



Technical Advisory Committee

August 23, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Kurt Thomsen, KDT Environmental, representing BACOG; Dennis Burmeister of Village of Barrington representing NWMC; Paul Schuch representing Kane County; Jon Schmitt of City of McHenry, representing MCCOG; John Dillon, City of Batavia, representing MWCOG; Ed Coggin of HR Green, representing MCCOG; Larry Thomas, Baxter and Woodman, representing Lake County; and Steve Cieslica of Trotter and Associates representing LCML.

Also Present: Al Wehrmann, ISWS; Josh Ellis, MPC; Dr. Tim Loftus, CMAP; John Sterrett, Kendall County; Mike Holland, Trotter and Associates; Kyla Jacobsen, City of Elgin; Jim Urek, CDM; Jeff Freeman, Engineering Enterprises, Inc. and Angie Ford, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

Delegate Absent: Bryan Faivre of City of DeKalb, representing MWCOG; Cassandra McKinney representing McHenry County; David Lawry of City of Elgin, representing MWCOG.

Chairman Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

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

Agenda Changes and Announcements – Josh Ellis will be distributing a handout when we reach the Education portion of the agenda.

Approval of July Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the July 26, 2011 meeting were approved with two corrections after a motion by Paul Schuch and a second by John Dillon. Approved with corrections as noted.

NWPA Executive Committee Update – Al Wehrmann gave a brief update regarding the letter of support and they did receive some feedback from the Governor's office. He also gave a status update on the USDA Regional Grant – the proposal went in and probably won't hear anything for quite a while, hopefully within this calendar year. He has had several news reporters contacting him inquiring about the funding issues that ISWS is facing so it definitely has made people aware of the situation. John Dillon asked if there was a way ISAWWA could keep track of the bill and show support for it as well. Kyla will follow-up and send a letter of support referencing the letter that we already sent out.



Much discussion was had regarding funding for Illinois Water Inventory Program (IWIP) and others. Peter asked if it would be helpful if this group would put together a list of things that are important. Dr. Loftus offered to write a letter on behalf of CMAP to show how important it is for these types of programs. Josh Ellis asked what the importance of the programs was and offered the possibility of writing a letter to the University to explain how useful these programs are. Peter will make contact with the Farm Bureau and ask them to attend the meetings as well. Paul Schuch will also make contact with them. In order to put the list together Al will need to put together a strategy of what he needs done so that it can be taken to the next Executive Committee meeting on September 8th. Al Wehrmann, Tim Loftus, Josh Ellis and Peter will work together to launch a coordinated effort from NWPA, CMAP and MPC to the legislators to present at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Education Committee – Peter reported that we are close to being able to send out our introduction letter, we are still waiting on one sign-off. MPC was kind enough to put together a fact sheet and he thanked them for their services. We will add Andre Ashmore from the Governor’s office as a cc: on the letter and e-mails. He will also be added to our distribution list. Once we receive the last sign-off we’re hoping to send the letter off by the end of the week.

Peter reported that a Press Release was drafted and that will be going out as well. The next thing will be the bill inserts and then the water level measurement initiative.

Larry Thomas reported that the article for Splash was put together and submitted.

Peter brought up the municipal ordinance review subject and asked that all COG’s submit their information to him or Angie Ford (aford@eeiweb.com). He briefly described the Water Conservation Task Force that was used prior to the start of NWPA. We did receive some information from some of the MWCOG communities and we will post that information on our FTP site. It will also be helpful to get some insight on water conservation ordinances as well and how they work, etc. Much discussion was had regarding the model ordinance topic. A checklist will need to be prepared in order to compare what works and what doesn’t work. MPC is willing to provide the manpower to sift through the ordinances and compare them to the checklist. The end result is to come up with a model ordinance that everybody will adopt.

Goals and Strategies Discussion – Peter wants this group to come together and present some other suggestions to the Executive Committee. On the topic of Water Loss Goals – he reported on the MWCOG form and the LMO-2 form that the Water Conservation Task Force used in 2008. 13 out of the 34 communities responded and the findings were that there was a significant amount of water loss in those communities. The TAC is in agreement for this being a priority to take to the Executive Committee.

