

NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

March 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The Centre, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin IL

Present: Elgin Mayor David Kaptain, Chairman; DeKalb County Board Member Misty Haji-Sheikh, Vice-Chair; North Aurora President Dale Berman, Secretary; Kane County Board Member Deborah Allan, Treasurer; Kendall County Board Chairman Scott Gryder; South Barrington President Paula McCombie; Barrington Mayor Karen Darch, Oswego President Gail Johnson, and Yorkville Mayor Gary Golinski.

Peter Wallers, TAC Chairman; BACOG Executive Director Janet Agnoletti; MCCOG Executive Director Chalen Daigle; Kyla Jacobsen, Illinois Section of American Water Works Association (ISAWWA); and MWCOG Executive Director Mary Randle.

Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Kaptain opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 9, 2017 were approved as presented after a motion by Misty Haji-Sheikh and a second by Karen Darch.

Financial Reports: Deborah Allan presented the financial reports of November 2017 through February 2018. The fund balance on February 28, 2018 was \$34,945.54. The reports were approved as presented after a motion by Dale Berman and a second by Karen Darch.

Strategic Plan Discussion: Gail Johnson and Peter Wallers are working on updating the NWPA strategic plan. First, they reviewed the current plan. Ms. Johnson reviewed the mission statement with the group. The current mission statement: “The NWPA, formed by intergovernmental agreement, seeks to collaboratively plan for and steward our shared river and groundwater resources to ensure a sustainable water supply for the people, economy, environment and future generations:”

The current NWPA Vision statement: “The NWPA will have dependable supplies of water for generations to come.” Ms. Johnson asked those present: “What would you miss if the NWPA were not in existence?” She asked them to look at the strategic plan with that in mind. She noted that the current document is fairly technical in nature.

Pete Wallers stated that it would be helpful if we could narrow the focus of the plan. The executive committee will discuss the philosophy and the Technical Advisory Committee will talk about the tasks involved.

Deborah Allan noted that what the executive committee members need, as elected officials, is advocacy tools. Ms. Haji-Sheikh stated that she finds that having the TAC involved is very helpful. She takes the information from the TAC to the DeKalb Regional Planning Committee. Our Water Forum was very useful. We need education and information, she added. The voice and credibility this group has is key to its success.

Mr. Berman said he would miss the leadership and knowledge of Pete Wallers if he were not involved and available to us.

Action Item: We need to keep collecting this information from the group to review in May. We can send out the two questions and ask for feedback.

Pete Wallers stated that the NWPA needs money at this point to be effective and successful. He noted that we have worked now with several Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) directors. Last year the state funds that went to CMAP were used for Joliet and the larger area. We need funding for water supply forecasting. He wants to make a direct request to IDNR for earmarked funding. He is currently working on the funding request. The following are included at this point:

- 1) Need to update the local scale model for water loss. This has not been updated in some time. The last time it was done was in 1983.
- 2) Keep monitoring water quality e.g. chlorides, etc.
- 3) BACOG's educational program.
- 4) Produce publication on sensible salting.

Mr. Wallers stated that we will make the presentation to IDNR in April during Metro West's Springfield Drive Down. He noted that we can build some flexibility into the request in case our circumstances change.

In the beginning the state was going to do the water supply planning with a 10-person board with only one municipal representative. We need to apply directly for funding rather than relying on CMAP. Mayor Kaptain stated that if we don't ask for the funding, we will never receive any. We need funding in other to keep moving ahead. Ms. Allan stated that we also need to decide what we will do with the money that we already have. Mr. Wallers said that we could like to do another water forum event, perhaps every two to three years.

Gail Borden Library Proposal: Mayor Kaptain noted that he met with the Gail Borden Library representatives and asked them to partner with us to develop a water supply display. They have over one million visitors a year at the library. We could use a traveling exhibit that could be moved within the NWPA's five-county area. The group discussed allotting up to \$3,000 to prepare and transport the exhibit. Kyla Jacobsen and Peter Wallers will work on the exhibit. They want to make it an interactive exhibit, so children could use it. The executive committee members liked that idea.

Gail Johnson noted that the Gail Border Library is one of the premier libraries in the whole area. It would be great if the exhibit could be used as a traveling exhibit. Mayor Kaptain observed that this would fulfill one of our strategic plan goals. Kyla Jacobsen said it could also include a 3-D watershed model and also an envirosopic model for our area.

Karen Darch stated she would like us to include a video to supplement the exhibit. Janet Agnoletti said she would like it to include the sustainability concept. Jacobsen and Wallers will meet with Gail Borden Library staff later today. Gail Johnson said that it would be ideal if we could have two or three traveling exhibits since our NWPA area is so large. Misty Haji-Sheikh said she would also like to share Water 1-2-3 with the boards.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Pete Wallers stated that the TAC has a sub-committee to address sensible salting. They want to address privately-owned parking lots such as those at shopping malls and hospitals, etc. They have already done some work on this. A group from Minnesota has shared what they have been working on in that area. The TAC is working on Snow and Ice Removal: A Best Practices Manual. They also need to know that excess salt damages their planting and vegetation. The American Water Association meets with our TAC.

SB 3080 DCEO-Utilities-IDPH-EPA-Water: The bill, which is sponsored by Sen. Steans, was put out without any input from municipalities and water supplies. If passed, the bill would require that all lead service lines be replaced within ten years. This timeline would be very impractical and nearly impossible for large, older cities. Karen Darch stated that many municipalities are already doing lead testing. It is a major problem to get into people's houses for testing and replacement of lines. The timeline should be determined by communities instead of by the state.

Pete Wallers stated that the Illinois Department of Public Health says it will no longer allow a partial replacement of lead service lines. He is addressing this with the councils of government. We will meet with the IDPH in April and will ask them to develop written directions for municipal water main projects.

The ISAWWA has a strong presence in Springfield. The bill sponsor has asked them to discuss the bill with water professionals. The bill is temporarily on hold.

Rainfall data in Northeastern Illinois is monitored by the Illinois State Water Survey. We are currently reviewing their publication on this and Pete has reached out to the ISWS about it.

Kane County is currently working on county stormwater issues.

Misty Haji-Sheikh said she wants to make sure we will set aside money for the traveling exhibit.

On April 5 there will be a water forum at Hickory Knolls in St. Charles. This will be presented by the Fox Valley Sustainability Network.

The next executive committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

Submitted by _____

Dale Berman, Secretary