



## Technical Advisory Committee

### The Centre at Elgin

(East Conference Room)

100 Symphony Way, Elgin

November 26, 2019

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG; Nora Beck, CMAP; Dustin Calliari, CMAP; Jerry Elliott, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Jeff Babich, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Dan Nagel, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Don Zelinga, Robinson Engineering; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Walt Kelly, ISWS; Danielle Gallet, MPC; Justin Keller, MPC; Todd Ellis, Village of Montgomery; Cary McElhinney, USEPA, Region 5; Natalie Karney, Village of South Barrington; Bob Leible, City of Aurora; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Amy Gahala, USGS; Rod Worden, Lake County Public Works; Laura Kenney, Elgin Sustainability Committee; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Ben Marcum, US Representative Wheeler's Office; Angie Smith, EEI.

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

**Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions:** Pete (EEI) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

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

**Approval of October Meeting Minutes:** Jerry (SGTWA) made a motion. Dan (SGTWA) seconded. Minutes approved.

**General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area:** Bob (Aurora) reported all is normal with the river at this time.

**Presentation: *WaterSense: Overview and Updates with a Focus on Outdoor Water Use*,** Cary (USEPA Region 5) gave an overview of the WaterSense program. WaterSense vision offers people a simple way to use less water. Trying to be the equivalent to the Energy Star program. It is a voluntary program that began in the mid-2000's, but it is still a growing program and it has been written into law. The three areas that are focused are on: practices, products and people.

**Partnerships:** WaterSense partners make savings possible. WaterSense partners with water utilities, local/state governments, non-profits, builders and HOAs. WaterSense has more than 1,948 organizational partners; there are 40+ partners within the State of Illinois. If you or your entity would like to join WaterSense for FREE fill out this on-line form: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/join-watersense>



Accomplishments from 2006-2018 3.4 trillion gallons of water saved; 725 billion gallons saved in 2018 alone which has saved \$84.2 billion in water and energy bills.

*Products:* A label with integrity that is backed by EPA. Smart use of resources by EPA provides national standardization and outreach for water-efficiency; manufacturers absorb product research, testing and branding costs; licensed certifying bodies certify the products and police the label's use. More than 35,000 product models have earned the label. Water factors are included on energy star certified products. Products include: flushing urinals, showerheads, lavatory faucets, new homes, flushometer valve toilets, tank-type toilets, irrigation controllers and spray sprinkler bodies. All energy star products that utilize water have a water efficiency component factored into their ratings.

WaterSense Labeled Homes: first national new home labeling program for water efficiency; applies to single and multi-family homes; works with other green building programs; WaterSense labeled new homes: reduce water use in new homes by at least 20%; educate homeowners about continuing water-efficient behaviors; encourage community infrastructure savings; are third party certified. There will be some revisions (V2) to this program that will be rolled out starting in January 2020 that will transition completely by January 2021.

There is an Energy Star Portfolio Manager Management Tool – assess whole building energy, water and waste consumption; track changes in performance over time; create custom reports; share/report data with others; apply for Energy Star certification (based on energy performance only) (multi-family properties track water usage). Multi-family is more than 20 units within a building. WaterSense is not labeling buildings/properties yet. The platform provides ability to create a scorecard, but there is no formal certification for buildings (a'la Energy Star). Check out their website for resources related to multi-family buildings:

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/water-score-multifamily-housing> There is also training available for property owners: <https://energystar.gov/buildings/training>

Outdoor Water Usage: As much as 50% of the water we use outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods and systems. Losses caused by: poor irrigation system design; improper system installation and management; lack of maintenance; improper scheduling. WaterSense has a certification program for irrigation professionals which will help reduce water consumption, save money and maintain a healthy landscape. Certification programs for residential and commercial: irrigation system design; irrigation system installation and maintenance; irrigation system audits. A new product coming is a soil moisture-based irrigation control technologies (SMSs); these save water by inhibiting an irrigation event if the soil is determined to be “wet” enough that the plants don't need water; decision to allow watering is based on actual measurements in the soil; WaterSense is aiming to keep the WBIC and SMS specifications as consistent as possible.

Check out the WaterSense website for tools and tips: [www.epa.gov/watersense/tools](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/tools)

To see if your community is a partner, check the website for a searchable database. (<https://lookforwatersense.epa.gov/Partners-Directory-Search-Results.html?partner=Utility>)

**2020 Meeting Schedule:** Pete (MWCOCG) noted that the 2020 meeting schedule is included in your packet. We will continue to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month moving forward.



**Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update):** Pete (MWCOG) reported that we are down to final edits by Phil Sexton. Hoping by January we have a final version to share with everyone. The next project will be to work on the certification component of it.

**CMAQ (Update):** Nora (CMAQ) thanked everyone for the edits for the Strategic Plan which has been presented to the Executive Committee earlier this month. Should have acceptance at the first part of the year.

Going through the LTA applications received and more information will be coming out within the next couple of months.

**ISAWWA (Update):** Nothing at this time.

**MPC (Update):** Danielle (MPC) reported that they are zeroing in on the communities that have been selected for their LTA Drinking Water 1-2-3 programs. Will be releasing Elevate Energy on a Water Affordability Report during Q1 and will also be presenting at WATERCON2020. Introduced Justin Keller from MPC and he will be one of the leads moving forward as the representative for NWPA.

**ISWS (Update):** Walt (ISWS) reported that Joliet Environmental Commission will be deciding and making two recommendations to move forward – Illinois River and/or Hammond, Indiana. Pete (MWCOG) commented that the Mayor has extended the deliberation period by a month since it is such a big decision. ISWS continue to get requests for work from this region – McHenry County, Lakewood, etc. Next year is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISWS – five different ½ day meet and greets/seminars throughout the State of Illinois; more info to come. Would like to share invites with our distribution lists.

**IDNR (Update):** Pete (MWCOG) reported that they are continuing work on the State Water Plan; should be released next year.

**USGS (Update):** Amy (USGS) reported that starting next year they will be looking at the PFAS/PFOS in the groundwater. There will be 150 sampling locations throughout the State. USGS is receiving some requests for work – Crystal Lake, Three Oaks in relation to lake level management.

**Executive Committee (Update):** Pete (MWCOG) reported that they had a meeting earlier this month and they are reviewing the Strategic Plan. Also working on a policy statement on Chloride/Salting Use that will be issued the first week of December.

**Other Business:** IDPH Amendments – they have released the second notice and it will be heard at the JCAR hearing on December 17<sup>th</sup>. All of the water harvesting and water reuse was removed from the amendments.

The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2020 at the Centre at Elgin.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Angie Smith, EEI