



## Technical Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

September 24, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, EEI/MWCOG, Jeff Freeman, EEI; Gary Clark, Retired IEPA; Amy Gahala, USGS; Aspen Walters, CMAP; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Brad Merkel, Village of Sugar Grove; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Dean Farr, Illinois Walton Izzak; Clarie Dillon, CMAP; Dan Hadley, ISWS; Devin Mannix, ISWS; Kali Spain, ISAWWA; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Walt Kely, Retired ISWS; Wei Han, IDNR; Cary McElhinney, USEPA Water Sense; Cecilia Cullen, ISWS; Eddie Ramos, City of West Chicago; Don Jensen, City of Highland Park; Haider Mehdi, CMAP; Katie Piotrowska, CMAP; Jeff Babich, Sugar Grove Water Authority; Angie Smith, EEI.

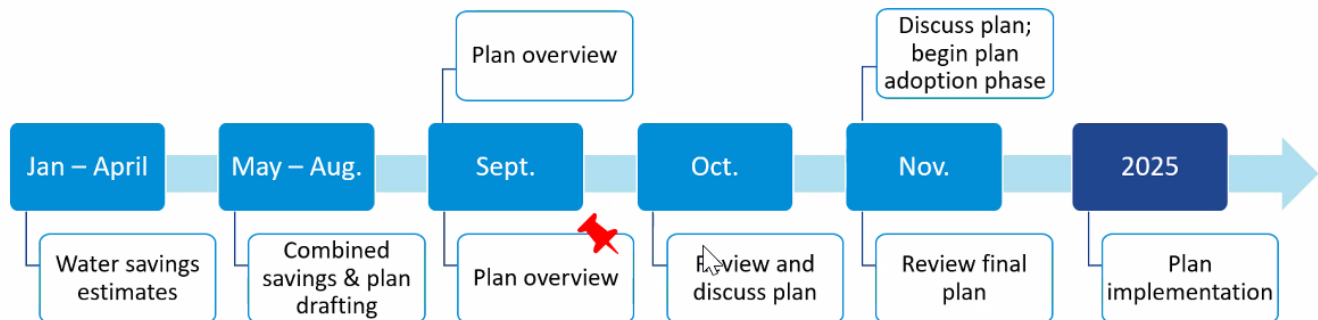
Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

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

**Approval of July Meeting Minutes:** Scott (McHenry County) moved to approve the minutes with a clarification on his statement that wastewater treatment plants are well suited for decarbonization. Jeff (EEI) seconded. Minutes approved.

**Presentation: "Overview of the NWPA Water Supply Sustainability Plan: Initial Feedback and Discussion":** Kelsey (CMAP) presented this topic to the group. She shared the timeline for the WSSP development.

#### Executive Committee meetings (top)



#### Technical Advisory Committee meetings (bottom)

Kelsey reviewed the plan objectives with the group which are to establish water supply sustainability goals (deep groundwater, shallow groundwater, Fox River, Lake Michigan); provide a menu of water conservation strategies



and best practices to manage peak demand and save on capital costs; increase awareness of priority strategies and resources; and encourage communities to create their own water conservation plans.

The plan itself will have six chapters breaking it down as follows: 1. Introduction, 2. NWPA region, 3. Call to action, 4. Framework for achieving sustainable supply, 5. Water conservation strategies and estimated savings, 6. Appendix

The ISWS estimates the sustainable supply from all water sources in the NWPA 5-county region is 203.8 MGD. The 2050 total demand is estimated to be 212 MGD for the region. However, it should be noted the projections do not consider water quality challenges that may exist amongst the sources. It will be important for each community to review its local demands and constraints as they will differ throughout the region. This also further establishes the need for each community to do its own water sustainability plan.

Kelsey posed specific questions for the group:

How effective is the framing around supply/demand?

Pete (EEI/MWCOG) stated that project goals should include that each community or water supplier do their own water sustainability analysis using Joliet as a prime example.

Scott (McHenry County) stated everything looks very good; Scott asked if future demands include any increase in irrigation for agricultural use. Kelsey (CMAP) responded that it does not include any increase. The irrigation demands have been held constant. Scott noted that he believes there will be an increase in center pivot irrigation due to climate change and expects an increase in flash droughts to occur. Dan (ISWS) stated that he hasn't done any updates to the center pivot irrigation data. At best, they are being mapped and they are encouraging irrigators to report their water use. There is no formal study or analysis on what the future center pivot irrigation numbers will be. Dan will try to follow up with the Department of Agriculture to see if anyone there is tracking this information. Scott suggested addressing it in narrative form in the report and that the report should also state that better reporting is needed.

Scott also stated one of the big challenges is the center pivot systems typically do not measure the water that is being pumped from the wells and passed through them. Perhaps a cost-share program for meter installation could be a solution for that. Explaining the benefits to the farmer may get them to want to install a meter on their well. Dan stated it likely will be a challenge to improve data availability unless there is stricter regulation for reporting or there is funding for gathering this type of information. Dan suggested utilizing other studies that have projected this type of information. He is aware of a USGS study that could be referenced.

