**Technical Advisory Committee**

**Zoom Meeting**

**October 26, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Peter Wallers, MWCOG/EEI; Nora Beck, CMAP; Judith Thomas, USGS; Kevin Fescke, Village of Barrington; Chris Lemke, Village of Sugar Grove; Jerry Elliott, SGTWA; Natalie Karney, Village of South Barrington; Bob Leible, City of Aurora; Derek Hiland, DeKalb County; Devin Mannix, ISWS; Gary Clark, Retired IDNR; Jeff Babich, SGTWA; Dan Hadley, ISWS; Daniel Abrams, ISWS; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Annie Storey, ISAWWA; Cecilia Cullen, ISWS; Justin Keller, MPC; Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP; Kimberly Saunders, BACOG; Amy Gahala, USGS; Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County; Allen Wehrmann, Intera; Mary McCann, McHenry County Board; Nora Beck, CMAP; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Wes Cattoor, IEPA; Katie Piotrowska, CMAP; Margaret Schneemann, IISG; Dan Nagle, SGTWA; Angie Smith, EEI

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

**Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions:** Pete (MWCOG/EEI) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Agenda Changes and Announcements:** Pete (MWCOG/EEI) stated no changes at this time.

**Approval of September Meeting Minutes:** Natalie (South Barrington) made a motion to approve. Nora (CMAP) seconded. Minutes approved.

**General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area:** Pete (MWCOG) opened the group for discussion. Bob (Aurora) reported that the river is back-up now due to all the rain we just received.

**Presentation: *“Groundwater Level Monitoring McHenry County Illinois – Value of Long-Term Data”***: Judith (USGS) went through the updated user interface; intent of the USGS National Water Dashboard would become a one stop shop with a single platform instead of multiple ones. USGS Groundwater Watch provides a real time assessment of groundwater levels at the county level leveraging the long-term monitoring data. This data set is different than the dataset that is used for NWIS.

**Presentation: *“Updating the Groundwater Drought Vulnerability Analysis Presentation”* :** Nora (CMAP) gave a background on how this project came about. Kelsey from CMAP gave some background on the State’s Drought Preparedness and Response Plan in 2011. It was focused on groundwater source and well depth and location, not specific facility constraints. Identified community water supply wells at higher risk of drought based on ISWS methodology. Goal and objectives – run an analysis that identifies communities in Chicago region whose drinking water systems are more susceptible to drought conditions if/when they occur.

CMAP deliverables – map of region and downloaded data files that identify municipalities that are more susceptible to drought conditions. Compilation of strategies and links to further resources that encourage water conservation and drought planning.

Discussion – given the goal of encouraging water conservation and drought planning: Will this analysis build greater awareness about drought? Are there additional factors we should consider (i.e., agriculture, endangered species)? Would it be helpful to see vulnerability on a spectrum? (i.e., color coded: red = higher vulnerability, time)

Scott (McHenry County) commented that he felt this it is very timely to start this project.

Al (Intera) one of the co-authors of the 2011 report that was mentioned. Maybe the deep aquifer communities would be okay. Pete (EEI/MWCOG) there are communities that rely on the deep aquifer that could be affected (i.e., water level drop and pump settings) in the NWPA region. It becomes very specific to each individual municipality based on their resources. Ties back to our long-range water sustainability plan.

Daniel (ISWS) shared the following link with the group: <https://www.isws.illinois.edu/groundwater-science/groundwater-monitoring-well-networks/deep-sandstone-network>

Margaret (IISG) shared the following links with the group: <https://drought.unl.edu/Planning/PlanningProcesses/PlanningandDrought.aspx>

<https://cpo.noaa.gov/Serving-Society/NIDIS/Coping-With-Drought-Initiative>

<https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/drought-response-and-recovery-water-utilities>

Daniel (ISWS) commented on the irrigation reporting that is highly estimated at this time. There have been some standards set for reporting this information.

**Sensible Salting Committee (SSC) (Update):**  Scott (McHenry County) reported that Jennifer Hammer and the Salt Smart Committee will be holding a kick-off virtual meeting on November 3rd at 10 AM. Will forward the meeting information and have it sent out to the distribution list plus any other contractors, landscaping, snowplow companies, etc.

**CMAP (Update):** Nora hope to come with new information at the beginning of the year. CMAP is at 50% capacity back to the office.

**ISAWWA (Update):** Pete (EEI/MWCOG) commented on Jeff’s interview with WTTW last night on general commentary on water supply planning: <https://news.wttw.com/2021/10/25/dixmoor-s-water-returns-village-under-boil-order>

**MPC (Update):** Justin (MPC) wrapped up the drinking water 1-2-3. Drinking Water 1-2-3 Technical Assistance

<https://www.metroplanning.org/work/project/16/subpage/7>

**ISWS (Update):** Daniel (ISWS) working through the synoptic measurements; wrapping up Lake and DuPage County right now. Starting to see interesting results, getting information on both static and pumping water levels. Will be giving a presentation at the November meeting.

The ISWS Advisory Board met yesterday; it was informational. One thing that came up was that the survey lab is having to raise their pricing based off federal requirements. ISWS did not initiate the pricing change.

**USGS (Update):** Judith (USGS) gave an update on the USGS Stakeholder meeting – November 17th 8:30 AM – 12 PM; will share the agenda with the group. Amy (USGS) will be writing about the PFAS data more in depth. The data dashboard is available right now.

**SGTWA (Update):** Jerry (SGTWA) reported that they are monitoring near his house, dropped 3 feet, but it bounced back after the rainfall. Asked if Judith could look at the stream gauge well as it seems like there’s something going on. Amy (USGS) confirmed that what you’re seeing is discharge and higher elevations and things are working as expected.

**CMAP (Update):** Nora (CMAP) reported that they are working on the water demand forecast update with IEPA.

**IDNR (Update):**  Wes (IDNR) updated the group that they are still working on the State Water Plan. The next public outreach is probably going to be in March of 2022. Could be a summer release of the final document. Working through getting more feedback.

Will be back down to low levels at Stratton within a couple of weeks. Monitor how things are looking.

**Other Business:** Pete (MWCOG/EEI) shared with the group about Tom’s request to record the meetings, so he opened the idea up to the group. Please think about it and send him a note about your preference. Also, brought up the idea of having hybrid meeting option if needed in the future.

The next meeting will be held on November 23rd, 2021 at 10 AM via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.

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