that can be used for the water level measurements. The measurements are most meaningful when taken during the fall season. Wehrmann stated it would be very helpful if we could also get also the word out to Wisconsin towns that are near the Illinois border.



Next Education Sub-Committee Meeting - Peter Wallers will schedule a conference call for the next Education Sub-Committee meeting. Anyone is welcome to participate. Josh Ellis suggested that the NWPA establish what is already being done about water conservation in each municipalities and counties.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Submitted by _____

Mary Randle, Recorder