

NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2016

Present: Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner, Chairman; Barrington Mayor Karen Darch, South Barrington President Paula McCombie; McHenry County Board Member Carolyn Schofield; Kane County Board Member Joseph Haimann; North Aurora President Dale Berman, Secretary; and Lake County Board Member Nick Sauer.

Also present: Peter Wallers, NWPA Technical Advisory Committee Chairman; Barrington Area COG Director Janet Agnoletti, Danielle Gallet of Metropolitan Planning Council; Lake County Municipal League Director Mandi Florip; Jackie Wollnick of Kane County; Chris Staron of Northwest Municipal Conference, Collin Duesing of Will County Planning Department and Metro West COG Director Mary Randle.

Mayor Weisner called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and made introductions. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Vice-Chairman Vacancy: Mayor Weisner reminded the group that we still need a vice-chairman to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mary McCann. The position must be filled by a county board representative. He asked those interested to contact him or Mary Randle of Metro West.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of November 12, 2015 were approved after a motion by Joseph Haimann and a second by Dale Berman.

Financial Report: Mary Randle presented the financial report in the absence of Ruth Anne Tobias. Due to technical difficulties hard copies of the November and December 2015 reports are not yet available. The reconciled balance on December 30, 2015 was \$18,156.74 after including an outstanding check in the amount of \$2,509.39 for reimbursing Metro West for the costs of the intern. The reports will be presented for approval at the March 10th meeting.

Presentation: Janet Agnoletti, Barrington Area Council of Governments Executive Director, presented a film produced by BACOG: **Groundwater Educational Video Project for Elementary Schools**. BACOG began working on groundwater systems issues in 2001. Their area is 80 square miles. Ninety-nine percent of their wells are in shallow aquifers. There are 7,800 wells and people are dependent on these wells for their water. Most of what has been accomplished on their water studies has been done by staff and volunteers with assistance from the Lake County health department and the USGS. USGS is helping with an aquifer map and a groundwater recharge map. They have also developed natural water quality data and started private well water testing for private owners. They have tested 2,000 households since 2010. They have also done level two water testing with Illinois State Water Survey. They are monitoring for level

three manmade contaminants. They have received a USGS grant for equipment to measure water levels and are monitoring 18 wells throughout their area.

They are looking for trends with a long-term comprehensive water measurement approach.

This can also help with local development decisions. They have now produced an educational video for elementary school fourth graders about groundwater to give children a better idea of water issues in their own geographic area. After showing the video, they have a Skype session with a water scientist. They have also produced some related print materials for the schools.

The video shows where their water comes from. It shows:

- Makeup of the aquifer
- How water gets to homes and businesses in the Barrington area.
- Water distribution system
- Groundwater recharge cycle
- Waste water and water quality
- Water treatment
- Water testing of local wells.
- Protecting ground water quality and supply sustainability
- Consequences of overuse of aquifers
- Groundwater mapping
- Water conservation: how they can help protect water quality and quantity

Mayor Weisner congratulated BACOG for developing the video and educational program. Pete Wallers also said the program was well done and stated that he will show it to the Technical Advisory Committee. The TAC wants to develop specific educational goals. Janet Agnoletti noted that the classroom teachers responded well to the program, which was presented as part of the Land and Water Unit for fourth graders. The print materials were funded by BACOG and they are available online. The video is available through Drop Box. They hope to identify another funding source. Danielle Gallet suggested that perhaps NWPA could provide help from its printing budget.

Carolyn Schofield stated that McHenry County uses tipping fees to fund educational materials.

Update on Regional Water Supply Planning: Pete Wallers stated that there is no funding for water supply planning in the state budget. CMAP will try to help NWPA as much as it can. Nora Beck from CMAP will work with us. In 2016 Metropolitan Planning Council carried the water planning torch for nonprofit groups> it has a group that will help prioritize in this area to develop its action agenda.

On May 12 the NWPA, MPC and the City of Aurora will join to present a Water Day Forum at the Roundhouse in Aurora. The purpose is to bring politicians into a dialogue on water supply issues. On May 12, the NWPA Executive Committee will meet there instead of in Elgin.

CMAA is looking to diversify its funding sources and wants to fund more than transportation. CMAA was formed to be a planning organization. They would like to expand grant opportunities. Mayor Weisner noted it is also very important to fund sub-regional planning groups such as the NWPA.

IEPA Low Interest Loan Stakeholder Group Update: Danielle Gallet stated it is very important to get the word out about the availability of loan funds and the improvements to the process that are being effected. The changes to the process will be made public in February. Ms. Gallet and Peter Wallers sit on the steering committee for this group.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Peter Wallers noted that the TAC had taken off during December to accommodate the holiday schedule. He addressed the ILR40 permit for MS4 communities of above 10,000 in population. The more aggressive water quality measurement requirements for certain nutrients will be permissive instead of required. The IEPA had added additional nutrients that must be measured. Metro West COG has been working on this issue for two years. IEPA will make it permissive but we must inventory and analyze our testing practices. This still puts an administrative burden on municipalities. Mr. Wallers has spoken to Mr. Keller about clarifying the language on some of the requirements. He will draft a memo for Metro West on the issue and will share it with the NWPA.

Water Loss Working Group: Danielle Gallet reported that they have completed some workshops. There will be more presented in this coming year. They will select utility companies to walk through the audit process with them. There may be some cost sharing available. The IEPA is interested in working with them.

There was a brief discussion about the meeting with the industrials from the Joliet area about Joliet's drawdown of the aquifer. It could potentially drive businesses out of that area if the City of Joliet doesn't change its practices.

Mayor Weisner noted that the City of Aurora has hired an expert to help increase its percentage of river water being used instead of the aquifer.

Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2016 at The Centre in Elgin.

Submitted by _____
Dale Berman, Secretary

