



## Technical Advisory Committee

**March 26, 2013**

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, EEl, Inc., representing MWCOG, Chairman; Dr. Tim Loftus of CMAP, Josh Ellis and Abby Crisostomo of Metropolitan Planning Council; Kyla Jacobsen of Elgin, John Dillon Batavia representing MWCOG; Paul Schuch and Jodie Wollnick of Kane County; John Schmitt of McHenry County; Kurt Thomsen of BACOG; Cory Horton of McHenry County; David Schmidt of Barrington; Ed Coggin of McHenry County COG, David Schumaker of City of Aurora; Rebecca Von Drasek of DeKalb County, Andy Resek of Crystal Lake, and Mary Randle of Metro West COG,

**Approval of February 25, 2013 minutes:** Minutes were approved after a motion by Rebecca Von Drasek of DeKalb, and a second by John Dillon of Batavia.

**Water Use Update in NWPA Area:** Kyla Jacobsen: Main breaks have lessened since water warmed up. Flow is up considerably from last year. John Schmitt of McHenry County: Lot of water content in the snow recently. There has been a lot of shallow system increase of up to three to four feet. McHenry County's well are increasing nicely. Dave: Joe Munder of City of West Chicago: well levels are as usual.

**Drought Update:** George Roadcap, hydrologist from **Illinois State Water Survey:** Does a lot of work with Mahomet Aquifer. Did shallow water modeling in Kane. Worked in Will. Now modeling deep system in northeastern Illinois. Working now in Joliet. Getting more water for Joliet and Yorkville in the Sandwich fault.

State Water Planning Task Force: **The drought is over in Illinois.** The only area left is very mild in northwestern Illinois and one very small area in western Illinois.

In Champaign, there has been a big cone of depression in the Mahomet Aquifer. The Sangamon River went dry for 40 days this summer. Had a huge amount of irrigation for corn crops because of the drought. Prices for corn are up to \$7.50 per bushel. Thinks that put a huge stress on the river. We are seeing this in different places in the state where there is more irrigation. There isn't enough monitoring of irrigation in the state. Correlation between ground water and rivers in Champaign seems to disappear during dry periods.

Water use reporting: Kathy Rodgers [Rodgers@siu.edu](mailto:Rodgers@siu.edu). Copy correspondence to Steve Wilson: [sdwilson@illinois.edu](mailto:sdwilson@illinois.edu) They are working on an Excel template for Class C systems.



**Strategic Plan: Dr. Tim Loftus:** Local Technical Assistance for NWPAs: Strategic Planning: the Mission Statement and Goals. We will spend the next several meetings on this process to establish what we want to accomplish both short-term and long-term.

**Developing a Mission Statement: a statement about core purpose, best stated in the present tense.**

**1) What are opportunities and needs that we exist to address:**

Sustainable water supply, cooperative, regional approach, building common understanding, outreach and education, data management, conservation, unified message, economics, partnerships, guidance recommendations,

**2) What are we doing to address our needs?**

Regularly meeting, community outreach, education, ordinance development, developing collaborative programs/policies, collecting and sharing data, learning, technical committee, understanding scientific capacity, created bridge between local grassroots people, sub-regional, regional, and state; delineating needs of specific classes of water users by source (other than Lake Michigan), ability to respond to issues with public voice, sub-regional forum to discuss/address issues.

**3) What principles or beliefs guide our work?** Collaboration, stakeholders, sustainability, belief in a water ethic, science, water has value, using science to inform public funding, environmental ethic, water conservation, water quality, stewardship, resource synergy water and energy, feasibility, we matter, too; relationship between our needs and regions needs, integrated approach, recognizing diversity of needs (comprehensive)

- Developing Goals: One year goals versus five-year goals.
- Goals define what we intent to accomplish and should relate to NWPAs priorities.

What areas do we need to be involved in to operationalize our mission or accomplish our vision?

What activities will we need to be involved in?

On NWPAs Homepage: Our mission is to provide a sustainable water supply for the NWPAs region in a manner that is both economically and environmentally sound.

**GOALS:** cooperative planning, equitable planning, effective implementation, monthly water reporting, outreach to our 80 communities, develop a reputation as the forum for discussing and addressing water issues. Information flowing back and forth. Combination of local knowledge and upper levels.

- 1) Want to be well known as the source of information and solutions.



- 2) Develop a common understanding of our water resources based on best available science.
- 3) Recommendations will be implemented.
- 4) Promote information and awareness about river and groundwater.
- 5) Conduit for information exchange.
- 6) Establish a source of revenue to achieve mission.
- 7) Promote water conservation and efficiency.

There was discussion about how well our policies/recommendations are implemented. How do we get more water professionals involved in the TAC? When COGs take things back to the COGs for approval, do they actually get down to the local community level?

Short term goal: Raise the visibility of the NWPA, the level of awareness in the local communities.

Meet with water operators, superintendents, etc. Can we eventually have a staff person dedicated to the NWPA?

Dr. Loftus will tweak this information and return next month to continue the process.

**Executive Committee:** The executive committee had a fairly lengthy discussion with NWPA's legal counsel Steve Andersson regarding use of the lawn watering ordinance in communities with privately-owned wells. He will also present this to the TAC in May.

Pete Wallers reported that the executive committee approved funding to cover setting up a portal for water reporting on the NWPA website: [www.nwpa.us](http://www.nwpa.us)

**Regional Water Planning Update:** Josh Ellis. The update to the plumbing codes is still being worked on at the state level. It adds voluntary guidelines. Within the next couple of months they will submit this to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The update allows for the reuse of rain water, grey water, condensate and effluent from treatment plans.

Department of Natural Resources will be implementing Lake Michigan rules changes, they are proposing eliminating the exception for maximum allowable leakage. MPC and CMAP have been facilitating meetings at the state level on state water policy issue. Soon they will discuss funding recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 23, 2013.

Submitted by: Mary Randle, Recorder