



Technical Advisory Committee

July 22, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Walt Kelly of ISWS; Tim Farrell, Village of Huntley; Victor Ramirez, Crystal Lake; Amy Gahala, USGS; John Dillon, City of Batavia; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Rebecca Von Drasek, DeKalb County; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; Paul Schuch, Retired and Angie Smith, EEI.

Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

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

Agenda Changes and Announcements – Pete noted that there is no meeting in August; next meeting will be held on Tues., September 23, 2014. He also gave a reminder that in October we have the joint meeting with the Illinois Groundwater Association.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes – Victor Ramirez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Rebecca Von Drasek seconded the motion.

General Discussion on Current Water Use in the NWPA Area: Victor, Crystal Lake, production has been abnormally low for this year. Went up a little yesterday and I'm sure it will go up a bit today. He commented that he thinks that people are being more conscious with their water. He also mentioned that in McHenry County the hot topic right now is the proposed power plant, public open house tonight at the Holiday Inn at 31. They are proposing a power plant using the City's wastewater effluent and probably Prairie Grove effluent as well for cooling. It will have to be supplemented with a well too. They need 1.5 MG for their load. They are targeting a deep well in the Ironton Galesville aquifer. Walt Kelly, ISWS, cited the Water Act states that they have to review the impact of using the well.

Tim Farrell, Huntley, reported that everything is pretty routine at this point.

Dave Schumacher, Aurora, reported that the river is cooperating.

John Dillon, Batavia, also reported that everything is pretty routine.

NWPA/ISWS Water Use Reporting System – Pete gave an update on the Water Reporting tool; there's been no change since the last meeting. He is working with Walt, ISWS, on a joint letter to go out to remind everyone it will take the place of their 2014 IWIP.



NWPA – Communication/Outreach – Pete gave an update on the newsletter that went out in July. Open Rate was 33.3%; the click rate was 5.5%. He did mention that we needed to expand our mailing list a bit though to be sure that Mayors/Village Presidents, Alderman/Trustees are on there. We will be working on getting that corrected. We may actually go back and re-issue a few on water conservation to them. Catherine, Margaret’s intern will help with the August newsletter, but then we will be in a position where we will need someone else to put it together.

Strategic Planning – Pete reported that the final Strategic Plan was distributed to the Executive Committee at their last meeting. A printed copy is attached in the packet as well and it is also on our website.

Things to think about and consider: How will it get distributed? Newsletter topic? Email blast?

Executive Committee Update – Pete reported that the Executive Committee started the discussion about funding in order to create a stipend for an intern. Either they are going to do another round of dues or an annual assessment in September.

ISWS Update – Pete summarized Daniel Abrams last presentation from June. Walt, ISWS, went through Daniel’s slides that he put together to continue the discussion amongst the group. Using Aurora as a benchmark shows them using 55% on surface water and 45% groundwater ratio. Is this reasonable to run scenarios with? Dave Schumacher commented he is currently running 75-80% river water and it is very treatable. The plant’s rated capacity is 42, actual pumping is in the 30’s for a long term consistent basis. Our highest day ever was just under 30MGD. In 2012 Elgin’s Airlite WTP was offline and they were running 90% river water. Having the ability to go back and forth is extremely useful.

John Dillon inquired if there was some kind of disconnect with what’s available in the Fox River? Dave stated that it’s really a treatment issue, not a resource issue. Elgin and Aurora have two different treatment plant processes. Paul suggested that when these scenarios are being run, Vern’s scenario should be run as well.

Jodie inquired about the use of Lake Michigan water during the winter time.

Pete commented that the scenario of 55% surface water, 45% groundwater is a good distribution. Part of the reason to do this exercise is to start looking at regional planning. The simpler the better is going to help get our point across. Pete realized last night at a meeting that we really need to double down on our educational outreach because there are people out there that have never even thought about this.

Paul, would it be advisable to pick one or two areas to help spread the word? Case studies that will help us get the word out and help us with the outreach to these communities.



Jeff Freeman stated that he thinks that the 55%, 45% is over conservative. Yorkville is 100% deep; Oswego is 100% deep; Montgomery is 80% deep and sounds like Aurora is 10% shallow. Probably a more feasible number is 70% surface water, 30% groundwater.

Paul thought that maybe Aurora could be one scenario, Geneva, St. Charles and Batavia could be another one at these different percentages.

Pete stated that there also needs to be another scenario without Joliet involved. The TAC will summarize the scenario(s) to present to the Executive Committee.

Jeff commented that the other municipality that is in that area is Sugar Grove and they have been projected for greater growth as well. They have the potential for shallow wells; however they can't go to the Fox River though. Dave agreed with Jeff as well and he commented that the Barnes Road Booster Pump station is ready and waiting to pump to them. 50% of the infrastructure is already in place. Dave stated that using Aurora as a hub we could feed Sugar Grove and North Aurora pretty easily.

Another topic for discussion is the increase of chlorides in McHenry County shallow groundwater. Amy Gahala, USGS, will bring a presentation to the next meeting for a more in depth discussion.

Walt stated that he will give Daniel all of the feedback from this meeting and he could possibly have some of this to talk about at the September meeting.

Water Loss Accounting – Pete gave an update on the Steering Committee that Tim Loftus and he are members of. The goal is to get all water systems in Illinois (1,800) to perform water loss accounting using the M36 form. The form will give you information regarding where your water loss is occurring and you will determine your Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI). The ILI will allow you to compare your community to other communities. IEPA has engaged ISAWWA to help with training and the ILRWA as well. You'll be seeing notices for training. There's going to be about 20 some opportunities for education in the north part of the State.

Jeff reported that Illinois is following Georgia's lead in this matter. ISAWWA has been learning from them as well. Train the Trainer, John Van Arsdenal is going to help ISAWWA to train the trainers with the 20+opportunities. The break will be I-80, ISAWWA will take everything north of I-80 and IRWA will take everything south of I-80.

Pete also commented that the other topic that will be coming up will be the Low Interest Loan fund and possibly some grant money available for testing, in conjunction with the M 36 accounting, it may be based on income level, however the criteria have not been decided.

State and Regional Water Supply Planning – Update: Pete reported that MPC and CMAP have been having bi-monthly meetings to discuss the regional water supply planning in Illinois.



Other Business:

NPDES General Permit Number ILR40 (MS4) – Public Notice: Pete, not sure if you are aware or not, but it was issued for comment. One major change was the sampling that has to take place every quarter after an quarter inch of rain at every discharge located in your community. MWCOCG sent a letter asking for a Public Hearing; will communicate with everyone once we hear something.

Victor also stated that their stormwater consultant also sent in a letter; he will forward a copy to Pete.

Tim stated he will check into it and see if Huntley sent anything against it or not.

John and Rebecca will do some follow-up as well. Pete will ask Mary Randle, MWCOCG, send out a note requesting that if anyone sent a letter to send in a copy.

Next Meeting: Reminder there is no meeting in August. The next meeting will be Tues., September 23, 2014.

Jodie Wollnik commented on the water conservation displays that went into the Batavia library. It will also be set-up at the Aurora library next. All of the material came from IISG. She will send the picture to Pete. Pete commented that it would be nice to get one for each county. Batavia and Aurora this year and then hit it again starting in the spring. She also stated that they are working on putting together a movie to go on the previews at the movie theatres with two little talking sprinklers.

John reported that Margaret has coordinated a couple of teleconferences regarding Batavia's education outreach at the schools. They're working on that right now. The tours are given in the spring time, every May.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, Recorder