



Technical Advisory Committee

February 25, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Walt Kelly of ISWS; Tim Loftus, CMAP; Angela Zubko, Kendall County; John Dillon, Batavia; Paul Schuch, Kane County; Kaitlyn McClane, MPC; Kyla Jacobsen, City of Elgin; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; Rebecca Von Drasek, DeKalb County; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Kurt Thomsen representing BACOG; Josh Ellis, MPC; Cory Horton, McHenry County; Jon Hortness, USGS; Ed Coggin, HR Green representing Mchenry County COG and Angie Smith, EEI.

Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Pete Wallers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

Agenda Changes and Announcements – None at this time.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes – Kyla made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. John Dillon seconded the motion.

General Discussion on Current Water Use in the NWPA Area: Kyla Jacobsen, Elgin, reported that they are seeing high hardness levels and chlorides have started to drop off.

Dave Schumacher, Aurora, stated they are seeing the same thing as far as hardness and chloride levels.

Cory Horton, McHenry County, mentioned that they were seeing some spikes at their conductivity meters in three of the shallow wells. PGW asked if they could bring the data to the next meeting and give a brief presentation on it.

John Dillon, Batavia, mentioned that Walt, ISWS, did a study out west regarding the same issues and he is watching the shallow wells too.

Cory Horton, also mentioned that McHenry County is trying to add to their system. The trend they are seeing is an increase of 4-5mg per liter per year and it is cumulative.

John Dillon, Batavia, voiced his concerns about Mill Creek's softening process. Paul Schuch, Kane County, stated he has not heard anything regarding changing their process. Was told they switched to magnesium chloride because of their affects. Paul will inquire and report back to the group.



NWPA/ISWS Water Use Reporting System – Pete Wallers discussed the information regarding the Water Use Reporting System that is ready to be distributed. A draft letter is included in the packet, please review it and provide comments? Hope is to get the list assembled and get the letter sent out by this week. Tim Loftus, CMAP, suggested a sentence be added to explicitly ask for the recipients to cooperate – we need you to participate in this program; we need your assistance. John Dillon suggested to add language regarding if it's not the proper person please forward it to the appropriate person. Pete explained that he will include that in the text in his e-mail that will go along with the Welcome Package. The intent is to discuss this at the COGs and then get their support. Josh Ellis, MPC, suggested adding another sentence as to why we are doing this; to develop an understanding of the region and that we will be reviewing it at our monthly meetings and they are encouraged to attend. Walt Kelly, use well data; by participating in this program for a year this will satisfy their requirement for IWIP; must start in January!

Angela Zubko, Kendall County, asked if County's could go in and look at it as well? Pete replied and said that we will amend the website, and they will be able to login and see it as well. Going to prepare some reports by County, etc. Pete also stated that we may need some assistance with follow-up.

State and Regional Water Supply Planning – Josh Ellis, MPC; short term wins; IDNR has signed a contract with ISWS and working on a couple others. IDNR wants to figure out a way to fund other organizations within the State of Illinois. Regarding the Strategic Plan for a Statewide Water Supply Planning and Management Program, IDNR wants to re-do it within the next 6 months. They're looking for feedback on this document or thoughts on what the State's role should be to support a Statewide Regional Water Supply document. Feel free to e-mail your thoughts and comments to either Josh or Tim Loftus for forwarding to IDNR by March 3rd.

Tim Loftus, CMAP; went through the process of how the document was discovered and to encourage IDNR to open this back-up for more public comment/review. The group is going to come up with some recommendations to either create a new regional plan for the area or they will be revising the existing one. The group will be reviewing the document and will propose an outline to what the product should contain. Next meeting is in April at CMAP; they alternate between CMAP and MPC and they are bi-monthly meetings. IDNR is also looking to boost the ISWS staff as well. MPC and CMAP are going to sit down and take a close look at who's aware of these meetings and make sure that the proper people are involved. It's likely that the RWSPG will be re-established for the area.

Walt Kelly, ISWS commented on some new work that's started through IDNR. Just got their contract last week from IDNR and the contract also helps with IWIP as well as the mass measurement project that we typically try to do every five years. This money will go through June 2016 and hope to be finished with the projects by then. Pete asked if ISWS will provide what you need for future funding so that it can be included in the Strategic Plan for the region? Josh Ellis, commented that it would be good to start thinking about what is it going to take ISWS/USGS to continue their level of service past 2016. It needs



to be identified and that the number is good. Josh, eventually when we go to the legislature they have to answer why and how? Pete also mentioned that funding may have to vary depending on the location in the State. What is the structure that would be in place? Tim, CMAP will be the fiscal agent for grants for restarting the RWSPG and they still need to determine the costs associated for that. Waiting for the grant so it can be signed which will allow Tim's staff time to be involved with NWP and Dan Injerd's Lake Michigan allocation. Clearly there needs to be more funding for more staff time, MPC has a lot of staff involved in NWP as well. Tim, discussion on budget numbers that should be included in the RWSPG. Pete, will keep this as a continual discussion item. Josh, sent all of the presentations to Pete and Pete will forward to this group as well.

