



## Technical Advisory Committee

**January 28, 2014**

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, EEI, Inc., representing MWCOG, Chairman; Dr. Tim Loftus of CMAP, Mayor Tom Weisner of Aurora; Kyla Jacobsen of Elgin, Paul Schuch and Jodie Wollnick of Kane County; David Schumacher of City of Aurora; Andy Resek of Crystal Lake, Jennifer Hughes of Village of Oswego, Kaitlyn McClain, Vista Fellow. Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey, Jon Hortness of USGS, Jeff Freeman of EEI, Inc. and Mary Randle of Metro West COG.

TAC Chairman Peter Wallers opened the meeting at 10 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions** – Pete Wallers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

**Agenda Changes and Announcements** – None at this time.

**Approval of November Meeting Minutes** – Minutes of the November 2013 meeting were approved after a motion by Kyla Jacobsen of Elgin, and a second by David Schumacher of Aurora with the following change: Page two: Dr. Loftus’ report: Change to “groundwater communities in the IWIP area.”

**General Discussion on Current Water Use in the NWPA Area:** Kyla Jacobsen: There have been no frazil ice problems in Elgin since Christmas. There have been numerous water main breaks because of freezing conditions. They had one that was leaking into a storm sewer so that was difficult to identify. Andy Resek of Crystal Lake said that Crystal Lake also experienced many water main breaks. There was only one frozen service incident, though. Frost penetrated to a depth of three feet. About 30 homes with frozen lines internally were reported. Jennifer Hughes of Oswego: They had only one break outside but 10 within vacant buildings. David Schumacher of Aurora: In Aurora they are finding very elevated levels of dissolved solids such as sodium chloride because of people using so much salt. It may become a public safety issue. Peter Wallers stated that McHenry County has been having issues with shallow wells.

**NWPA/ISWS Water Use Reporting System:** Pete Wallers stated that we are now ready to share our reporting system with our region. [www.nwpa.us/waterusage/](http://www.nwpa.us/waterusage/) Jeff Freeman said one’s initial password is their facility ID. Passwords may be changed on the site. Jeff gave a demonstration on how to enter your community’s or area’s water usage into the system. Please contact Pete Wallers at EEI if you find any problems with the reporting system. Dr. Loftus suggested changing “Community Population” to “Population served.” That change will be made. One of the things it measures is the number of water main breaks and then figures it in number of water main breaks per 100 miles of water main. If possible, please include your 2013 figures in reporting. If not possible, begin with January 2014. Pete Wallers



stated we will be calling upon the executive committee to encourage their staffs to use the water reporting system. Kaitlyn McClain is also doing some thinking about how to communicate with the members about this. Pete Wallers noted that the first goal is to get everyone reporting their water usage. Then in the long-term, it would be preferable for Illinois State Water Survey to take over the reporting system and use it across the state.

**State and Regional Water Supply Planning:** There have been some water supply planning initiatives going on regionally and statewide. IDNR will have \$1.6 M for water supply planning in 2014. They want to build legislative support for more funding. The Illinois Department of Public Health is supposed to move forward on **Plumbing Codes Revisions**. **Lake Michigan Process Rules** are going to JCAR for approval. The NWPA is encouraged to provide public comment on both issues. Also the revolving loan process is being looked at. Edith Makra of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Kaitlyn McClain and Peter Wallers discussed the revolving loan process. IEPA is working to streamline the process and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is providing input. The program itself is very good and is especially helpful for smaller communities. The competitive interest rates are a very positive aspect of the program.

**Tim Loftus of CMAP:** The discussions that Metropolitan Planning Council and CMAP have been holding were perfectly timed because of the drought situation and Arlan Juhl taking over at Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Mr. Juhl has been thinking creatively about all aspects of how IDNR addresses issues of water supply. They are looking at how other states do this. These meetings are open to the public. IDNR sees a need for a legislative initiative once we determine how water supply planning should be funded. There are many possibilities but no agreement yet on how funding should be accomplished. One idea was to have a small tax on bottled water. Do we need to broaden the issue so that other stakeholders are brought in? Should we be talking about this in terms of climate change, for example? Dr. Loftus thinks it is too late to address this within the upcoming legislative session. He believes the framework document for IDNR's strategic plan needs to be reopened for change and comment. We need a plan for why we need to do regional and statewide water supply planning. This will be discussed in February. In 2012 the legislature passed a sustainability act for IDNR. The sustainability initiative will supply three regions with existing plans, add two new regions and include a new grant program. \$250,000 has been awarded to CMAP for two years to fund water supply planning. This will fund Dr. Loftus's efforts with NWPA and with Lake Michigan Water Supply Planning.

