



Technical Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

April 25, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG/EEI; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Bob Leible, City of Aurora; Amy Gahala, USGS; Caleb Apker, Burns & McDonnell; Cecilia Cullen, ISWS; Joe Munder, City of Aurora; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva; Daniel Abrams, ISWS; Dan Hadley, ISWS; Gordon Smith, Robinson Engineering; Judith Thomas, USGS; Katie Piotrowska, CMAP; Kevin Feckske, Village of Barrington; Matt Farmer, City of Crystal Lake; Tom Kopanski, Village of Montgomery; Walt Kelly, ISWS; Wei Han, IDNR; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Tim Wilson, City of St. Charles; Matt Wilson, City of St. Charles; Jeff Babich, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Eric Czarnota, CMAP; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County; Natalie Karney, BACOG; Haylee Young, ISAWWA; Nora Beck, CMAP; Angie Smith, EEI.

Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

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

Agenda Changes and Announcements: Pete (MWCOG/EEI) distributed a revised agenda that was sent a few minutes prior to the meeting.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Bob (Aurora) made a motion to approve. Jeff (EEI) seconded. Minutes approved.

Presentation: "Refining Sustainability Goals and NWPA Profile Overview": Kelsey, Katie (CMAP), and Margaret (IISG) gave a quick recap of the post-February meeting survey that was sent; only received eight (8) additional responses, was presented.

The group liked Vision Statement B: the NWPA water supply sustainability plan will serve as a roadmap for members seeking to take voluntary steps toward feasible and effective long-term use of water supply resources.

A reminder was given that the WSSP is voluntary, broad potential water savings estimates for the NWPA region, not focused on any one municipality, raises awareness of the need for action and provides steps to take to move forward.

Lake Michigan: post-meeting survey results: ranked #1: demand exceeds diversion and #2 no additional municipal allocations can be made. Outcome reframed as a goal: Illinois' use of Lake Michigan water does not exceed the diversion limit of 3,200 CFS as measured over a forty-year accounting period.



Main water concern for demand exceeding the Lake Michigan diversion: Increased usage from collar communities, decreasing available supply; increased runoff from climate change, decreasing available supply; other. Other points that should be included is legal mandates, option of returning a portion of MRD treated wastewater direct to Lake Michigan, not all users are meeting the water conservation measures.

Recap: general agreement with the water quantity goal; main concern for demand exceeding diversion is increased usage from collar communities, decreasing available supply; communities with allocations need to meet conservation goals, some are currently not; returning a portion of treated wastewater directly to Lake Michigan, possible long-term option to explore; need to stay below the diversion threshold and be cost-effective for communities that need alternative water source; water quality issues can impact the ability to use Lake Michigan water; do not have access to current diversion availability

Best metrics for measuring goals for Lake Michigan: water retained in the Lake Michigan watershed; Change in LOM2 allocations over time; Lake Michigan water levels, or other – add a timelier accounting.

The website that tracks all lake levels: <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Information-2/Water-Level-Data/>

<https://youtu.be/KFxByfi1DUg> link to a presentation on water levels/impact of climate change on Lake Michigan water levels

Fox River: Post meeting survey results: ranked #1 Low flows and #2 increased harmful algal blooms. Attempted goal: water quantity outcome low flows: overuse/over pumping of river water or weather/climate, #3 Degraded water quality: Low flows impacting water quality issues; water quality issues related to supply coming primarily from NPDES discharges.

Recap: Both water quantity and water quality should be goals.

Measuring goals: Potential metrics (future ISWS model considerations): unspecified ecological metrics; seasonal time step to capture drought/climate change

Fox River Implementation plan:

https://www.foxriverstudygroup.org/files/ugd/61ae1d_cc20fb984eda4b68805f48de246ecc3a.pdf

Deep sandstone: post-meeting survey results / ranked #1: inoperable wells and #2 lowered water levels

Goals: water quantity outcomes: inoperable wells: dewatering/overuse of aquifer to a point that wells and pumps fail; drawdown to levels that make the aquifer unusable. Lowered water levels: water levels lower to the point that the aquifers can longer meet the region's demands.

Water-quantity goal: water levels are sustained, allowing for the continued use



Alternative goals: water levels are restored to a level that allows for the continued use and operation of deep sandstone drinking water wells. Water withdrawals are maintained at a rate that allows for the continued use and operation of deep sandstone drinking water wells. Water levels are sustained to allow communities experiencing adverse dewatering impacts adequate time to switch water sources.

Shallow aquifers post-meeting survey results: Ranked #1: Degraded water quality and #2 inoperable wells for sole-sourced communities/households. The water quantity goal should also capture reductions in natural groundwater discharge to streams, water levels won't matter if it's economically not feasible to treat water to drinking water standards; water quality and pollution prevention must be part of the discussion. Aquifer recharge is very different in various aquifers. Agree about not limiting to sole source.

Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update): Scott (McHenry County) continuing to move forward.

CMAP (Update): Kelsey (CMAP) no additional update.

IISG (Update): Margaret (IISG) shared a website for stormwater: <https://illinoisgroundwork.org/> mentioned that folks were interested in their PFAS competition that they have coming up. More information: <https://iiseagrant.org/work/healthy-waters/programs-initiatives/gl-pfas-scoping-research/>

ISAWWA (Update): Water for People Golf Outing: June 1st; No Water No Beer Event: May 1st in Des Plaines

ISWS (Update): Cecilia (ISWS) reported that Laura Keifer is the Director of the ISWS. Creating kick-off meeting for Kane County work. SGTWP is wrapping up tomorrow. Two presentations at the Illinois Groundwater Association: *Exploring Variability and Seasonality in Groundwater Chloride at Community Wells with Weekly Data and Sustainable Supply and Demand Assessments in Illinois*
http://www.illinoisgroundwater.org/meetings/2023_Spring/IGA-Meeting-Spring-2023_Agenda_and_Abstracts.pdf

IDNR (Update): Wes (IDNR) provided a quick update.

USGS (Update): Amy (USGS) McHenry County website that was created: <https://rconnect.usgs.gov/McHenry-groundwater/Index.html>

SGTWA (Update): Jeff (SGTWA) all is good.

Other Business: Pending regulations and/or legislation: None.

The next meeting will be held on May 23, 2023, and it will be virtual.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, EEI