

METRO WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT
Northwest Water Planning Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2025
Teleconference via zoom

Present: NWPA Chair and Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain, South Barrington President Paula McCombie, McHenry County Representative Carolyn Campbell, NWMC Executive Director Mark Fowler, Engineering Enterprises, Inc CEO and MWCOG Consultant Jeff Freeman, Barrington Council of Government Executive Director Kim Saunders, Engineering Enterprises, Inc. Representative Angie Smith, NWPA-TAC Chairman, Engineering Enterprises, Inc. Chairman and MWCOG Consultant Pete Wallers, Lesli Melendy, Metro West Executive Director

Also in attendance: Illinois Indiana Sea Grant Water Conservation Associate Haider Mehdi

Call to Order

Mayor Kaptain called the meeting to order at 9:34am. Guest introduced themselves to the group

Water Sustainability Exhibits Update Presentation

Mr. Mehdi gave a presentation sharing updates from the NWPA Library Exhibits subcommittee. It is hoped the exhibits will be finalized, designed and translated by February 2026. Exhibits will be printed and piloted in March. In April, the exhibits will be presented to the TAC and Executive Committees. Pending library schedules, the exhibits are hoped to be launched some time in April, May or June. Mr. Mehdi's presentation may be found [here](#). Should any one have any questions regarding the exhibits or the subcommittee, they are welcome to contact [Sarrah Hinshaw](#), Kane County Sustainability Manager. Mr. Wallers shared information regarding potential funding for these exhibits. Mayor Kaptain suggested consideration be given to creating a digital exhibit that could be shared on the NWPA website. Following the presentation comments Mr. Mehdi left the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Because a quorum was not present, last month's meeting minutes and financial report were not approved. They will be added to the January agenda.

Future Meetings Calendar

Mayor Kaptain asked those present to review the proposed meeting dates for 2026. Ms. Melendy encouraged members to attend the in-person meetings as they allow for authentic conversation. Mayor Kaptain suggested the May meeting might meet at the Gail Borden Library.

Other Business

Mr. Wallers reminded the group of the Illinois State Water Survey's new director, Dr. Jenna Shelton. She had previously mentioned she had expressed interest in intermittent updates from stakeholders. He continued that at the time of the last survey, there were five communities needing to consider switching water sources in the more immediate future, especially if, in an unincorporated area, a data center should be established. As each community is unique, individual analyses are in the best of those communities. ISWS, while willing to do such surveys if commissioned by municipalities, are not as able to execute these surveys as previously, due to finances and labor issues. The hope is that they would continue to do such surveys or surrender the model so consultants may be contracted to execute them.

Ideally, the surveys would still be conducted by ISWS since their experience is deep. At this time, Mr. Wallers asked for consensus from the board for he, Mayor Kaptain and Jeff Freeman to meet with Dr. Shelton to discuss the surveys and other issues as relates to NWPA communities. Additional board members would be welcome to attend the meeting, as well. Mayor Kaptain expressed support for this initiative. The previously scheduled presenter, Sarah Zack, will hopefully be rescheduled for the January meeting. Her presentation will focus on water quality challenges, such as microplastics.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 27, 2026.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mayor McCombie. Mayor Kaptain closed the meeting at 10:28am.

Reported and submitted by:

Jennifer Downing

Metro West Council of Government