NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

Technical Advisory Committee
Via Zoom

July 28, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jeff Freeman, EEI/MWCOG; Gary Clark, retired ISWS; Dana Kolpin, USGS; DJ Statkus, SGWTA; Dean Farr, Izak Walton League; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Natalie Karney, BACOG; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Amy Gahala, USGS; Walt Kelly, Retired ISWS; Wei Han, IDNR; Kate Evasic, CMAP; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Brad Merkel, Village of Sugar Grove; Austin McFarlane, Lake County; Sarra Hinshaw, Kane County; Haider Mehdi, IISG; Carey McElhinney, USEPA; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Devin Mannix, ISWS; Zhenxing Zhang, ISWS; Jeff Humm, SGTWA; Mike Pubentz, City of Elgin; Angie Smith, EEI

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

Welcome and Introductions

Agenda Changes or Announcements: None

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Scott Kuykendall (McHenry County) moved to approve the minutes. Wei Han (IDNR) seconded. Minutes approved.

Presentation: ***"Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago":*** Kelsey Pudlock (CMAP) presented this information to the group. The presentation can be found on NWPA's website under Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Materials. The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago: https://cmap.illinois.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026-climate-action-plan.pdf

Presentation: ***"PFAS and Agriculture: Research by the USGS Food Resources Lifecycle Integrated Science Team":*** Dana Kolpin (USGS) presented this information to the group. The presentation can be found on NWPA's website under Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Materials.

Cary McElhinney (USEPA) shared that the draft guidance reducing risk for PFAS is currently open for public comment. It can be reviewed here: https://www.epa.gov/biosolids/draft-guidance-reducing-risk-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctane-sulfonic

In addition, the proposal for the next UCMR includes TFA and pesticides: https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/proposed-sixth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule

Library Exhibit Subcommittee (Update): Haider Mehdi (IISG) gave a brief update to the group. The first draft panel was shared with the group, and feedback was given. Items are on track with our current timeline for a November launch event.

CMAP (Update): Kate Evasic (CMAP) no updates to report.

IISG (Update): Margaret Schneemann (IISG) reported on the Shared Waters, Shared Future workshops they are hosting. The next one is scheduled for September 10th and will be focused on high-capacity well impact review processes: https://cmap.illinois.gov/event/modernizing-illinois-well-impact-review-process/

ISAWWA (Update): Jeff Freeman (EEI/MWCOG) mentioned the Water Works 360 event coming up at the end of August in Glen Ellyn. https://www.isawwa.org/page/waterworks360

ISWS (Update): Devin Mannix (ISWS) no updates to report. Zhenxing Zhang (ISWS) stated that ISWS is working with DuPage County on the East and West Branches of the DuPage River related to water quality.

IDNR (Update): Wei Han (IDNR) stated the Illinois State Fair is coming up in two weeks in Springfield.

Dean Farr (Izzak Walton League) stated that he attended the FRSG meeting and reported a big algae problem in the Fox River at the Stratton Dam in McHenry County; IEPA came out to take samples.

USGS (Update): Amy Gahala (USGS) reported that they are hiring hydrological technicians. USAJOBS - Job Announcement

SGTWA (Update): DJ Statakus (SGTWA) reported they are still in a transition phase within the SGTWA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pending legislation: Jeff Freeman (EEI/MWCOG) nothing to report at this time.

Other Business:

Scott Kuykendall (McHenry County) shared the information for the upcoming 9th Annual McHenry County Water Forum that is scheduled for 9/16/26 from 5:30 to 8 PM at McHenry County College. This year's theme is *"Water Sustainability"*. Speakers include Dan Hadley (shallow groundwater) and Vlad Iordache (deep groundwater) from the Illinois State Water Survey. For more information, visit www.mchenryH2O.com

The next meeting will be held on September 22, 2026, via Zoom. Reminder: there is no meeting in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.

Submitted by Angie Smith, EEI