



Technical Advisory Committee

July 26, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, representing MWCOG, Chairman; Kurt Thomsen, KDT Environmental, representing BACOG, Bryan Faivre of City of DeKalb, representing MWCOG; Paul Schuch representing Kane County, Cassandra McKinney representing McHenry County, John Dillon, City of Batavia, representing MWCOG; Ed Coggin of HR Green, representing MCCOG and Larry Thomas, Baxter and Woodman, representing Lake County.

Also Present: Mayor Tom Wesiner, City of Aurora, Chairman of NWPA Executive Committee; George Roadcap, ISWS; Josh Ellis, MPC; Dr. Tim Loftus, CMAP; Chris Staron representing NWMC and Bob Martin, Benesch Engineers; John Sterrett, Kendall County.

Delegate Absent: Dennis Burmeister of Village of Barrington representing NWMC; John Schmitt of Village of McHenry, representing MCCOG.

Chairman Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

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

Agenda Changes and Announcements – No changes were made to the agenda. Peter announced that Mayor Weisner was in attendance at the meeting.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the June 28, 2011 meeting were approved with two minor typographical errors after a motion by Paul Schuch and a second by Larry Thomas. Approved with corrections as noted.

NWPA Executive Committee Update – Peter noted that there were two follow-up items from the last Executive Committee meeting. First, ISWS had requested a letter of support for returning their funding. Second, a letter of support for USDA Regional Grant. Both letters have been submitted to the State for their consideration. George Roadcap, ISWS spoke on behalf of Al Wehrmann and thanked everybody for putting the letters together and sending them off.

Mayor Weisner then gave a brief overview of the Executive Committee priorities for short-term and long-term. He thanked everyone for their participation in the group. He stated that he hopes to go into 2012 with a very definitive program for education and be solidified in our priorities.



Education Committee – John Dillon gave an update on the Water Personnel list; have filled in as many as we can at this time. Ed Glatfelter assisted by going to the IEPA website and getting names and e-mail addresses to add to the list. If there are additions send them to Peter or Angie Ford with EEI and they will maintain the list. Peter reported that the Mayors, Managers and County Leader’s list is still being developed by Mary Randle, MWCOG at this time.

Peter reminded everyone that one of the revelations that the Education Committee had was that the NWPA was the “best kept secret in town”. The plan is to send out introductory letters to the appropriate people on the lists.

Discussion was had on the content of the draft letter and the timing of the letters. Mayor Weisner suggested that both letters go out simultaneously. Revisions to the draft letter will incorporate a link to the Water 2050 plan, a more detailed description of NWPA can do for them (i.e., CMAP bill inserts, well monitoring, etc.). A quick fact sheet will be developed by MPC to use as an attachment and the Executive Committee member list will also be attached.

Larry Thomas inquired if Peter would like him to take the letter and turn it into an article in the ISAWWA Splash Newsletter under his signature. Peter said “yes” and the revisions will be made to the letter and sent out this afternoon for his use.

Discussion was had on what the next steps would be after the letters are sent out and how we go about getting feedback from the people. Peter reminded everybody that we have to take one step at a time – tell them who we are, what we do and then move to the next step before asking for information regarding model ordinances, etc. George Roadcap suggested sending out a quarterly newsletter just like the Mohammed Aquifer group do so that people are aware there’s something going on with the group. The Education Committee will be reconvened to start talking about how we move forward.

Cassandra McKinney gave a brief overview of the Water Resources Action Plan – Section 2, which can be found on their website (www.mchenryh20.com).

Executive Committee Goals and Strategies – The TAC began with the education items that were ranked high on the priority list by the Executive Committee. Pete felt it would be worthwhile to suggest other priorities that maybe didn’t make it to the Executive Committee list and see if there is anything else that we can present back to them. Peter used an example of establishing guidelines for unaccounted water for all of the systems. IDNR has established that for Lake Michigan users, it’s not perfect, but at least it brings awareness. He then opened it up for comment and discussion.

Josh Ellis felt that was a great idea; MPC is currently putting together a white paper on this particular subject. It won’t be finished by the next meeting, but he will be able to share the information.



Peter gave a brief history about how MWCOG had a Water Conservation Task Force prior to the development of the NWPA and how we took IDNR's LOM2 form and sent it out to all of the communities within MWCOG. Peter will bring a current LOM2 form and the worksheet that MWCOG had to the next meeting. Discussion was had on the reporting inconsistencies in the communities and it should be a goal to have all the communities report in the same way. AWWA does publish an audit form maybe that should be the recommended form to use going forward. Cassandra McKinney said that she also had put one together and she would send that to everyone so they could see it. Peter will compile all the options and take a look at them. This will be a priority that was not on the Executive Committee's radar. Dan Injerd will be making a presentation at the next Executive Committee and will give an explanation on allocations and availability of water.

Discussion was had regarding the development of a Model Water Conservation Ordinance. A lot of communities already have these ordinances – now that we have our list we would be able to obtain this information. There are some communities that have not been addressed. Dr. Loftus – great idea to compile the ordinances for members of NWPA to see what's out there. Pete will send out the request, volunteers will be needed in order to compile the information we get back. Josh, MPC has a number of interns that can compare the ordinances and provide the details and information back to the group.

Paul Schuch suggested a drought management plan for communities as well. Cassandra McKinney reported that the County's drought management will be going before the committee tomorrow morning.

Peter noted that these three items are worthy of more discussion and encouraged everyone to think about items that are important so that we can start to look at them.

Other Business – Larry Thomas gave a brief overview of the water level measurement initiative. Al Wehrmann has put together preliminary information regarding this initiative. They are going to try and do this on October 16th plus or minus 7 days. Larry reported that he attended an ISAWWA board meeting and spoke to them about this initiative. ISAWWA is willing to sponsor staff time and resources to help the ISWS contact those with the deep wells so that they know we are going to do this. A mailing list will be put together and then contact will be made with them. Included in the mailing will be a sheet that will be submitted to ISWS for their use to put the report together. There will also be an article in Splash about it.

Josh Ellis handed out information about an upcoming MPC event on Thursday, August 18th "The Big Thirst" at the Union League Club. He's hopeful that he will be able to secure a sponsor and once he does he will be able to offer some free seats. He also commented that there is a future event regarding the Illinois Green Infrastructure grants that finally went out; Aurora and Elgin received one. It will be an explanation of what those communities are going to do with that money. MPC also worked with the 35th ward on a subgranting loan program, he will bring it for the next meeting.



Peter also mentioned that John Dillon's Toilet Rebate Program could be discussed at the next meeting.

Dr. Loftus stated that CMAP has a bi-monthly e-newsletter that goes out to about 500 people and he will work with Peter on including a section on NWPA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Submitted by _____

Angie Ford, Recorder