



Technical Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting

May 26, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG; Nora Beck, CMAP; Natalie Karney, Village of South Barrington; Jerry Elliott, SGTWA; Walt Kelly, ISWS; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Kevin Fescke, Village of Barrington; Annie Storey, ISAWWA; Bob Leible, City of Aurora; Judith Thomas, USGS; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Tim Wilson, City of St. Charles; Faye Sinnott, FC/SCWP; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Bob Mitchard, Village of Algonquin; Ryan Anderson, Village of Minooka; Wes Cattoor, IDNR; Allen Wehrmann, Intera; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Angie Smith, EEI;

Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions: Pete (MWCOG) welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over quick ground rules for Zoom – raise hand, mute self's, use chat feature.

Agenda Changes and Announcements: None at this time.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Natalie (S. Barrington) made a motion. Derek (DeKalb County) seconded. Minutes approved.

General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area: Scott (McHenry County) is anyone monitoring wastewater treatment plants for COVID-19? Identify quantity to statistically evaluate the scale of a presence in the area. Two main strains of COVID-19 – one from China and one from Europe. Kevin (Barrington) no, we are not doing this.

Bob (Aurora) gave some statistics that the last three May's have been the highest rains on record. Water demand has been very flat during COVID-19. Not stressed from a demand standpoint or challenges to the plant. 15MGD has been the norm during this timeframe. Faye (FC/SCWP) has Aurora been successful in separating the rain vs. storm sewer system? Bob (Aurora) there's a separate department that handles this specifically.

Presentation: "Reducing Outdoor Water Use: A Review of Lawn Watering Restrictions in the NWPA Region": Nora (CMAP), Margaret (IISG) and Kelsey (CMAP) gave a quick overview of the topics that would be covered during the presentation: benefits of reduced water use; history behind NWPA's ordinance; components of the model ordinance; implementation in the region.

Margaret (IISG) covered the benefits of outdoor water conservation. Went through the uses of outdoor water use: comprises a large percentage of average residential water use; contribute to costly summer peak use; is discretionary (nonessential); has a significant impact on water resources (runoff); financial risk drive; logic of applying water treated to drinking water standards to landscape. Outdoor water use is estimated that 50% of



outdoor water is wasted due to unwise and wasteful watering behavior. Main sources: poor irrigation scheduling, inefficient irrigation systems and practices, fixed notation about what constitutes an attractive/functional yard.

The projection of future droughts is expected to be far worse due to more extreme weather we are experiencing. In terms of the State of Illinois we have accepted the 2011 Drought Preparedness and Response Plan which identifies a number of shallow groundwater-dependent communities in the Chicago region as particularly vulnerable to drought.

History behind NWPA's model ordinance: Water2050 & CMAP updated the water conservation ordinance (2010); NWPA was founded in 2010; in 2012 we had a drought; achieve consistency among NWPA communities (MPC, Fall 2012). Several outreach and educational materials were created during this time (<http://www.nwpa.us/water-conservation.html>).

Components of NWPA's Model Ordinance: applies year round; uses consecutive day and time- of restrictions; discourages the use of unattended sprinklers in favor of more water efficient handheld devices, irrigation systems and water reuse options, such as captures rainwater; bans the "watering" of sidewalks, driveways, and roads; encourages installation of new, water intensive landscaping (seed, sod and planting) to avoid July and August, the most water-stressed months of the year; allows municipalities to issue emergency proclamations to address extreme situations such as drought or water shortages; presents options for how to communicate water conditions via a tiered system, including a color code system.

Nora went through the different tiers that are included in the ordinance: Green = Normal conditions; Yellow = During drought; Red Tier = Extreme drought conditions

Kelsey (CMAP) went through the implementation in the region with the review process: goals – learn how river and groundwater dependent communities are applying lawn watering restrictions; help NPWA target next steps for outreach. Methods: use the NWPA ordinance as a baseline; tracked adoption of the different NWPA provisions not just the full ordinance in 116 communities. Overall findings were that 53 NPWA member communities have some restrictions; 13 communities have adopted the full NWPA ordinance. Most communities only implement a few provisions – emergency proclamations, consecutive day water use restrictions and time of day restrictions.

Discussion amongst the group was had on some specific questions:

Which provisions do you find to be most beneficial in your community? Public outreach and education, time of day, year-round, daily, even/odd, sod installation.

If you have not adopted the full ordinance and could add one more provision – which would be the most helpful? Run off control (over watering) or the education of the negative impacts, if more communities could add the color-coding system it would help with education of consumers; tiered pricing is also a useful mechanism for conservation. Pete (MWCOG) commented on the color coding and back to the discussion that was had years ago when the ordinance was established. We wanted to give enough flexibility so that communities could choose to incorporate the color coding or not so two versions were created. As a group do want to make a push to go with the color-coded version only? Bob (Algonquin) commented on the color coded



ordinance which has been in place over the last 18 years, consistency across the organization would be extremely helpful, the entire community understands it. He commented that they have gotten a little lax on enforcing due to lack of staff.