On the topic of Model Water Conservation Ordinances –the TAC is in agreement for this being a priority to take to the Executive Committee. Discussion was had amongst the group regarding what kind of



information the group would like to see in an ordinance. Dennis Burmeister commented that it will be difficult at best to get all 80 communities to accept the same ordinance. Instead he suggested if you're a community that wants to be sustainable and "green" then you choose the ones you want to endorse. Start with a general baseline ordinance and then use "add-ins". Consensus of the group was that some subset of the CMAP model ordinance plus the procedures that make it work would be the ideal ordinance to present to all of the communities within the NWPA region.

Peter reminded everyone that we will be using CMAP's bill inserts and developing more targeted articles that can be sent out as well in the communities' newsletters. At the moment the Educational Committee has been set aside while we've been working on the introduction letters and getting the word out about the NWPA.

On the topic of Drought Management Plan – Paul Schuch gave a brief update on what Kane County is hoping to accomplish. He stated that AWWA just put out a new Drought Management Manual (<http://apps.awwa.org/ebusmain/OnlineStore/ProductDetail.aspx?ProductId=26750>), part of the rewriting of the 2040 plan was to include a section for a drought management plan. Discussion was had on how a drought management plan works. Dennis reported that the Village of Barrington uses a color code system for their water levels. Paul commented there's a plan to explain the different levels and it would provide supporting documentation to the model ordinance. Al stated that we have a state drought response plan; the Governor doesn't have any authority to do anything about it though. We're trying to promote the communities to prepare them for a drought. He reported that there is a drought taskforce that is a subcommittee of the water survey. Their goal is to have something to them by their October meeting. It will not go to the degree that that AWWA manual is though.

Peter asked if there were any other items of significance that the group wanted to add to the list. Jon Schmitt offered one more idea for groundwater protection; it's the other side of the equation. John Dillon offered a totally different idea, in terms of efficiency Batavia gets the most bang for their buck with large industries. He suggested putting out a survey into the five county area to large businesses to determine what they're doing. He reported on a company in Batavia, a commercial laundry facility that reduced their water use from 90,000 MGD to 1/3 of that. Josh Ellis commented that the Hyatt Regency in Chicago is saving millions of gallons of water as well. Peter asked the question of how do we put that as part of our strategy? John offered the idea of working through local Chambers and merchant associations to get the survey out and then bring it in and take a look at it. Al reported that Tim Lindsey of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center has some very interesting stories that he could possibly share. Tim Loftus reported that The Alliance for Water Efficiency is conducting a study now and it should be wrapped up soon. He also added one more comment in regards to *Water 2050* on page 150 – monitoring and data collection, take a peek at that one page and then come back and talk about at next month's meeting. There's a laundry list of items that we would like to see included on gathering more data which would allow us to get a better grip on things.



Steve Cicslica questioned if this group was only concerned with water conservation. What about the water supply side? That's a huge part of this. We're still waiting on the supply report – Al is working on getting it together. Peter responded by saying yes, it's definitely something we should take a look at. Obviously an integrated approach would be the holy grail, but we need to start issuing some goals and get people thinking. Sometimes when the announcement is made it's enough to get people thinking. We will capture all of these items and present them at the next Executive Committee meeting in September and then prioritize and see who will be getting involved. Subcommittees will be developed at the next meeting.

Other Business – On the topic of the Water Level Measurement Initiative; Larry Thomas reported that the article for Splash was finalized and has gone out. Al is working on a mailing list of the water operators that have deep wells and will be getting a form sent out to them to be filled out. He still feels that there's going to be some training involved in order to get the measurements taken correctly so he is going to contact the drilling association and groundwater professionals because they know how to deal with some of this stuff. Larry reminded Al that we need to get that letter out and then they need to contact us as soon as they can if they are going to need help so arrangements can be made. Josh reminded everyone that since this is an actual date it would be a good media opportunity for the NWPA. MPC's communication team is ready to assist with the local papers; both before it happens, on the day and after. Peter suggested that another letter could be sent out to the same distribution lists that the introduction letters were sent out to discussing this initiative. Josh also commented that MPC's *What our Water's Worth* will be about this in November.

Josh Ellis announced that MPC and Openlands is having a roundtable on September 15th and everyone is invited to attend.

Meeting Dates in November and December – Peter brought everyone's attention to the TAC meeting schedule and it was agreed to keep the November 2011 meeting, but cancel the December 2011 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Submitted by _____

Angie Ford, Recorder