



## Technical Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

May 28, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, MWCOG/EEI; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Amy Gahala, USGS; Tony Speciale, Retired Village of Sugar Grove/Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Bob Leible, City of Aurora; Brad Merkel, Village of Sugar Grove; Cary McElhinney, USEPA; Cecilia Cullen, ISWS; Daniel Hadley, ISWS; Dean Farr, Illinois Walton Izzak; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Devin Mannix, ISWS; Eddie Ramos, City of West Chicago; Jeff Babich, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Jerry Elliott, Sugar Grove Township Water Authority; Jeff Walter, Village of Elburn; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Joe Munder, City of Aurora; Judith Thomas, USGS; Kali Spain, ISAWWA; Katie Piotrowska, CMAP; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Kevin Fecske, Village of Barrington; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Mary McCann, Retired McHenry County; Mike Pubentz, City of Elgin; Natalie Karney, Retired Village of South Barrington/BACOG; Sarah Zack, IISG; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Walt Kelly, Retired ISWS; Wei Han, IDNR; Wes Cattoor, IDNR; Angie Smith, EEI

Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

**Agenda Changes and Announcements:** Nothing at this time.

**Approval of April Meeting Minutes:** Joe (Aurora) made a motion to approve. Tony (SG Water Authority) seconded. Minutes approved.

**Presentation: "PFAS: The Problem, The Response and What Happens Next":** Sarah (IISG) presented this topic to the group. PFAS is very widespread and can cause several health concerns which does include cancer. This could be why PFAS has become a hot topic with the Biden Administration through their Moonshot Cancer program. There have been some rapid changes over the past 5-6 years regarding PFAS monitoring. As of 2021, Illinois has really stepped up its PFAS tracking and monitoring. The most recent map as of March 2024 can be found here:

[https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas\\_contamination/map/](https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas_contamination/map/)

[www.saferstates.org/priorities/pfas/](http://www.saferstates.org/priorities/pfas/) shows the progress of guidance that has been produced.

In 2021, the strategic roadmap was released. Trump's administration was following the roadmap and then Biden's administration has amped things up a bit with the EPA's commitment to action.

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024>

USEPA Drinking Water Final Rule issued April 2024 includes the following compounds and final MCLGs



Compound	Final MCLG	Final MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

The EPA has estimated that between 6-7,000 will have to deal with removing PFAS in some way.

• **How will it function?**

- Regulated public water systems have 3 years to complete initial monitoring
  - Results must be included in their Annual Water Quality reports to customers.
- Systems that have PFAS above the MCL have 5 years to implement solutions to reduce PFAS.
  - Public must be notified if levels exceed MCL
  - Recommended solutions: GAC, RO, and ion exchange but no required way
    - May require closing contaminated wells or finding new source

It was noted that Cape Fear, NC is using GAC successfully to clean up their drinking water.

There is a considerable amount of funding available for this now.



- What about funding?
  - 1B available for small, disadvantaged, rural communities through grant program for initial testing
    - For public water systems and private well owners
    - Part of 9B set aside to address PFAS contamination in drinking water
  - 12B available for general drinking water improvements
  - Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act low-cost loan program also can be used to address PFAS

Questions/comments from the group included the following:

A fire in Rockford had firefighters that used their legacy material and it had PFAS in it and most of the remnants ended up in the Rock River. Firefighters are at high risk not only with foam with PFAS, but their clothing also contains PFAS.

Firefighting foam collection happening in neighboring States: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/63701>

Lake Michigan and its fish do have PFAS contamination in it. It does tend to concentrate at times near shore where industries are located.

Lithium is considered a contaminant. Solar panels contain lithium and those are becoming an issue as well regarding disposal.

Presentation: ***"Kane County Shallow Groundwater Quality 2023: A Twenty-Year Retrospective"***: Ceclia (ISWS) presented this information to the group. The presentation will focus on chloride, arsenic, and sulfite findings from the Shallow Groundwater Water Quality in Kane County.

