



## Technical Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting

October 27, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG; Natalie Karney, Village of South Barrington; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Tim Wilson, City of St. Charles; Matt Wilson, City of St. Charles; Walt Kelly, ISWS; Dan Nagel, SGTWA; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Gary Clark, IEPA Retired; Jerry Elliott, SGTWA; Mark Wolf, Village of Montgomery; Tom Migatz, Village of Lake in the Hills; Daniel Abrams, ISWS; Justin Keller, MPC; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Judith Thomas, USGS; Amy Gahala, USGS; Jeff Babich, SGTWA; Faye Sinnott, FC/SCWP; Nora Beck, CMAP; David Schumacher, City of Aurora; Ed Coggin, Weston Solutions; John Dillon, ISAWWA; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; George Roadcap, ISWS Retired; Angie Smith, EEI.

Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

**Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions:** Pete (MWCOG) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Agenda Changes and Announcements:** No changes at this time.

**Approval of September Meeting Minutes:** Tim (St. Charles) made a motion to approve. Natalie (South Barrington) seconded. Minutes approved.

**General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area:** Pete (MWCOG) opened up the group for discussion. Dave (AU), reported steady water quality on the Fox River.

Tim (St. Charles) mentioned the FRSG has an annual meeting at 10 AM on Thurs., 10/29/20; it will be held virtually. Kane County Water Operators is looking for someone to present on groundwater/wells. Feel free to reach out to him.

Ed (Weston Solutions) shared an update with the COVID-19 wastewater treatment monitoring with McHenry. The Cares Act can be used for reimbursement. A lot of cities are working together with local universities for this type of work. The state of Wisconsin is monitoring about 140 locations and that is being coordinated with the WDNR and Madison. The wastewater operators are the ones collecting the samples.

**Presentation: "Affordability and Water Rates":** Margaret (IISG) gave a presentation on water affordability and rates in northeastern Illinois. Defining and measuring water affordability in regard to programs and policies; specific examples for rate design cases, Chicago and Evanston.

Key findings in the report: 1. Water affordability is an issue across the region; 2. Water affordability is a nuanced issue; 3. There is no one size fits all solution and cannot go it alone; 4. Water affordability is an equity issue.



All info is on the MPC website: <https://www.metroplanning.org/work/project/44>

IISG Conservation Rates Manual: [www.iiseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ISAWWA.pdf](http://www.iiseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ISAWWA.pdf)

Currently doing outreach and working with Chicago and Evanston through MPC. Chicago: increasing cost of water; increasing water utility bill debt; water shut offs; disproportionate impact on west and south sides; MPC 2019 Mayoral Briefing Book policy recommendation. City of Chicago initiated Utility Bill Relief Program. Challenges/next steps: expanding program and enrollment; COVID impacts; reaching renters.

Evanston: City goals; political will to make water affordable and shift to tiered water rate structure; target program participating household in Evanston would have to spend 12% of its disposable income on water and sewer service. Last year, Evanston introduced a tiered water rate structure and did receive push back on it from the larger users, so it has not been implemented. Challenges/next steps: tier design, customer classes, equitability.

**Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update):** Scott (McHenry) reported that he is still working on the Water Resources Action Plan for the County. Will be getting back to the manual when this is complete.

**CMAP (Update):** Nora (CMAP) reported that they are still waiting to hear back on the contract from IDNR to continue their work in the region with NWPA and SWPG.

**ISAWWA (Update):** Jeff (ISAWWA/EEI) stated that the second group of the regulatory update is scheduled for Thurs., Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. The Board met last Friday and have delayed WATERCON to the week of August 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>; with the hopes that it can be held in person.

**MPC (Update):** Justin (MPC) there is a push to complete the Drinking Water 1-2-3 LTA's for the year.

**ISWS (Update):** Daniel (ISWS) shared that they have been working on some interactive story maps that will be put on their website. County level sustainable supply numbers will be coming out in the near future with updated risk maps as well.

**IDNR (Update):** None

**USGS (Update):** Amy (USGS) reported she has been out in McHenry County sampling, still waiting on results. Also sampled for microplastics and working with NIU on this project. Judith (USGS) touched base on the IEPA sampling that will be taking place.

Ed (Weston) stated that he thinks Rick Cobb will be giving an update at the Regulatory Meeting on Thurs., 10/29/20 on the IEPA well sampling that will be starting soon.

**Executive Committee:** Pete (MWCOG) stated they have been working on a proposal for a sustainability planning effort. Nora (CMAP) has been taking the lead on it.



**Other Business:** Pete (MWCOG) no pending regulation to comment on at this time. Look for a busy spring session.

The next meeting will be held on November 24, 2020 at 10 AM via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Angie Smith, EEI