

NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2012

Present: Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner, Chairman; Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay, Vice-Chair; North Aurora President Dale Berman, Fox River Grove President Bob Nunamaker, McHenry County Board Chairman Ken Koehler, Wauconda President Mark Knigge, Mary McCann, McHenry County Board member; (alternate); Maggie Auger, Kane County Board member (alternate), Montgomery Village President Marilyn Michelini, Barrington Hills Mayor Robert Abboud, Barrington President Karen Darch, DeKalb County Board Vice-Chair Ruth Anne Tobias, Elgin Mayor David Kaptain, Barrington Hills Mayor Robert Abboud.

Also Present: David Husemoller, Lake County Planner; Angela Zubko of Kendall County, Anna Bicanic-Moeller, McHenry County Council of Governments Executive Director, Chris Gentes, Lake County Municipal League Executive Director, Janet Agnoletti, Barrington Area Council of Governments Executive Director, Chris Staron of Northwest Municipal Conference, Peter Wallers, President EEI, TAC Chairman; Karen Kosky of Kane County, Colin Duesing, Will County Land Use Planner; Steve Andersson, NWPA legal counsel; and Mary Randle, Metro West Executive Director. Guest: Cary McElhinney of the U.S. EPA

Mayor Weisner opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the November 10, 2011 executive committee meeting were approved as presented after a motion by Robert Nunamaker and a second by Dale Berman.

Financial Report: Interim Administrator Mary Randle stated that the Northwest Water Planning Alliance bank balance stands at \$6,597.80 on December 31, 2011. The report was approved after a motion by Marilyn Michelini and a second by Karen Darch.

Program: Cary McElhinney of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented a program about WaterSense. WaterSense is a voluntary partnership to address water conservation. They also have a labeling program launched by the EPA in 2006. The program identifies appliances that use at least 20% less water and perform well. The organization identifies simple, voluntary and cost-effective ways to promote water conservation. WaterSense provides a network for water professionals that want to learn about new water conservation strategies and are interested in collaborative partnerships. The EPA leverages its national network of partners to promote WaterSense. It is free and easy to participate in WaterSense and they provide excellent educational and promotional materials to their members. Their current focus is mostly on the residential sector. They will soon be moving into commercial areas as well. They are revising new home specifications and working on irrigation systems including moisture sensor controllers and water softening systems.

The WaterSense website has a search option for appliance rebate offers. They have a work program for their partners. There are four types of partners: promotional partners (units of government, non-profits, etc.) They feature an annual nationwide event: Fix A Leak Week. This year's is March 12-18. Its purpose is to remind Americans to check their homes and irrigation systems for leaks. In 2010, 80 billion gallons

of water were saved through efforts of WaterSense partners. Mr. McElhinney offered to come out to speak to municipalities if they have questions about WaterSense. Contact: Phone: 312.886.4313 email: mcelhinney.cary@epa.gov

Technical Advisory Committee Report: TAC Chairman Peter Wallers stated that the Technical Advisory Committee is recommending that the executive committee consider entering into the WaterSense promotional partnership. The TAC members think this would be a good test case for our ability to something approval by all NWPA municipalities and counties. The NWPA is a WaterSense Partner but we would like to have all members also join individually. Mr. Wallers noted that it is very easy to join and is free of charge. They provide excellent educational materials for school and provide sample press releases, among other benefits. The executive committee will be asked to approve the proposal in January. We will send out the WaterSense username and password to executive committee members.

Executive Committee Action on WaterSense: After a motion by Karen Darch and a second by David Kaptain, the executive committee voted to have the NWPA join WaterSense as an organization. They also request that all NWPA Counties, COGs and municipalities join WaterSense as well. Each of the COGs will coordinate this with their members. Ruth Anne Tobias asked Mary Randle to also send the request to non-member municipalities in DeKalb County. Steve Andersson presented a sample WaterSense resolution that can be used by municipalities and counties. Reasons for joining WaterSense included: 1) the value of the strong educational component. 2) will serve to unify the group.

Mayor Weisner thanked the executive committee members for today's excellent attendance. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by _____

Mary Randle, Recorder