The previous reports are available on the ISWS website: 2003 - <https://www.isws.illinois.edu/pubdoc/IEM/ISWSIEM2005-01.pdf> and 2015: <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/items/93365>

In preparing for the 2023 report, a similar approach was taken: they were able to resample as many of the past wells as possible to establish a basis of comparison; improve coverage of the shallow aquifer in central Kane County, where land use changes are mostly happening; inclusion of six monitoring wells.

75 samples were collected in total; they were distributed into thirds of the county: west, east, and central. Over half of the sites were sampled in 2003 and 2015. Six of the new sites sampled were monitoring wells, two in each third of the county and 71 of them were untreated samples.

Arsenic is the most impactful and elusive constituent to understand. Most of the wells with arsenic are above USEPA Primary Standard and had geochemical conditions consistent with low-energy geochemical environments. All well owners that have high arsenic will be notified and encouraged to test their treated water to ensure their home treatment systems are effective. All of these wells are private domestic wells or monitoring wells.

Sulfate concentrations are higher in eastern Kane County and it seems that most of this is naturally derived.

Chlorides show an increase in central Kane County. Sensible salting efforts have been in place since the early 2000s in eastern Kane County. Another option could just be milder winters.

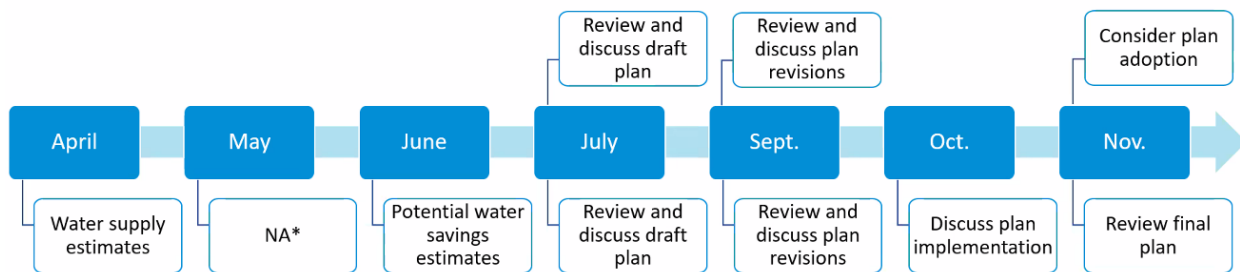
ISWS is looking to wrap up the report in late July/early August.

Scott (McHenry County) mentioned that when they did their sampling they noticed it was after a higher perception pattern. This could also affect the sensible salting results as well.

**Presentation: “NWPA WSSP 2024 Progress and Roadmap”:** Kelsey (CMAP) presented this topic to the group. Reminded the group of the objectives: establish water supply sustainability goals; provide a menu of water conservation strategies and best practices; increase awareness of priority strategies and resources; encourage communities to create their own water conservation plans.

# NWPA Water Supply Sustainability Plan 2024 Timeline

## Executive Committee meetings (top)



## Technical Advisory Committee meetings (bottom)

\* Project team to calculate combined potential water savings estimates

**Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update):** Scott (McHenry County) no updates today.

**CMAP (Update):** Kelsey (CMAP) reported there are no updates at this time.



**IISG (Update):** Margaret (IISG) gave an update on the Kane County rebate program; still working through set-up.

**ISAWWA (Update):** Kali (ISAWWA) commented on the ISAWWA training coming up and a No Water No Beer (NWNB) in June and ACE in California.

**ISWS (Update):** Daniel (ISWS) continuing through the Kane County Water Quality project. Devin (ISWS) no updates on water supply planning.

**IDNR (Update):** Wei (ISWS) / Wes (ISWS) question on whether there would be a gap in the funding, we intend to not have a gap. Water is going to be high on the Fox River. Carpentersville will get an awarded contract on the damn removal – late June/July timeframe.

**USGS (Update):** Amy (USGS) no updates. Judith (USGS) no updates.

**SGTWA (Update):** Tony (SGTWA) reported that they have seen some increase in water usage in the Township and currently looking into it.

**Other Business:** Jeff (EEI) mentioned the CCR was finalized last week. The biggest change will be CCRs twice a year starting in 2027 for a population over 10,000.

The next meeting will be held on June 25, 2024, via Zoom. It was noted that there will be one more in-person meeting later this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

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