



Technical Advisory Committee

June 26, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Ed Coggin of HR Green, representing MCCOG; Josh Ellis of MPC; Abby Crisostomo of MPC; Ken Schroth, City of Aurora; Dave Schumaucher, City of Aurora; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Mary Randle, MWCOG; Victor Ramirez, City of Crystal Lake representing MCCOG; Rebecca Von Drasek, DeKalb County; Brian Faivre of City of DeKalb, representing MWCOG; Paul Schuch of Kane County, Scott Trotter of Trotter and Associates representing LCML; Mary McCann of McHenry County, Cassandra McKinney of McHenry County, Dennis Burmeister, Village of Barrington representing NWMC, Jon Schmitt of City of McHenry, representing MCCOG; Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey; John Dillon of City of Batavia, representing MWCOG and Bob Van Gyseghem, City of Geneva, representing MWCOG; Kyla Jacobsen, City of Elgin, representing MWCOG; Kurt Thomsen representing BACOG; and David Husemoller of Lake County.

Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Agenda Changes and Announcements – None at this time.

Approval of May 22 Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the May 22, 2012 meeting were presented. The motion was made by Victor Ramirez and seconded by Kyla Jacobsen.

Drought Conditions Presentation by Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey: Walt Kelly presented about Drought Conditions in Illinois. He showed the 6.19.12 update of the Drought Monitor Map. Most of Illinois is in moderate drought condition at this time. We are entering an early season hydrological drought. We are not yet in an agricultural drought but the average stream flows have dropped throughout the state. The most severe conditions are in the shallow wells of West Central Illinois. The Drought Monitor Map may be accessed at <http://droughtmonitorw..unl.edu/>

Mr. Kelly noted that the Illinois State Drought Task Force has been reconvened. A drought plan for Illinois has been approved. Drought documents are available on the Illinois State Water Survey website: www.isws.illinois.edu. Pete Wallers requested that Scott Meyers bring this information to the July TAC meeting.

There was a discussion about water use in the NWPA region. City of Aurora has been pulling more water from the river. City of Elgin usually uses 16 million gallons a day. Now that has moved closer to 19



million gallons. Crystal Lake usually uses 4.5 million gallons but that has gone up to nearly 6 million. They are now on yellow alert. Batavia now is using about 50% more than usual. They ticket for violations. They usually issue a warning for the first violation and then move to fines for further violations. City of DeKalb has gone up to 3.7 from its usual 3.2. Village of Barrington has increased from 10 hours of pumping water each day to 16 hours of pumping. Kane County has only received one report of a problem with water level. That was from a private well in Virgil Township. McHenry County has heard from a couple of its communities in the western part of the county with concerns about decreased water levels.

Education – Municipal **Lawn Watering Ordinance Report:** Josh Ellis from MPC presented the results of the survey on water conservation ordinances and the TAC discussed a model lawn-watering ordinance to take to the Executive Committee.

- Thirty-five entities completed the survey.
- The recommended process for implementation of the ordinance included: From MPC and the NWPAC TAC to the NWPAC Executive Committee to the Councils of Government to NWPAC Member Communities to Property Owners.
- The most important component to consider when developing the ordinance is that it be easy to understand.
- A color-coding system would give the greatest flexibility.

Action taken: The Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend the revised version of the Model Lawn Watering Ordinance to the NWPAC Executive Committee after a motion by Kyla Jacobsen and a second by John Dillon. The TAC recommendation is to use a hybrid approach:

- 1) Use a multi-tier approach for communities that do not have a current system in place.
- 2) Communities that currently have a multi-tier system in place would be encouraged to update to the NWPAC recommended multi-tier system.
- 3) Communities that currently utilize a single-tier system could be recommended to update to the NWPAC recommended single-tier system.
- 4) There is a more restrictive option as well. Communities would be free to use a more restrictive system if they wish.

Multi-tier option:

Code Green: Even/Odd addresses may water lawns from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. **or** 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Even/Odd Calendar days. This would allow 18 to 24 hours of watering per week.



Code Yellow: May only water with handheld hose or use effluent/rain barrel water.

Code: Red: Total ban on outdoor watering.

Single Tier Approach: Allows 18 to 24 hours/week by using even/odd days.

The NWPA's role will be one of education. It will need to explain to communities why a regional lawn-watering ordinance is needed.

Mary McCann noted that counties ability to participate will also depend on the counties' ability to enforce the ordinance in unincorporated areas.

Goals and Strategies: *CMAP Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program* – Pete Wallers noted that August 1st is the deadline to apply for CMAP's LTA Program. He would like to suggest to the Executive Committee that the NWPA apply for a grant through this program. There are several possibilities for an application: 1) Strategic support from CMAP. 2) Development of a drought management plan. 3) Get information out to NWPA communities about the lawn-watering ordinance. 4) Develop a grade school-level water conservation education program. It was pointed out that if we concentrate only on elementary age children, we would only reach about 20% of the people in the communities. Josh Ellis suggested that we should identify the different target populations and prepare different information for each population.

Action: The TAC approved recommending to the executive committee that we apply for a grant through the CMAP LTA Program.

Water Loss – On-hold at the moment; this topic will be taken up after we get through the lawn watering ordinance.

Other Business: Plumbing Codes Update: Josh Ellis said there is no update on the Plumbing Codes. There has been a problem with getting support from the Illinois Plumbing Advisory Council.

The next TAC meeting will be held on July 24 at The Centre in Elgin. Scott Meyers of the ISWS will present the RWSPG Final Report. The report is available at:

<http://www.isws.illinois.edu/pubs/pubdetail.asp?CallNumber=ISWS+CR+2012-03+sum> (executive summary)

<http://www.isws.illinois.edu/pubs/pubdetail.asp?CallNumber=ISWS+CR+2012-03> (full report)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Submitted by _____ Mary Randle, Recorder