



Technical Advisory Committee

November 25, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG, Joanna Colletti of McHenry County, Angela Zubko of Kendall County, Mike Harvey of Donahue, Andy Resak of Crystal Lake; Brian Schiber of Geneva, 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, Dr. Tim Loftus of CMAP, Josh Ellis and Hui Feng of Metropolitan Planning Council, Walt Kelly and Dr. Daniel Abrams of ISWS, Jeff Freeman of EEI, Inc. Mary Randle, Metro West Council of Government.

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 – An additional item was added under number 10 to talk about infrastructure.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes – The minutes of September, 2014 were approved after a motion by Angela Zubko and a second by David Schumacher.

General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area: Kane County released an article a couple of weeks ago about arsenic in some wells in Gilberts. They are trying to decide if it's naturally occurring. Dave Schumacher noted that things are going well in Aurora. They have had some slushing problems from the cold but that is natural.

Tim Loftus: Dr. Loftus discussed the NWPA Strategic Plan. First year priorities: Strategies for which TAC was at least co-lead. Second sheet for the Executive Committee. Then one that has Water Survey as lead. Then one for CMAP and MPC.



Goal A. 1) We pursued one grant opportunity. Will have to have MPC/CMAP take co-lead on finding more grant opportunity. We could see if Grand Victoria Foundation would be willing to provide an ongoing grant possibility. Pete Wallers said the Executive Committee has developed and approved an operating budget for 2014/2015. They established dues of \$750 for each member COG and county. It is pretty basic but it does fund an intern at \$2,500 each semester. Perhaps this is now a good time to discuss a more robust budget.

Paul Schuch noted that this may be a good time to speak to the IEPA about some funding.

Goal B. Provide Education and outreach to raise awareness of the value of water as a finite asset.

In Crystal Lake they are working on coming up with ideas for their newsletter. They will consider adding relevant articles. Members are encouraged to 1) participate in the neverwaste.org campaign and 2) encourage adoption of Water 2050 recommendations. The messaging is already done. Pete Wallers suggested that we recommend newsletter articles on a quarterly basis or every other month and send it to our members. Neverwaste.com is a messaging platform for water efficiency. We could check with the Alliance for Water Efficiency to see if all of our members would be able to use their educational materials if the NWPA joins. We really need someone to work on educational aspects on a daily basis. Mary Randle said the COGs would probably be willing to add a quarterly message to their newsletters. Pete Wallers suggested that maybe we should have AWE come back and speak to the TAC and discuss ways in which we could partner. Dr. Loftus will work on that.

Objective: Prepare a brief for newly elected officials. Josh Ellis will work on this one.

Goal C. Objective 1. In terms of water use, define “sustainability” by each source of water. The Illinois State Water Survey is working on this. Can they help us develop a range of values that we could use?

Objective 3: Paul Schuch noted that someone else is looking at this, perhaps the Center for Neighborhood Technology. Critical Zone: Research location. They haven’t figured groundwater as a part of that yet. Walt Kelly stated that this is still pure research.

Objective 4. Promote winter time “sensible salting”. Lake and McHenry Counties have been working on this. This is a highly political issue. NWPA should make a recommendation endorsing this. Public works people are already tuned into the issue but maybe we can concentrate on educating the general public. Perhaps the new intern can help with this.

Executive Committee: Provided an outreach to raise awareness of the value of water as a finite resource. Walt Kelly will work on fleshing this out. Steps 1 to 3.

CMAP – Dr. Loftus has done five presentations, seven all together but in a couple of these he didn’t go into detail on NWPA. The presentation is still relevant. Jeff Freeman suggested that maybe we could add Sensible Salting to presentation as a seasonal topic.



We are still waiting on Illinois Water Inventory Program data for 2015.

Objective 6. Forecast population and growth projections: Dr. Loftus passed out **NWPA Municipalities: 2014 Populations and Employment Forecast**. Household growth is forecast as 50%. Population is 51% and growth in employment is forecast at 77%. **NWPA County Forecasts** was also presented: 48% population in households, 50% in number of households. 58% growth in employment. Go to 2040 has more details on the forecast document. These have been adjusted for the slowdown in the economy.

Water Usage Reporting System: Pete Wallers said he hopes we'll have more information soon, because some people said they were planning on inputting all year's data at one time. He encouraged everyone to get their figures entered.