Bob (Aurora) commented that we have gone through the efforts of putting out the signs closer to the areas that would be more likely to have increase water. We always include a section of the water ordinance in the yearly water report update.

Jeff (EEI) one community evaluated if they should go to the color-coding system recently; final consensus was that it wasn't worth the extra effort at this time. He feels this helps with the education side of things.

Were there any provisions that your municipality has stayed clear from and why? Ryan (MI) they don't allow installation of separate meters – they charge for water and sewer for lawn watering. Kelsey (CMAP) commented that the seed or sod could be used as example of this. Pete (MWCOG) commented further on the seed vs. sod discussion. Something that can be discussed with the Executive Committee to see if that's a policy we would want to put out.

Reflection on enforcement and outreach: Bob (Algonquin) commented that due to the wet weather and lack of staff they are not really enforcing right now. Bob (Aurora) there's general awareness of the ordinance, but there's not enforcement. Tim (St. Charles) education on the website, local city newsletter and no enforcement. Kevin (Barrington) reported if a resident fails to comply, we will deliver a flyer to education them again.

Have you tried partnering with higher outdoor water users directly, instead of trying to enforce everywhere? Bob (AU) we have not tried to look at this time. Tim (SR) not at this time.

How do you communicate with residents about reducing outdoor water use? Consumer confidence report, newsletter, social media.

How can we help – what tools do you need? <http://www.nwpa.us/water-conservation.html>

Scott (McHenry) asked Bob (Algonquin) in regard to the conservation effort that they had to adjust the pricing of their water. They have modified pricing in order to promote conservation. Increased rates over the last five years. If you use over 20,000 gallons (June 1st – Sept. 1st) their rates will triple. They are less prone to water their lawns like they used to. Over his career at Algonquin they've gone from 95 gallons per person per day down to 80 gallons per person per day. He commented that they are still struggling with enforcing water conservation while they are still trying to make money.

Margaret (IISG) commented that this manual is over 10 years old already; is it in need of an update at this time? Another issue with the manual is that there are two audiences it's directed at. Group discussion determined that an update would be great, best targeted to individuals that municipalities and counties could post on their website.



Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update): Scott (McHenry) have not made any progress at this time. He had a conversation with Connie Fortin. They are in the process of finishing up their manual for parking lots and sidewalks. Waiting to see that to see what can be incorporated into our manual.

CMAP (Update): Nora (CMAP) reported that they are doing blog posts with regards to COVID-19 impacting long-range planning.

ISAWWA (Update): Jeff (EEI/ISAWWA) the board decided that all training will be virtual through the end of August. Will continue to look at mini conferences and determine if they will be on-site or virtual. They have been holding COVID-19 meetings weekly to discuss impacts, etc. Annie (ISAWWA) commented on the COVID-19 weekly meeting, also worked with ILWARN for distribution of masks. They also did a survey on impacts to utilities in relation to COVID-19.

MPC (Update): None at this time.

ISWS (Update): Walt (ISWS) commented that this the 125th year and they have canceled all live events at this time. Next year they will have a 125 + 1-year celebration. Daniel is working on a report for the SWPG which will include an updated map. ISWS is starting to get some field personnel back out.

IDNR (Update): Wes (IDNR) gave an update on the State Water Plan, still making progress, but is still on hold for public outreach meeting. Contracts for water supply planning are still moving forward – ISWS and CMAP. At this time, they still have the same level of funding. Wes also commented on the Fox River flooding and Des Plaines River, even with the weather forecasting the levels should continue to fall. There are some staff in the field out doing some trips, but nothing overnight at this time.

USGS (Update): Judith (USGS) commented that they are operating under day trips at this time as well. Getting out and getting measurements. The funding has been applied for the PFAS/PFOA USGS report and will work with IEPA. Hoping to start sampling in August or pushed back further into the Fall. McHenry County will be doing some sampling soon; they will also be doing water quality, contaminants of emerging concern at 10 of their wells. USGS also working with the City of Crystal Lake looking at lake water management.

Other Business: Pete (MWCOG) commented that the legislature is in pandemic mode. HB395 – water rate review commission act, it will be something that we will be watching. There is more funding out there for LSLR so now would be a good time to go after that for your community.

Scott (McHenry) working on the McHenry County Water Resources Action Plan and having trouble with agricultural irrigation.

The next meeting will be held on June 23, 2020 at 10 AM, most likely via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, EEI