Strategic Plan – Tim Loftus, CMAP; presentation on Implementation Strategy for Goal B: Education and Outreach. The development of a presentation and the delivery of that presentation was discussed.

Tim would be the lead presenter and if anyone else would like to join him please let him know. Discussion was had on the frequency of the presentations that would be given, concurrence was that two presentations should be given to the various COGs; one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Discussion was also had whether one or two presentations should be created; concurrence was that there would need to be two different presentations based on the audience. Action plan is for Tim to bring back a demo presentation to the March meeting to review with the group and to see how many COG agendas we can get on.

Discussion was also had on sustainability in the context to water and he suggested that we have this conversation in April. He also suggested that maybe we could get someone from IDNR to discuss fisheries, 2012 drought to the fish population, reduction in natural groundwater discharge. Walt, ISWS will talk to Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and see if they would be willing to participate as well.

The group also discussed CMAP's population projections for the next 20 years and the effect on the region's water supply for 2040 and/or 2050. The discussion circled back to the presentation that Daniel Abrams, ISWS gave to the group back in Nov. 2013 and that we need to challenge ISWS with a couple of items where the ball is in their court.

NWPA – Communication/Outreach – Kaityln McClain, AmeriCorps VISTA (MPC), gave an update on the newsletter that went out in February. The Open Rate was 37%; the click rate was 7.0%. Since we've started we've added 33 subscribers. Working on March newsletter – highlight NWP Water Use website, or water mains. Pete stated that it's relevant that it's taking the place of their IWIP requirement that should be included in the newsletter.

Kaitlyn reviewed the Fact Sheet on the Lawn Watering Ordinance, draft endorsement letters and the draft presentation. The purpose of the endorsement letters is to talk about the importance of the subject. The revenue was not addressed, so looking for some feedback on how to incorporate that into the letters. Can also e-mail feedback/comments by the end of the week. Josh suggested putting the



graphs on the back of the Fact Sheet that show them that water conservation is important. Pete will send the graph to Kaitlyn for her to incorporate.

Kaitlyn, reviewed the draft presentation and stated that the targets would be the elected officials at the 15-20 communities that were targeted at the last meeting.

Kaitlyn reported that she is working on the new brochure with Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant for the Lawn Watering Ordinance and needs to know if the group wants an online version or printed versions. Pete will take this to the Executive Committee in March for discussion.

Discussion was had on the development of Water Loss brochure. Pete agreed for Kaitlyn to move forward on the creation of the brochure along with the assistance from Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant since Kaitlyn is only here through July. Tim also mentioned that he has been talking to Margaret Schneeman about this issue as well. How many copies will we be wanting to print? Do we have a strategy on how to deploy them? Pete reviewed the strategy for the Lawn Watering Conservation Manual where we made enough for each of the Mayors in each of the COGs, target would be 200-250 quantity. The thought process behind the brochures was that it would be done more for the general public and to be more widely distributed. We will continue this discussion and make a decision.

Available Grants – Kaitlyn, MPC, Call for Proposals from Illinois Sustainable Technology Center. Projects that have received funding in the past have been technical. Pete suggested that we could submit on the lawn watering ordinance and the other potential one would be on water loss. Discussion was had and consensus was that we would proceed with the lawn watering ordinance since Aurora was thinking about submitting on the water loss issue. Josh stated that they would put a draft together in one week and Tim, Paul and Pete will review the draft prior to submission.

Upcoming Events – Fix-A-Leak Week (March 17th – 23rd) and World Water Day (March 22nd) Pete inquired if anyone in the group was planning on participating in either of these events. John Dillon is considering participation in Fix-A-Leak Week by doing a Press Release and making ourselves available to help people find leaks if they want. He will decide by March 1st and let Pete know.

Josh Ellis commented it would be nice for NWPA to do something timed with these events; Press Release. We can get a Press Release for the Water Reporting Tool for World Water Day.

Other Business – Deicing Best Practices; discussion was had by the group in regards to what McHenry County and Lake County are already doing in regards to training. Further discussion needs to be had in order to determine a course of action regarding this subject.

Illinois Groundwater Association Meeting: Walt Kelly, ISWS reported that he is in charge of the next Illinois Groundwater Association meeting and he would like NWPA to be a partner. Would it be better to have it on the same day as an existing TAC meeting or pick an entirely different day? The meeting would



need to be in Aug/Sept. timeframe. More discussion will be had regarding this topic at the March meeting.

Other Business: Josh Ellis, MPC, mentioned that Argonne is going to be putting together a workshop in April to find out what they should be doing research on and he hopes to have more information for the March meeting.

Cory Horton, McHenry County stated that on March 14th the Illinois State Geological Survey will be presenting their findings on their groundwater study.

Other Business:

Next Meeting: Tues., March 25, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, Recorder