

NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2011

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, Bonnie Carter, Lake County Board Member, Mayor Karen Darch of Barrington, Mary McCann, McHenry County Board member; (alternate); Maggie Auger, Kane County Board member (alternate)

Also Present: , David Husemoller, Lake County Planner; Angela Zubko of Kendall County, Anna Bicanic-Moeller, McHenry County Council of Governments Executive Director, Chris Staron of Northwest Municipal Conference, Paul Schuch of Kane County, Peter Wallers, President EEI, TAC Chairman; Colin Duesing, Will County Land Use Planner; Steve Andersson, NWPA legal counsel; and Mary Randle, Metro West Executive Director. Guest: Dan Injerd of IDNR.

Mayor Weisner opened the meeting at 10 a.m. Chairman McConnaughay, NWPA Vice-Chair, introduced her alternate, Kane County Board member Maggie Auger. Ms. Auger represents the north end of Kane County.

Will County Status Report: Colin Duesing of Will County announced that Will County will be meeting on October 23 with relevant parties to discuss water issues and how they would like to address them.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the July 14, 2011 executive committee meeting were approved after a motion by President Berman and a second by Chairman McConnaughay.

Financial Report: Interim Administrator Mary Randle stated that the Northwest Water Planning Alliance bank balance stands at \$6,844.63 as of August 31, 2011. The report was approved after a motion by Mayor Nunamaker and a second by President Darch.

Program: Dan Injerd, Section Chief, Lake Michigan Management, Office of Water Resources of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation on Lake Michigan. He stated that he is encouraged at the number of water planning initiatives that are going on. He has noted the changed from a top down approach to bottom up initiatives and sees that as positive. The Illinois Lake Michigan allocation/diversion: The average outflow from the Great Lakes is 165 billion gallons a day. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that lies totally within the United States. Its outflow is 2.1 billion gallons a day. Illinois has almost no drainage basin on Lake Michigan. The service population for Lake Michigan water in Illinois has decreased.

Western Lake County communities received an allocation in 2011. They expect a combined demand of 15 mgd in 2030. The estimated cost for the water infrastructure is \$250 million.

- Since 1994 we've been spending less water than we take in.

- City of Chicago has the cheapest water rates in the country.
- Average Lake Michigan rate is \$5.22 for all permittees in Illinois.
- Unaccounted for flow should not exceed 8% of a water system's total pumpage. Unaccounted for flow is the water loss in a system prior to the water reaching the consumer.
- Average unaccounted for flow in Lake Michigan user communities decreased from over 10% in 1979 to just over 4%.
- The first recommended step is to conduct a water audit. Many towns are starting to replace their old water meters. Chicago has committed to replacing up to 30 miles of pipes per year.
- They have allowances for unavoidable water loss. It depends on the type of pipes and the age of the system. This ranges from 3% to 8%. Cast iron pipes and lead joints are the worst.
- There have been four legal attempts to force Illinois to close its waterway system because of the Asian Carp. They are using this to foster a loss of Illinois Lake Michigan water diversion.
- Lake Michigan Water Allocation Website:
<http://dnr.state.il.us/owr/LakeMichiganWaterAllocation.htm>
- IDNR used to have lots of funding for water planning. That funding has dried up.
- They don't charge fees for Lake Michigan water. Your costs are for your infrastructure.

Mayor Weisner thanked Mr. Injerd for presented. The Mayor recommended that we read The Big Thirst. Its author, Charles Fishman, spoke at the Union League in Chicago. A number of NWPAs members attended. The book notes the presence of droughts across the world: from India to Australia to California.

Bylaws Proposal: Steve Andersson reviewed a number of requested changes to the bylaws. He will send a new red-lined version. The executive committee will vote on the bylaws proposal on November 10.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: TAC Chairman Peter Wallers stated that we completed a mailing of NWPAs introductory letter and materials to municipal and county leaders and administrators. Materials were also sent to water and planning professionals.

We developed a one-page fact sheet on the NWPAs with the assistance of Metropolitan Planning Council.

TAC Recommendation:

- 1) The TAC recommends that that NWPAs develop a water loss goal for the NWPAs area. This would involve voluntary compliance.
- 2) They also request that we develop a region-wide model water conservation ordinance. Metro West's Water Conservation Task Force had done so within its area two years ago.

3) They recommend that the NWPA develop a regional drought plan.

The executive committee agreed to have the Technical Advisory Committee move forward on those three action items.

Mr. Wallers stated that the NWPA now has a new website: www.nwpa.us

It is currently just one webpage but will be expanded. They have also developed a Facebook group for NWPA. The NWPA was covered in the American Water Works Association magazine, "Splash."

The Metropolitan Planning Council will hold a seminar on "Emerging Contaminants" on September 15th at The Center in Elgin. They are expected a good turnout for the event.

Illinois Water Inventory Program: Mr. Wallers noted that the NWPA is moving forward with its plan to assist with the Illinois State Water Survey's Water Inventory Program by having municipalities measure and report their water supply measurements to ISWS.

President Darch stated that we need to get everyone on the same page regarding how to measure water loss.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by _____

Mary Randle, Recorder