



## Technical Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

July 23, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Jeff Freeman, EEI/MWCOG; Dean Farr, Illinois Walton Izzak; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Clarie Dillon, CMAP; Devin Mannix, ISWS; Amy Gahala, USGS; Ann Grooms, City of Joliet; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Joe Munder, City of Aurora; Jeff Babich, Sugar Grove Water Authority; Kali Spain, ISAWWA; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Wei Han, IDNR; Haider Medhi, CMAP; Brad Merkel, Village of Sugar Grove; Cecilia Cullen, ISWS; Cary McElhinney, USEPA Water Sense; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Jerry Glogowski, Village of Algonquin/EC Member; Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva; Victor Schultz, USEPA; Eddie Ramos, City of West Chicago; Natalie Karney, Retired Village of South Barrington/BACOG; Don Jensen, City of Highland Park; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Angie Smith, EEI.

Jeff Freeman called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

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

**Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** Derek (DeKalb County) made a motion to approve. Joe (City of Aurora) seconded. Minutes approved.

**Presentation: “Creating a roadmap to decarbonize the water sector through US EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program”:** Kelsey (CMAP) presented this topic to the group. She gave an overview of the program as it relates to water and wastewater. The State was awarded \$430 million for implementation of the plan. The goal of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. The focus will be on the communities with the most impact. The plan is due to USEPA by July 28, 2025.

The GHG emissions by sector are buildings at 39.5%, industries at 34.1%, transportation at 23.7% and other at 2.7%. Within the other portion, 56% is agriculture, 24% is water systems and 20% is wastewater systems. CMAP estimates in 2019 Cook County generated 54% of the water supply and distribution emissions (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e) within the CMAP region.

The national goals are to reduce GHG emissions 50-52% relative to 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050 (Executive Order 14008: Protection public health and the environment and restoring science to tackle the climate crisis)

Some approaches for decarbonizing the water and wastewater sector include: energy efficiency; cleaner energy; demand management; land use and development.



Kelsey asked the group: What are the greatest water decarbonization opportunities within the region? Jeff (EEI/MWCOG) stated he believes demand management and water conservation.

There was a discussion on how much natural gas is used for water pumping and treatment. Joe (Aurora) stated most water treatment plants (WTPs) utilize electricity for powering their equipment and heating the facilities. Natural gas is only typically used on backup power generators. He stated utilities need to pump more when there is more demand and pump less when there is no demand. He suggested focusing on water conservation to help reduce the amount of pumping and reduce electricity needs.

Bob (Geneva) asked if the group felt there would be an increased amount of energy needed to treat PFAS in the area? Joe (Aurora) stated it depends on the treatment process that is selected. Kelsey (CMAP) will keep this item in mind as information is compiled.

Scott (McHenry County) stated one of the graphs showed McHenry County as one of the highest per capita GHG emitters, but questioned whether private well owners were factored into the calculation. Kelsey (CMAP) stated she will look into the data set. Scott believes that WWTPs are well suited for decarbonization.

Don (Highland Park) shared the following information with the group: This 2018 AWWA initiative may be of interest. Looked at time of day energy use impact on carbon emission (base load vs solar & wind generation): <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-great-lakes-water-utility-energy-challenge-announces-its-winners-300654878.html> another technology he is looking at are hydro turbines. One of the Chicago suburbs is doing this – Oak Lawn.

The other part of this process includes implementation levers. Currently looking at planning and regulatory policies; R&D, demonstration, deployment; carbon pricing; financial incentives; outreach and education; and supporting public investment.

Jerry (Algonquin) asked whether the Supreme Court decision related to Chevron would affect the ability to implement the actions that are being proposed. Kelsey (CMAP) doesn't think it will affect us because it's only related to the Chicago Metropolitan area (regional and local level). Jeff (EEI/MWCOG) noted that financial incentives can spur movement or behavioral change by people.

Presentation: ***"A Decade of Insights into Illinois' Water-Energy Nexus"***: Margaret (IISG) and Don (Highland Park) presented this information to the group.

The survey is still open: [www.isawwa.org/page/energynexus2020](http://www.isawwa.org/page/energynexus2020)

Looked at energy intensity, water loss and energy costs as well. The electricity market in Illinois is deregulated meaning that people can choose who their electrical provider is. Carey (USEPA) shared that



there are also tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act available to utilities: <https://energynews.us/2024/06/14/federal-climate-funds-to-help-ohio-cities-slash-emissions-from-wastewater-operations/>

Water lost is lost energy. Utilities spend money and resources to pump and treat water that is essentially “lost” in the distribution system. Highland Park is currently at 20% water loss right now. In 2015 IDNR changed to NRW and it had significant ramifications on water systems.

Help for water utilities:

- ComEd offers a free facility assessment = <https://comed2.my.salesforce-sites.com/ComEdFacilityAssessment/> WWTPs: <https://www.comed.com/ways-to-save/for-your-business/resource-center/fact-sheets/wastewater-treatment-plants>
- SEDAC – Smart Energy Design Assistance Center: [www.smartenergy.illinois.edu/water/](http://www.smartenergy.illinois.edu/water/)

Don suggested that if their group were to do the survey again, they would minimize the questions to respect time and see if a better response would be received in order to get benchmarking information for the whole State.

Couple announcements from USEPA: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/climate-resilience-training-water-sector-utilities-northeast-illinois-neighboring> and <https://www.epa.gov/crwu/forms/climate-change-risk-assessment-technical-assistance-water-sector-utilities>

Recent SEDAC case study: <https://smartenergy.illinois.edu/case-study-no-cost-and-low-cost-measures-to-improve-energy-efficiency-at-wwtps/>

**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) reported there are no updates at this time.

**ISAWWA (Update):** Kali (ISAWWA) reported that the softball slam is September 14<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to participate please reach out to her.

**ISWS (Update):** Devin (ISWS) is continuing conversations on water reuse. He will be meeting with Three Rivers Manufacturing Group and the Will County Stormwater Management Committee. He also saw HB2036 has passed both houses and was sent to the Governor. It will start the path toward developing rules for water reuse in the State of Illinois.

**IDNR (Update):** Wei (IDNR) no updates at this time.

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



**SGTWA (Update):** no updates at this time.

**Other Business:** Nothing at this time.

Jeff mentioned that IEMA finalized Part 32, Section 622 rule modifications for water treatment residuals related to radium.

Scott reported that they will be holding the Water Forum again this year and it will be focused on stormwater. Trent Ford will be attending/presenting. The SESC inspector for McHenry County will be attending as well. It will be held on Wed., Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 8 PM at the McHenry County College Auditorium.

The next meeting will be held on September 24, 2024, via Zoom. There will not be a meeting in August. It was noted that there will be one more in-person meeting later this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

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