Our first priority when we get an intern will be to get the NWPA newsletter back on track.

ISWS: Desaturation of the St. Peter Aquifer: 2014 Mass Measurement Results. Dr. Daniel Abrams. There are areas where the St. Peter is desaturated. It used to be Cook County was pumping the most. This goes back to 1980. There is a cone of depression in several areas. But by 1990 some of those areas have improved, showing some areas of recovery. By 1995, it was the area by Joliet that is partially desaturated. By 2007, there is declining levels in Kendall, partly because Joliet has still been doing major pumping. 2014: Joliet is desaturated as far up as Romeoville. Aurora is now doing well. Aurora is located on both St. Peter and the Ironton-Galesville. Aurora has been shifting more to withdrawals from the Fox River and less from the aquifers.

There is some question about whether we give up on the St. Peter, the shallow bedrock aquifer. The northern area seems sustainable. The southern area is more problematic.

How are we defining sustainability? That is what we are struggling with now. The ISWS is using modeling scenarios to help define this.

They are missing data on the Caterpillar wells from Joliet. They have told ISWS they will send data.

Is this the method we should be using for our area?

- 1) St. Peter - only wells going dry.
- 2) Loss in transmissivity (more expensive to pump)
- 3) Water quality issues: a) arsenic, b) radium, c) barium
- 4) Public perception

Head above Ironton-Galesville



If we project to 2050 they are forecasting Ironton-Galesville will stay saturated. If we keep forecasting after that, by 2100, we see one spot in Kendall that becomes problematic. By 2150, things start getting worse. Dr. Abrams hopes that we don't give up on the St. Peter. Are there other alternatives?

Walt Kelly ISWS: ISWS hasn't done a great deal on water quality. At one point they saw a very small increase in Joliet and Aurora of salinization. It's hard where areas are on two aquifers. Walt said they may look at some point at pumping south of the Sandwich fault zone.

Pete Wallers stated that we need to figure out how much we can safely withdraw from the Fox River. We should add this to the factors being examined.

This discussion will be continued in January.

Water Loss Accounting: Dr. Loftus: Training is already occurring. The Illinois EPA is doing free training sessions.

State and Regional Water Supply Planning: CMAP and MPC are putting together a water supply planning advisory council to meet quarterly to be the regional voice on issues of importance to us. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources will probably be looking to regional entities for input. Looks like a water bottle tax may be pursued as a funding mechanism for water supply planning. We're not sure how the new political landscape will affect this. Josh Ellis: we do have some indications that Rauner will have a moderate approach to water supply planning. We have the opportunity to provide input to the transition committee.

Arlan retires next month. There will be a new director of Water Resources.

Metropolitan Planning Council: Josh Ellis. Infrastructure financing: Improving Illinois's State Revolving Fund Program:

Proposal: Fund 2040 1) streamline the application process 2) increase accessibility 3) project selection criteria and 4) set-aside prioritization. Working with IEPA on a related survey, which needs to be beta tested. Aurora will help. Mr. Wallers will help with that as well.

Northwest Indiana: has a planning organization. CMAP is developing a proposal called Fund 2040 for infrastructure funding regarding Transportation/water resources/open spaces. We expect Rauner to lower the tax rate but expand what it pays for. This would be done in the six-county RTA area.

MPC Hui Feng: MPC wants to create an independent public body for Fund 2040 to find better and faster ways to deliver infrastructure, risk and reward allocation and build expertise. They are proposing a partnership between Illinois Finance Authority and the Public Building Commission of Chicago. They would provide the project pipeline, feasibility, evaluation and standardization. Infrastructure Illinois: Federal Leaderships and National Partners with input from local government and partners and financing



and funding options. This would bring about infrastructure delivery. This would increase private sector investment and funding. This would be especially helpful for municipalities that don't have bonding capacity. They could also bundle projects for funding. This has been effective in Canada, Australia and Great Britain for the past decade. Kane County has accomplished several projects by bundling small infrastructure projects from smaller communities.

MPC is also seeking input on whether IFA and PBC are the best partners for this. Any problems that they should be aware of? Can there be some problems in working with IFA? They can sometimes be difficult to work with.

Executive Committee update: Pete Wallers: The executive committee passed a budget. Mr. Wallers will send this out to TAC members.

TAC Meeting dates for 2015 are included in the agenda packet. There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting will be in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by _____ Mary Randle, Recorder