



Technical Advisory Committee In-Person Meeting

July 26, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG/EEI; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Eric Weiss, City of Elgin; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Cary McElhinney, USEPA; Natalie Karney, BACOG; Walt Kelly, ISWS; Tim Holdeman, EEI; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Elizabeth Sommerfield, ISAWWA Intern; Nora Beck, CMAP; Dean Farr, McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation; Jeff Babich, SGTWA; Bob VanGysegghem, City of Geneva; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; Wei Han, IDNR; Amy Gahala, USGS; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Tom Kopanski, Village of Montgomery; Danielle Gallet, Waterwell, LLC; Brad Merkel, Village of Sugar Grove; Angie Smith, EEI

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

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

Agenda Changes and Announcements: Pete (MWCOG/EEI) stated no changes at this time.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Natalie (BACOG) made a motion to approve. Nora (CMAP) seconded. Minutes approved.

General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area: Pete (MWCOG/EEI) asked the group for any updates. Dave (Aurora) reported that the flows have come up and the Fox River quality is average. Organics are normal.

Presentation: "WaterSense: Overview and Update": Cary (USEPA) gave an update on the program that is offered for water conservation. A program overview was given to the group and highlighted the partner tools that are available on the website: www.epa.gov/watersense

A recent update to the new home specification for WaterSense label – first national new home labeling program for water efficiency; applies to single and multifamily homes; works with green building programs; WaterSense labeled new homes: reduce water use in new homes by at least 30%, educate homeowners about continuing water-efficient behaviors, encourage community infrastructure savings, are third-party certified.

In development: pool covers, guide should be released in mid-2022. Reverse Osmosis Point of Use (POU) Systems, draft specification expected in late 2022.



Outdoor water use needs to be checked for any outdoor water waste. New WaterSense labeled water based irrigation controllers. www.epa.gov/watersense/findapro There are also guides available for outdoor water management: www.epa.gov/watersense/microirrigation

Smart Watering Partner Tools: remind customers to change their irrigation practices with the weather or get controllers that will do the thinking for them. Materials include bill stuffers, brochures, social media posts, etc. Also, YouTube videos are available as well.

Program success through 2021 – WaterSense partners have helped save 6.4 trillion gallons of water; eliminated 288 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

NWPA is a member of WaterSense and there are about 30 communities within NWPA that are also members. It was noted that membership is free and an annual report has to be submitted in order to maintain status.

Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update): Scott (McHenry County) reported that the manual itself is pretty much complete. They are focusing on the training and educational material. The Salt Smart Parking Lots and Sidewalks Winter Maintenance Survey is ready to be shared and completed! Please share amongst your networks and with any Illinois winter maintenance professionals who do parking lots and sidewalks. If you are a winter maintenance professional please also complete the survey. Here is the link: <https://form.jotform.com/221724428861054>

Pete (MWCOG/EEI) reported that the request for contribution will be going to the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday for \$10K.

CMAF (Update): Nora (CMAF) reported that have a timing issue for the funding on the water sustainability plan.

IISG (Update): Margaret (IISG) / Nora reported that Elizabeth has been working on updating the lawn watering ordinance and will be preparing a newsletter article for NWPA.

ISAWWA (Update): Jeff (ISAWWA) gave a reminder on the educational sessions that are available, check out their website for availability. Last Friday there was a *No Water No Beer* event in downtown Chicago which had good attendance. They are running the Mission Monday series and they are focused on the Lead Service Line Management – next one is August 15th. Water for People Golf Outing is set for September 8th. Water Distribution and Sewer Conference is set for September 28th and 29th. Annual Regulatory Update is October 20th and 27th (virtual) – agenda is being worked through now. Reminder that the water trailer (sinks/drinking fountain) is available for events. <https://www.isawwa.org/general/custom.asp?page=WaterTrailer>

ISWS (Update): Walt (ISWS) reported that they have finished up the sampling in Lake County on 35 monitoring wells. A couple of them couldn't be sampled because they were in such bad shape. A subset of about 10 of the wells for PFAS, don't have funding for analyzing them, but hoping to work with USGS to do that so the samples will be frozen until then. Also working with Kane County on their project – groundwater (deep/shallow) quality



analysis, redoing their study from 2015. Partnering with USGS to do the Illinois Basin work, still learning more information.

IDNR (Update): Wei (IDNR) working on the State Water Plan which is out for public comment. Public outreach events will be late August/early September. The Plan will be published by the end of the year. It will be posted on their website:

USGS (Update): Amy (USGS) reported that the Illinois PFAS report is being reviewed now and should be wrapping up in the near future. The McHenry County report is still being reviewed and it will be presented at the McHenry County Water Forum on August 31st.

SGTWA (Update): No update.

Other Business:

Scott (McHenry County) had been contacted by a resident that was complaining about high iron in their water. The company that is providing the water has known about this issue and they are chemically treated the water for high iron. Jeff (EEI) commented that there are regulations by IEPA and most of the time the primary treatment would be oxidization to remove the iron. Tim (EEI) added that flushing could also assist with improving the issue. Pete (EEI) suggested perhaps tapping into the IEPA Field office to see if they have it flagged or if they can give some guidance for this particular system. Dean (McHenry Cty. S&W) commented there was another area in Spring Grove that had a similar issue.

The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2022 and it is scheduled to be in-person.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, EEI