



Technical Advisory Committee

March 25, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Kurt Thomsen, BACOG; Walt Kelly of ISWS; Kaitlyn McClane, MPC; Kyla Jacobsen, City of Elgin; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; Rebecca Von Drasek, DeKalb County; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Rashidul Esrar, MPC Intern; Jon Schmitt, City of McHenry; Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva; Scott Meyer, ISWS; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County; Janet Agnoletti, BACOG; Kurt Thompson, BACOG; Bob Sasman, Retired ISWS; Jon Hortness, USGS; Cory Horton, McHenry County; Peter Stoehr, Manhard; Dave Segal, Sustainability Commission – Kane County; Dan Dinges, City of Geneva; Jon Hortness, USGS; Ed Coggin, McCOG; Jennifer Hughes, Village of Oswego; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; Scott Trotter, Trotter and Associates and Angie Smith, EEI.

Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 – Rebecca Von Drasek made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ed Coggin seconded the motion.

General Discussion on Current Water Use in the NWPA Area: Bob VanGyseghem, Geneva, pleased to report that they have not had as many water main breaks as he originally thought they would, however they did experience a few service lines that froze on the City side.

Jon Schmitt, McHenry, reported that they have had double the water main breaks and 15-20 service lines that froze. On March 17th they passed the Lawn Watering Ordinance.

Jennifer Hughes, Oswego, reported that they had 27 water service lines that froze, but no water main breaks.

NWPA/ISWS Water Use Reporting System – Pete commented on the water usage website and reported that there were two lists in the packet; one that shows anybody that has logged in to the website and one that actually shows who has entered data. If you haven't gotten data entered in hopefully you will. Kaitlyn will be following up with everyone and encouraging them to enter the data. Going forward we will bring forward some options for how we want to review the data; suggested that we start with quarterly and then maybe move to monthly. Jon Schmitt, McHenry, inquired how the information got



distributed to everyone? Pete explained that we went through the COGs and we also identified Director of Public Works and/or Water Operators for each community involved in NWPA and then e-mailed the intro packets to them. The first round was directed to all COGs communities; the second round will include folks that are not involved directly in the COGs, i.e., Sycamore. If someone was missed please pass the information along to him and he will get the information out to them. Our first mission is to get people to enter data. We have also sent an intro packet to all of our COGs as well and they are going to discuss it at their individual meetings as well. Pete reported that he thinks it's going pretty well and our intent is to keep the pressure up so that staff knows that its information that is necessary and needed. We will be working on the second wave and will have that list ready before the next meeting and get information out to them as well. Walt, ISWS, noted that Donna has gone ahead and entered all of the public water supply information.

State and Regional Water Supply Planning – Pete made just a few comments regarding this subject matter; it is an on-going effort that meets every other month. The next meeting is at MPC on Thurs., April 10th. Two important topics from the last meeting were Dr. Tim Loftus rolled out the 2009 Strategic Planning Report and that will continue at the next meeting. The good news is that there's been significant funding that has been released to IDNR and ISWS. NWPA did get mentioned for allocation that is going to CMAP. MPC/CMAP submitted comments on behalf of the group and we are hoping that we receive comments at the next meeting.

McHenry County Groundwater Study – Scott, ISWS gave a presentation on the McHenry County Groundwater Study. The report is available on their website as well at <http://isws.illinois.edu/pubdoc/CR/ISWSCR2013-06.pdf>

ISWS measured water levels in 329 McHenry County wells in 1994 and 2011 for this study. Findings shows that water levels in shallow wells actually increased about 2 feet from 1994 to 2011 suggesting that changes in pumping rates, climate, land use and other factors have not resulted in a county-wide decline of water levels during that period. The results suggest that the more important influence on shallow groundwater levels in the county was precipitation, which was significantly greater in McHenry County in 2011 than in 1994.

