



## Technical Advisory Committee Via Zoom

February 24, 2026

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, EEI/MWCOG; Devin Mannix, ISWS; Gary Clark, Retired ISWS; Jeremy Moss, Village of Montgomery; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Haider Mehdi, IISG; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Zhenxing Zhang, ISWS; Joe Munder, City of Aurora; Kate Evasic, CMAP; Luz Payan, IDNR; Natalie Karney, Retired Village of South Barrington; Wei Han, IDNR; Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva; Terra McParland, IDNR; Jerry Elliott, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority (SGTWA); Dan Statkus, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority (SGTWA); Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Jeff Humm, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority (SGTWA); Amy Gahala, USGS; Daniel Horvath, Resource Consulting; Mary McCann, Retired McHenry County; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County; Angie Smith, EEI

Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

**Approval of January Meeting Minutes:** Joe Munder (City of Aurora) moved to approve the minutes. Jerry Elliott (SGTWA) seconded. Minutes approved.

**Presentation: “Conserve Water for Kane: Saving Water Indoors Workshop Technical Slides”:** Haider Mehdi (IISG) presented this information to the group. The presentation can be found on NWPA’s website under Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Materials. The full launch of the in-person workshops will be during Fix a Leak week (March 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Presentation: “Collaborating with Water Utilities and Local Governments Summary: Key Outcomes and Regional Implications”:** Haider Mehdi (IISG) presented this information to the group. The presentation can be found on NWPA’s website under Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Materials. Here’s a link to the website to register for future workshops: <https://cmap.illinois.gov/focus-areas/climate/water/water-supply-workshops/>

**Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update):** Scott Kuykendall (McHenry County) noted that they will be discussing the findings from the chloride watch programs and he should be able to talk about that at the next TAC meeting.

**CMAP (Update):** Kate Evasic (IISG) mentioned the various workshops that are being hosted by CMAP and encouraged folks to register and attend: <https://cmap.illinois.gov/focus-areas/climate/water/water-supply-workshops/>.

**IISG (Update):** Margaret Schneeman (IISG) reported no updates.

**ISAWWA (Update):** No update.



**ISWS (Update):** Devin Mannix (ISWS) stated they have started working on the NE IL information in the Water Vista program.

**IDNR (Update):** Wei Han (IDNR-OWR) provided Legislation updates. He has seen quite a few proposals on groundwater withdrawal and data center water use.

- **SB4004** – Creates the Data Center Water Transparency and Aquifer Protection Act. Provides that, beginning January 1, 2027, no data center operating within the State shall use water from the Mahomet Aquifer. Prohibits State agencies from issuing or renewing a permit authorizing a data center to withdraw groundwater from the Mahomet Aquifer. Requires existing data centers to transition to alternative water sources and cease all groundwater withdrawals from the Mahomet Aquifer by no later than January 1, 2028.
- **SB3761** – amends the IL Power Agency Act. Establishes the data center self-direct program to allow for customers taking service under the data center tariff to receive a reduction in the charges collected for the procurement of renewable energy resources.
- **SB3162** – amends the IL Groundwater Protection Act to direct the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Groundwater to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 2028. Also amends the current Water Use Act of 1983, adding a new section 5.4, Department of Agriculture shall consider groundwater quantities in their procedures.

We know they may not all become the law, but there could be something coming in the near future.

**USGS (Update):** Amy Gahala (USGS) stated they have been working with Scott Kuykendall on one well that has ongoing decreases and has been brought forward to the community. The community's question was what authority does USGS or McHenry County have to do something about it. It allowed them to dive deeper into the well monitoring network data that they have gathered over the years. Scott Kuykendall (McHenry County) stated that it is a municipality that is growing very quickly, and their water levels are starting to decline, and it is unsustainable. It is driving them to rapidly pursue new wells down into the deep bedrock. Seeing more communities that must find alternative water sources because their growth is unsustainable. The county just signed its next three-year contract with USGS to continue the well monitoring network.

**SGTWA (Update):** Jerry Elliott (SGTWA) introduced Dan Statkus, who will be joining the SGTWA. Bringing Dan on board allows the SGTWA to start some public outreach for the Blackberry Creek Watershed. Jerry further reported that the head levels are down about 6 inches from a year ago. He is not concerned about the change. Today, the Blackberry Creek is flowing at 7,436 GPM. Comparing this reading to previous years, it shows a flow decline of 50% or more, which is causing some concerns.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Pending legislation:** Previously stated above. Pete Wallers (EEI/MWCOG) there is a lot going on, so we will continue to monitor these bills.



**Other Business:**

Scott Kuykendall (McHenry County) would like to see the group start to collectively look into data center water use as it relates to direct and indirect use. Pete Wallers (EEI/MWCOG) is going to have to seek some outside help from others to gain some industry insight. We will work on trying to line up some speakers for a future meeting.

Scott stated that he gave a presentation at the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus with Jenna Shelton from ISWS and Michele Piotrowski from EEI in early February on this topic. The other concern is the advanced systems they are using dielectric fluids that are PFAS-based. No Federal or State standards are protecting us, so it's up to the local governments to ask the right questions.

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2026, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

Submitted by Angie Smith, EEI