Dean Farr (Illinois Walton Izzak) stated that there is new technology out there that can reduce the amount of water irrigation that is being used. There are cost share dollars to do this. The problem is the technical support is short. Scott stated he is trying to get a better understanding of what can get done. He is supportive of incorporating the request into the Farm Bill in 2050. If there are funding streams that can be referenced, then



perhaps those can be identified in the plan. Dean stated the IL state budget cut the soil and water conservation funding in half. The plan should mention restoring soil and water conservation funding.

Walt (retired ISWS) suggested inviting Steve Wilson to speak to the group. Steve has thought about this topic quite a bit. Pete also stated that he knows IDNR is starting to work on some changes to the Water Use Act of 1983, but he is unsure if these areas will be addressed in the revisions. Wei (IDNR) stated the goal would be that the Amendment of the 1983 Water Use Act will address agriculture water use reporting statewide. However, there is a lot of push back from the Department of Agriculture currently. The next step will be to make a recommendation to the Governor what the IDNR can do. At some point, we will need input and involvement. Kelsey stated she would pass this conversation on to the water conservation forecast team at CMAP as well.

Scott also suggested emphasizing pollution prevention, especially for the sand and gravel aquifer. It is very real in the Union and Marengo area. Kelsey confirmed it will be touched on in a couple of different ways in the plan.

Amy (USGS) asked if there was a different way to characterize the water conservation savings to the general public since they do not understand MGD terminology. Could it be translated to something that they would understand better such as dollars saved or a visual that could be shown of gallons of water saved? Kelsey stated the residential retrofits can be summarized in the number of toilet flushes saved.

Kelsey asked if there are other strategies that can be highlighted in the "Other Relevant Strategies" section. Some suggestions are water pricing with reference to tools for revenue recovery, pollution prevention, and water reuse (<https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB3046/2023>). Wei suggested including drought issues and incorporating the topic into water conservation strategies.

It was determined water pricing, drought planning, water reuse, and pollution prevention will be included.

Kelsey stated she will be sending out another survey to the group prior to the in person meeting in October. It will be sent out through Pete Wallers.

The next steps are:

- CMAP and IISG to provide a full copy of the draft plan for review and a corresponding survey to provide feedback before the October TAC meeting
- October TAC meeting – Share survey feedback; solicit additional input
- November Executive Committee meeting – Begin plan adoption consideration
- Winter 2025 – Plan adoption and implementation

**Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update):** Scott (McHenry County) if people have programs or events that they are helping to organize and would like to address sensible salting as part of the program please reach out.



Scott stated he is giving a presentation to DuPage County on MS4 permits and Sensible Salting on 11/7/24. He also is giving the Sensible Salting presentation to the McHenry County Board on 9/25/24. The Conservation Foundation is putting together a Chloride Watchers program. They will train volunteers on what needs to be done. They will be hosting a program at McHenry County on 9/30/24.

**CMAP (Update):** Kelsey (CMAP) reported there are no updates at this time. It was noted that the Chloride Watchers program was included in the latest newsletter.

**IISG (Update):** Margaret (IISG) reported that they are working on the website for Kane County Conserve. They will be working on the toilet rebate, which could be the first County wide program. Another water rate study update should be finalized this Fall.

**ISAWWA (Update):** Kali (ISAWWA) reported WATERCON abstracts are due on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ISWS (Update):** Dan (ISWS) stated there was a carbon dioxide leak at the ADM plant in Decatur. They are working with ISGS to understand the effects of this. It does not seem to have had an immediate impact on drinking water supplies. There is a carbon capture and underground storage group. They will share the information with the group.

ISWS is in the early stages of negotiating the next water supply planning contract with IDNR. They are discussing renewing the IL River Basin project with USGS. The new Cook County water supply planning group project has begun. The Kane County shallow groundwater sustainability group will be meeting in October. ISWS presented at IML last week on HTM mapping in Illinois. Boone County is moving forward with HTM mapping for shallow wells. Scott (McHenry County) stated there is hope with Boone County approving their own money since it will be contiguous with McHenry County that it can be used with State Legislators for moving forward. There's a link on their website for the three-dimensional mapping.

Devin (ISWS) is continuing conversations on water reuse. He will be meeting with the 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) reported that they are working with CMAP to continue water supply planning for next year. They are making progress on the agreement. The goal is to start the new agreement by January 2025. The new agreement will focus on the implementation of the WSSP. Wei stated he also is working with ISWS to continue the scientific effort of the water supply program. He is reviewing their draft proposal now. He is hoping it will be executed before the current contract expires.

**USGS (Update):** Amy (USGS) stated there was an algae bloom on the IL River and that the USGS went out on 9/10 and 9/11 to get samples. There has not been one on the IL River in the area since 2021. It seems like they are triggered by warm weather and warm water temps combined with dry periods.

**SGTWA (Update):** Jeff (SGTWA) nothing at this time.



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

Jeff (EEI) mentioned that the LCRR compliance date is October 16, 2024. There are big changes with regard to sampling. There's also a trigger level that has been added.

Jeff also stated IEMA has issued a guidance document for the Part 32, Section 622 rule modifications for water treatment residuals related to radium. Rodney Pitchford will be covering this information at the ISAWWA Regulatory Update on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting will be held on October 22, 2024, in person at Elgin Centre.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

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