Simulation of groundwater flow in the deep aquifers underlying McHenry County suggests that by 2030 there may be enough drawdown in deep wells, particularly in the southeastern part of the county, that well production capacity could be affected. If well pumps are not set sufficiently deep, drawdown can cause failure of wells to provide expected amounts of water. The models also suggest that there could be significant drawdown in the vicinities of shallow well fields supplying public water systems of Woodstock and several other communities in southeastern McHenry County. The study showed that the natural groundwater discharge in the McHenry County area had been reduced by 11.5%. In the most extreme pumping scenario to 2050, modeling showed a 39% reduction in groundwater discharge within and near Crystal Creek and a 37% reduction in the City of Woodstock. This information will be used for



decisions regarding water supply development in McHenry County in order to minimize the impacts from pumping in light of a growing population and increased needs for water supplies.

Chloride Levels in McHenry County's Shallow Aquifer – Jon Hortness, USGS gave a presentation entitled *Winter 2013-14 Specific Conductance Monitoring* which showed the correlation of thaws and spikes in the chloride levels.

He also mentioned that they installed a monitor at the Fox River in Yorkville; pre-winter baseline showed around 900 microunits/cm and the winter baseline showed around 1400 microunits/cm. Dave Schumacher, Aurora, reported that they are doing chloride levels two times a day and those spikes are true. Walt, ISWS stated gave a frame of reference that typical is 600-700 so you can see all of the spikes and higher numbers. There seems to be some correlation between melt and the higher numbers. Pete inquired as to what the threshold is for action. Dave replied that we monitor and take action as needed, it's a secondary standard for the IEPA. For the first time this year we did shift from river water to wells until chloride levels dropped.

Strategic Planning – no discussion at this meeting.

NWPA – Communication/Outreach – Kaitlyn McClain, AmeriCorps VISTA (MPC), gave an update on the newsletter that went out in March. The Open Rate was 39%; the click rate was 5.7%. Working on April newsletter – a compilation of our accomplishments over the past year and incorporating World Water Day. Still looking for a picture for the Picture of the Month. Pete, stated that he would like the information from the City of Batavia and their Fix-A-Leak week activities to be included in the newsletter.

Kaitlyn reported that the lawn watering endorsement letter has been approved by the City of Aurora and we will be coordinating that effort. The Lawn Watering Ordinance brochure was distributed in everyone's packet and she noted that the Executive Committee will be voting to approve it at their May meeting. Pete noted that the text color will be changed from white to a different color. Kaitlyn also noted that she would be looking into see if there's a way to make it electronically available and/or something in addition to the brochure. Janet Agnoletti, BACOG stated that it would be best to take the brochure and turn it into something to easy to follow and understand.

Available Grants – Kaitlyn, MPC gave an update on the Call for Proposals from Illinois Sustainable Technology Center for the submission of NWPA's Water Loss proposal. She stated that she hasn't heard anything back yet. Dave, Aurora also submitted on the Water Loss issue and stated that if we were selected they would have contacted us by yesterday with a request for a full proposal. We would assume that neither of us was selected.

Kaitlyn reported there was no news on the Plumbing code.



Kaitlyn reported that the IEPA is advancing the statewide projects in the State Revolving Loan Fund.

Lake Michigan Allocation – Kaitlyn requested a letter of support from NWPA that is due at the end of April. Pete stated that NWPA would be willing to provide a letter of support; we will engage MPC/CMAP to craft a support letter and some of the other folks. If anybody else is interested in sending a letter please let him know.

Other Business – Pete stated that Walt Kelly, ISWS is proposing a joint meeting with the Illinois Groundwater Association in October at our regularly scheduled meeting. Walt went through his thoughts, hold the IGA meeting and ask a few of the NWPA TAC to speak, hold the TAC meeting through lunch hour. Pete stated that NWPA will co-sponsor the event, however he was not sure if a separate meeting would be needed or not. Will discuss at the next meeting and make a decision.

Next Meeting: Tues., April 22, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, Recorder