



Technical Advisory Committee

The Centre at Elgin

(East Conference Room)

100 Symphony Way, Elgin

February 25, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG; Nora Beck, CMAP; Dustin Calliari, CMAP; Walt Kelly, ISWS; Justin Keller, MPC; Dustin Calliari, MPC; Kyla Jacobsen, ISAWWA; Jerry Elliott, SGTWA; Jeff Babich, SGTWA; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Kevin Fecske, Village of Barrington; John Dillon, ISAWWA; Annie Storey, ISAWWA; Faye Sinnott, FC/SCWP; Amy Gahala, USGS; Judith Thomas, USGS; Darryl King, City of Evanston; Anthonia Ogudipe, Alliance for the Great Lakes; Lyann Simlor, IEC; Tim Eder, Great Lakes Commission/ Mott Foundation ; Natalie Karney, Village of South Barrington; Josh Ellis, MPC; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Alyse Olson, Kane County Water Resources; Anna Castle, Alliance for Great Lakes; Paul May, NSMJAWA; Farhad Omeyr, Government Finance Research Center-UIC; Tim Wilson, City of St. Charles; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Daniel Abrams, ISWS; Rod Worden, Lake County Public Works; Deborah Cueva, City of Evanston; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; Carolyn Grieves, B&W; Joe Munder, City of West Chicago; Annie Evens, Elevate Energy; Roya Alkateji, Elevate Energy; Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva; Mark Wolf, Village of Montgomery; Steve Moon, Grand Victoria Foundation; Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; Caroline Pakenham, Elevate Energy; Dan Cooper, MPC; Margaret Garascia, Elevate Energy; Olivia Tse, Elevate Energy; and Angie Smith, EEI.

Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:11 A.M.

Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions: Pete (MWCOG) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

Agenda Changes and Announcements: None.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes: John (ISAWWA) made a motion. Derek (DeKalb County) seconded. Minutes approved.

Panel Presentation: “Water Affordability in Northeastern Illinois: Addressing Water Equity in a Time of Rising Costs”: Josh (MPC) gave a brief introduction and thanked everyone for attending. Over the last decade water rates have gone up over 80% in our region due to the following reasons: replacement era, supply constraints, source water pollution, need to price water appropriately. The region included seven counties, 284 communities; data available for 215.

Why do this – 1. Assess what today’s best methodologies for determining water affordability are; 2. Analyze and identify where in the northeastern Illinois region water affordability is a concern; and 3. Jump start regional dialog on best practices in addressing affordability for those that need it most.



Defining and Measuring Water Affordability: currently not generally accepted water affordability definition and measurement, depends on purpose of the water affordability assessment; water affordability measures need to be expanded beyond traditional metrics to be meaningful.

Results: Method Summary – Water affordability measurements used in this analysis: 1. Percent median household income (MHI) (US EPA 4.5%): total annual household water + wastewater expenditures divided by annual median household income (MHI) x 100; 2. Percent of mean household income at the lowest earning quintile; 3. Water affordability matrix; 4. Number of hours worked to pay the water bill: monthly hours worked = monthly average water bill/hourly wage; 5. Online dashboard tool for outreach (www.metroplanning.org/waterdashboard)

Considerations for methods selected: use of income quintiles; use of smaller geographic units (census tracts); express water burden in more intuitive terms; comparison to other socio-economic factors (all 2016 data). The results were based off of 5,000 MG of water/wastewater of consumption. Water burden by census tract: About 60% of municipalities have a census for a high burden. Hours worked analysis: the lowest quintile income earners in 72 municipalities have to work more than 8 hours to afford their combined water/sewer bill. Various strategies for Addressing Water Burden: reduce costs; promote water conservation; design and implement rates; strengthen customer assistance programs; target the hard to reach.

The group will be presenting at various conferences throughout the region. For more information visit: www.metroplanning.org/wateraffordability

Presentation: Recent ISWS Studies: Daniel (ISWS) gave a presentation on the Kane and McHenry County Groundwater Supply and Demand. ISWS has been tasked to put together a Supply and Demand Model statewide so they are working on it. The findings at a Tier 1 level for Kane County shows on average there's about a 10% reduction. McHenry County shows the same story at a Tier 1 level. Tier 1 level just gathers enough information in order to get a discussion going. A Tier 2 level would be a funded effort such as what Kane County has previously done.

Method improvements: relate pumping to groundwater discharges to rivers – ex. Find pumping rate where discharge to rivers decreases 10% from predevelopment; safe yield/sustainable yield – ex. Relating aquifer change in storage to groundwater withdrawal rate; others – ISWS welcomes a discussion with community leaders.

Method for Tier 1 level: there is not a clear ecological standard for surface water supply; current methodology assumes the supply is equal to maximum withdrawals for each active intake since 2013 (when better refined, this may extend back 10 year)

To conclude the County level was a good starting point, but in order to move forward it's probably going to be best to look at the municipal level. Please provide more feedback to dbabrams@illinois.edu

Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update): Pete (MWCOC) we are continuing with editing of the document.



CMAP (Update): Nora (CMAP) reported that they are still in the process of going through their LTA projects. Sending recommended slate to the Board in March.

ISAWWA (Update): Carolyn (ISAWWA) introduced Annie Storey the new Executive Director. Kyla (ISAWWA) gave an update on the lead and copper rule for IEPA due Feb. 12th. The Water Utility Council sent in changes. IEPA received 70,000 comments on the changes for the rule. Kyla will be giving a presentation at WATERCON on this. The WUC continues to look at dead-end lines as well. John (ISAWWA) announced the M-36 training that is happening tomorrow in Mundelein.

MPC (Update): Justin (MPC) will be announcing the LTA for Drinking Water 1-2-3. The Water Affordability report is fresh off the presses. We are willing to come talk and meet with your communities.

ISWS (Update): Daniel (ISWS) continuing to meet with SWPG; next meeting is March 10th and will be presenting some model results for the communities surrounding Joliet. Setting up some sampling in Lake County in the near future – will look at road salt. Lastly, currently working with Nora to tie IWIP database with the future projections that have already been completed.

IDNR (Update): Pete (MWCOCG) reported that they are continuing work on the State Water Plan.

USGS (Update): Judith (USGS) will be submitting a proposal for the assessment for the PFAS/PFOS. On board with McHenry County sampling and that's moving forward. Amy (USGS) commented on the Three Oaks project, but it's looking like it's not going to work.

Other Business: Pete (MWCOCG) commented on the pending legislation that is going on. The plumbing code revisions were not approved. I'm sure they will be coming back again later this year.

The next meeting will be held on April 28, 2020 at the Centre at Elgin. There will not be in a meeting in March due to WATERCON2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, EEI