



Technical Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting

January 23, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG/EEI; Tony Speciale, Retired Village of Sugar Grove/Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Jerry Elliott, Retired Sugar Grove Water Township Authority; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Kevin Fecske, Village of Barrington; Michele Piotrowski, EEI; Joe Munder, City of Aurora; Hannah Tomkins, Burns & McDonnell; Brad Reese, City of LaSalle; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva; Daniel Abrams, ISWS; Katie Piotrowska, CMAP; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Walt Kelly, ISWS; Wei Han, IDNR; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Dean Farr, Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League; Devin Mannix, ISWS; Jeff Babich, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Eddie Ramos, City of West Chicago; Natalie Karney, Retired Village of South Barrington/BACOG; Cary McElhinney, USEPA, Region 5; Angie Smith, EEI.

Jeff Freeman called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

Agenda Changes and Announcements: Scott (McHenry County) asked Pete to send out the updated MS4 permit information to the group. The revised permit requirements are to become active in March 2024.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes: Tony (SGTWA) made a motion to approve. Joe (Aurora) seconded. Minutes approved.

Presentation: “Where’s My Water Going”: Michele (EEI) presented this topic to the group. She explained the AWWA approach to water audits and loss control programs as summarized in the M-36 manual. She also explained how the AWWA free audit software can be utilized by utilities to calculate nonrevenue water and water losses within a water works system. She stressed the importance of assessing data validity and the goal to continue to improve it.

Presentation: “NWPA Water Supply Sustainability Plan: Residential Development Standards Strategy”: Kelsey (CMAP) and Margaret (IISG) gave the presentation to the group. This strategy looks at how communities can incorporate water conservation measures into their development standards. Example standards to potentially include would be those outlined in EPA’s Water Sense Homes Program. In this case, the community’s development standards would require new homes to incorporate defined water conservation measures.

A benefit of requiring water conservation measures in new homes from the start is that it reduces the need for future retrofits. It also can save capacity within the community’s water system, which maintains capacity for additional development. It also minimizes the impacts on water resources. It can lead to cost savings on utility bills, too.



Margaret shared the preliminary estimated water savings and their methodology for calculating how much could be saved if residential development standards are developed across the NWP region.

A question posed to the group was whether the strategy should focus solely on single-family homes or should also focus on multi-family developments. The consensus of the group was to focus on both. Carey, EPA, suggested the multifamily strategy could focus on a benchmarking ordinance for larger buildings:

<https://www.mwalliance.org/initiatives/policy/illinois/illinois-benchmarking-policies>

Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update): Scott, McHenry County, commented on the amount of salt that has been used in the past couple of weeks due to the extreme weather the region experienced. Scott requested the group take photos of the “excess” salt on commercial properties and send them to him.

The sensible salting library exhibit is currently in Park Ridge. If anybody would like to use the display, please reach out to Scott to make arrangements. Pete asked that the Oswego Public Library be added to the list. Pete also asked Scott to provide pricing for purchasing an additional exhibit so Pete could take it to the Executive Committee for consideration.

CMAQ (Update): Kelsey (CMAQ) reported that they are also working on the update for the Water Demand Forecast. Once it’s ready it could be incorporated into the sustainability plan.

IISG (Update): Margaret (IISG) encouraged communities and consultants in Kane County to submit for water conservation technical assistance program grants (<https://conservewaterforkane.org/>). The only commitment is staff time, but it is a great opportunity to start working on the various strategies. The program also is planning to implement a countywide water conservation rebate program.

ISAWWA (Update): Jeff (EEI) reported that the Spring Regulatory Update will be held on Thursday, March 6th from 1 PM – 4 PM in Springfield. ISAWWA is working on putting together a reception with legislators after the technical session. WATERCON2024 is moving to April and will be located in Peoria.

ISWS (Update): Walt (ISWS) commented on the Will County meeting regarding the Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study. It would appear they are getting closer to funding the study.

Dean stated he had heard some shallow domestic wells have gone dry on the eastern side of the Des Plaines River in the Joliet/Romeoville area. ISWS stated they receive sporadic information on well issues but had not specifically heard about that area. The ISWS representatives reminded the group a number of the communities in that area are planning to switch to Lake Michigan water.

IDNR (Update): Wei (IDNR) stated the agency continues to work on the statewide water supply planning program. He also stated IDNR has a water resources engineer job opening for an engineer who would focus on dam removal projects throughout the state.

USGS (Update): Nothing at this time.



SGTWA (Update): Tony (SGTWA) commented that they are in the final stages of their water quality monitoring program with the ISWS. The study has found that chloride levels are continuing to increase in the shallow aquifer, albeit at a slower rate, and that sensible salting efforts could continue to stabilize chloride levels. They have also found water levels are decreasing in some wells. They plan to continue to monitor water levels.

Other Business:

Pete (MWCOG/EEI) commented on the proposed Title 35 revisions for fire hydrant lead length and water main dead-end provisions that focus on improving water quality. The group continues to work with the IEPA on the language. The group will be notified once it progresses further in the legislative process.

Jeff commented on:

- In December, IEPA worked their proposed Title 35 Part 662 and 663 regulations through JCAR. The proposed regulations increase state revolving fund (SRF) loan terms from 20 to 30 years. The revised regulations also changed the definition of disadvantaged communities so more communities will be eligible for principal forgiveness loans for LSLR projects. The regulations also allow 0% interest loans for LSLRs.
- The EPA continues to work through the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) proposed regulation development process. The IEPA has stated its desire to enact the LCRI by October of this year.

The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2024, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, EEI