



## Technical Advisory Committee

### The Centre at Elgin

(West Conference Room)

100 Symphony Way, Elgin

September 22, 2015

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Ed Coggin, MCCG; Daniel Abrams, ISWS; George Roadcap, ISWS; Danielle Gallett, MPC; Wes Cattoor, IDNR/OWR; Tom Ruzicka, Village of Bartlett; Kyla Jacobsen, City of Elgin; Jerry Weaver, Village of Oswego; Angie Smith, EEI; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Bob VanGysghem, City of Geneva; Bob Benson, Trotter and Associates; David Schumacher, City of Aurora; Joanna Coletti, McHenry; Victor Ramirez, City of Crystal Lake; Dave Segal, Elgin Sustainability Committee; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Mike Palmer, City of McHenry; Mandi Florip, LCML; Dan Kaup, Lake in the Hills; David Schmidt, Village of Barrington.

Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 at this time.

**Approval of July Meeting Minutes:** Pete (MWCOG) stated they are being finalized and he will bring them to the next meeting for approval.

**General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area:** Kyla (EG) pumping levels have not dropped off, however they have experienced several outages from ComEd so they've been using generators a lot. Jerry (OS) that happened in Oswego as well for about six weeks. Dave (AU) typical late fall elevated algae level in the river, but no big issues to report.

Bob (GE) some alderman have asked him to look into collaborative buying for water meters with other communities. Is anyone else running into this? If there's an interest in doing this please let him know. Danielle (MPC) there's a case study of this happening with Palatine, Glenview and Buffalo Grove through Siemens. Dan Kamp (LITH) stated they would be interested in doing something like this in 2018. Danielle will share the contact at Glenview with Bob after the meeting.

**NWPA – Communication/Outreach:** Danielle (MPC) reported that the August newsletter was delayed due to schedules, etc. Bridget will be leaving us and will be taking a full time job in Washington DC for the military.



**MPC Presentation: *Streamlining the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF)*:** Danielle (MPC) reported that the IEPA contacted them to assist with this endeavor. Working with IEPA as well as Metropolitan Mayors Caucus in order to drill down to this topic.

First step was to conduct a survey was to water/wastewater utilities and consultants in the industry. 88 surveys were filled out – 83% Utility/Municipality and 17% Consultant. 30% of the survey respondents have never applied for the SRLF. Top reason why was because they felt other funding sources were easier to access. Almost 20% weren't even aware of SRLF.

Second step was a phone call and in-person interviews. General feedback – SRLF is great, however paperwork is burdensome, review times are too long, etc.

Third step was to conduct data analysis. Historical trends for awards, financial need prioritized, application process, forms and website. 2011-Present: drinking water = \$378M; Wastewater = \$1 Billion.

Fourth step will be a recommendations report which will be out in early to mid-October.

Fifth step will be implementation. We will be working with IEPA to streamline strategic areas of the SRLF process for applicants. Increase education and outreach on the SRLF program in Illinois. Participate in the Loan Rules Stakeholder Group to help inform improvements for new loan rules for the wastewater and stormwater side of things.

Recommendations Report will be released October 15<sup>th</sup> at the next roundtable event at MPC. Speakers include: George Hawkins, Lisa Bonnett, and Jordan Dorfman.

Some of the recommendations will be to cut down on some of the paperwork, how to re-structure the DBE requirement, improve the educational component.

Pete (MWCOG) recapped the meeting from last week. MPC is to be commended for taking the lead on the project and to IEPA Director, Lisa Bonnet for taking on this project as well.

Pete (MWCOG) inquired of Wes (IDNR/OWR) how much interaction does IDNR have with IEPA? They have a quarterly meeting with a lot of the state agencies and discuss state-wide issues. Right now they administer the regional water grants – there is a grant that is suspended for the Northeast Illinois region. However, we are still contracted with ISWS. Still have staff available, but just don't have the grant funding. Have a meeting with Joliet and others in early October.

**ISWS:** George (ISWS) the updated report is complete and will be heading to the printer. This report does include some historical data that helps explain why things are like the way they are. Will be on the website in a week or two and will bring hard copies to the next meeting for everyone. Fact sheets/summary sheets were developed and distributed to the group which can be used instead of issuing the full report. Meeting coming up in Joliet with Three Rivers industry group (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>) as well as another meeting with the Will County water commission in October as well.



Daniel (ISWS) will be at the IGA meeting and will be sharing this information as well.

Danielle (MPC) commended ISWS on their efforts and the results of this report. Pete handed out one of the sheets at the last Executive Committee meeting. It would also be good to recap at the November meeting as well.

**Water Loss Accounting, Update on IEPA Initiative:** Danielle (MPC) reported that some of the funding for the SRLF was used for M-36 Audit Training. They have made more free trainings available for utilities – will share the information with the dates and locations available. Kyla (EG) attended the training. Pete (MWCOG) commented that it reveals a lot when it's used consistently as well. Danielle (MPC) the rating scores that you receive will determine the steps that will be given to you and they are tangible. Pete, a survey would be good to get out for Northeastern Illinois in order to get their ILI so it could be statewide information. JWF (EEI) stated that ISAWWA could take the lead on getting this information out. Danielle (MPC) the ISAWWA Water Efficiency Committee has a meeting on Thursday where they could discuss this and incorporate several key items and send it out to the utilities. Discussion was on the NE IL Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboard that Margaret Schneeman put together through UNC. Wes (IDNR/OWR) we want to hear from the communities on what they would like to see. Mike (McHenry) questioned the NWPA Water Reporting Tool being brought together along with all of this information. Pete (MWCOG) a phone conference with ISWS, IDNR regarding the NWPA Water Reporting Tool would be a good idea.

**State and Regional Water Supply Planning, Update – MPC and CMAP:** Danielle (MPC) reported that with the state budget issues CMAP could no longer participate. MPC has become more selective on where the funds will be utilized.

**Executive Committee Update:** Pete (MWCOG) reported that the Executive Committee met in September. TAC reported on the rise in chlorides in McHenry, reviewed the presentation that was given to Hultgren regarding water issues and ISWS's findings on declining water levels in the deep aquifer. Also commented on the need to revisit our strategic plan.

**Other Business:** Pete (MWCOG) commented on the Fox River Implementation Plan that has been released this month. Kyla (EG) reported that the Fox River Study Group (FRSG) meets monthly and this is an alternative to get the Fox River off the 303d list. There's an annual meeting coming up on Thursday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. The plan can be found on their website: [www.foxriverstudygroup.org/FRIP/FRIP-DRAFT-9-11-15.pdf](http://www.foxriverstudygroup.org/FRIP/FRIP-DRAFT-9-11-15.pdf) This has to be submitted by the end of the year.

The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2015 at the Centre at Elgin.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Angie Smith, EEI