**Walt Kelly of ISWS:** Scientific Activities in Support of Water Supply Planning FY 2014-2016. ISWS and three regions have plans now. Seven regions remain. Three will begin now: Middle Illinois River, Kankakee River and Rock River. There will be combined surface water/ground water projects. Mr. Kelly shared the regional tasks. They will also collect water quality samples and will fund the Illinois Water Inventory Program (IWIP). He also touched on the development of IL Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Well Network, mass measurement of northern Illinois aquifers, assessment of surface water supplies, water demand forecasting for regions and education outreach.



**Illinois Water Inventory Program:** They will continue revising IWIP procedures and forms, working with NWPAA and developing irrigation measurements. They are putting in two bedrock wells in Kendall County.

They are identifying wells for sampling including some in Wisconsin to complete the regional bedrock aquifer study. They are planning to take measurements in the fall of 2014 and will prepare and analyze water use data in each of the regions for input into water demand models. There was a discussion of water demand scenarios. It was noted that the models need to be adjusted for our area.

Pete Wallers stated that Daniel Abrams of Illinois State Water Survey will return for an update in April. We are trying to figure the best ways to mesh the different counties' models.

**Executive Committee: Mayor Tom Weisner, chairman of the NWPAA executive committee:** Mayor Weisner expressed his thanks to members of the Technical Advisory Committee. "The reporting system you have developed is an example of what we can achieve with collaboration—not only within our communities but now also with the state. The lawn watering ordinance shows what can be accomplished. What you do or say is critical because you are the experts. We need to look at creating some level of financial self-sufficiency as we go down the road. Your communication to your elected officials will be critical to this effort," he added.

**Strategic Plan: Tim Loftus:** Dr. Loftus encouraged all TAC members to keep a copy of the strategic plan. We need to encourage all members to join Water Sense. It would be helpful to have an NWPAA newsletter article on this. We need to promote use of existing resources and plan articles for the e-newsletter. Education and outreach: Build on high profile events. World Water Day is in March. Promote in February newsletter. Develop and make presentations to counties/municipalities. Prioritize topics. Get this on COG agendas/presentations. Draft a consistent message for COGs. Develop sustainable water supply sustainability practices: When does group want to begin discussion of sustainability and of literature, etc. on sustainability? Loftus suggested that we could begin this discussion at the March or April TAC meeting. Pete Wallers commented on the ISWS presentation commenting on the effect of the deep aquifer withdrawals on the shallow aquifer levels. We need to determine how this affects surface water streams as well. IWIP: We need to obtain missing 2010-2011-2012 reporting from certain areas. Perhaps the TAC should develop recommended policy on applying salt on highways. Walt Kelly: is it possible to get figures on how much salt municipalities use per month of per event? Even per year. Jennifer Hughes: how do you regulate what private contractors are using? Is it necessary to regulate those who apply salt as contractors?

There was a discussion about using alternatives to salt or additions to salt. Mr. DeVries from Elgin and a gentleman from McHenry County DOT are very knowledgeable in this area. It might be helpful to have a presentation on this topic.



**Communications Outreach:** Kaitlyn McClain provided an update on the January newsletter. We had an open rate of 44% which is good. We are also doing well on click rate but we had a slowdown on the number of people that are subscribing. Please keep forwarding email to your staff members. Fix a Leak Week is in March. We need cost estimates on printing hard copies of lawn watering ordinance brochure. McClain requested input regarding outreach strategies for the water reporting tool as well as the NWPA lawn watering ordinance. She presented a list of communities that have passed the lawn watering ordinance and those that are in the process of approving it. We need to identify why communities have not yet passed the ordinance. There is always the issue, too, about water conservation leading to lower income from water use. Dr. Loftus: A water conservation program can be revenue neutral. Kaitlyn will be leaving in July. She wants information about who to approach about the ordinance. How should she present the issue? She needs some success stories to share. Please send letter from Mayor Weisner and Pete Wallers to our communities.

Kaitlyn has been looking at grant opportunities. This could help to create revenue. She suggested that we should also look into partnerships with local universities for use of an intern, etc.

**Next Meeting:** Tues., Feb. 25, 2014

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Mary Randle, Recorder