

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Annual Meeting Agenda Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
February 27, 2013

Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

9:00-9:05 Welcome, Introductory Remarks

- Dave Gorman – President, DRSCW and Assistant Director of Public Works, Village of Lombard
Dave welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. Due to a scheduling conflict with the IAWA mini-conference today, many of the DRSCW's POTW members attended a special meeting arranged for them on February 20 to discuss the budget. This was important because the majority of funding for the special assessment is proposed to come from members with a POTW. Dave reminded members to sign the attendance sheet.

9:05-10:00 Annual Business Meeting

- **Approval of the minutes for the December 5th 2011 meeting (Attachment 1)**
Sue Baert made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, seconded by John "Ole" Oldenburg, motion carried unanimously.
- **Proposed changes to bylaws (New Business).** The Board will put forth a change to make the projects committee a standing committee in YE 2014, making it part of having the adaptive management structure and financing in place.
- **Election of Officers and Members-at-Large, New Business**
 - President - Dave Gorman, Village of Lombard
 - Vice President - Sue Baert, Wheaton Sanitary District
 - Secretary-Treasurer - Antonio Quintanilla, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

 - At Large - Mitch Patterson, Village of Addison
 - At Large - Tom Richardson, Sierra Club – River Prairie Group
 - At Large - Robert Swanson, DuPage County Stormwater Management Division
 - At Large - Steve Zehner, Robinson Engineering, Inc.

Larry Cox made a motion to approve the slate of officers and Members-at-Large as presented, seconded by Mitch Patterson. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Adoption of FY 2014-18 Budget**
 - Review and approval of FY 2014-18 Budget. Draft budget summary is **Attachment 2** (detail sent out on 2.18.2013, available at [DRAFT 5-Year Budget \(FY13-14 through FY17-18\)](#) see pages 15-23 (New business)
A one-page budget summary for FY 13-14 was included in the meeting agenda packet. Larry Cox added that the detailed five year financial plan for FY 13-14 to FY 17-18 is available on the DRSCW website. The FY 13-14 budget includes a 3%

increase in member dues and projects a reduction in fund balance from \$601,715 to \$303,415 during the year. The FY 13-14 budget utilizes the same format as in previous years, but includes an additional Workgroup Grant Project Fund section that would be activated only if the Workgroup receives the funding promised by the state in lieu of Senate Bill 2081. In addition, the five-year financial plan includes a Workgroup Project Fund that would commence in 2014 at the earliest and only be activated if Illinois EPA and US EPA approve the DRSCW white paper concept. The Workgroup Project Fund would include proposed Agency member assessments, as detailed in the document and presented at the February 20, 2013 special DRSCW meeting, and local matches from project sponsors. The Executive Board recommends approval of the budget for FY 13-14 and the acceptance of the five year financial plan for FY 13-14 to FY 17-18 for informational and planning purposes only. The Executive Board does not seek approval of the proposed Agency member assessments or the inclusion of the Workgroup Project Fund at this time.

Motion was made by Steve Zehner to approve the budget for FY 13-14 as presented and to accept the five-year financial plan for FY 13-14 to FY 17-18 for information and planning purposes only; seconded by Fred Maier. Motion carried unanimously.

- Approval of membership dues for FY 2013-14. A 3% rise in member annual dues is proposed under the budget (sent out on 2.18.2013, available at [DRAFT FY13-14 Annual Dues Schedule by Agency](#)). (New Business)
Motion made by Jennifer Hammer to accept the proposed membership dues for FY 2013-2014, seconded by Sue Baert, motion passed with one abstention (John “Ole” Oldenburg).
- Discussion of special assessment, assessment methods, individual contributions and Board and staff assistance for advocacy at member agencies (see pages 9-12 of draft 5 year budget document). No vote will be required on this item, it is a planning discussion.

Jason Elias inquired about the reason for the change from discussions at prior meetings to share increased project costs among all Agency members based on the allocation of current membership dues. The current proposal allocates 100% of the assessment funding (\$900K) to POTW agency members.

Larry Cox replied that raising funds from wastewater agencies was a conceptually simpler argument to make and understand when compared to the argument to stormwater agencies. The proposed assessments can be compared to annual maintenance and operations costs at POTWs. Wastewater capital costs are not included because at some point in the future those capital costs will likely be incurred so they should not be included as a saving at this time. The proposed assessments can be compared to annual O&M cost savings realized by POTW members for delaying treatment of phosphorus to 1 mg/l during the pilot program period (see final column on page 12 of the budget packet for estimates of annual O&M costs by Agency). Stormwater agencies contributions' would increase to pay a dues-weighted

portion of the cost for 1.0 FTE, to be hired if agreement with Illinois and US EPA is reached. The cost for 1.0 FTE is estimated at approximately \$75K a year (2013 dollars).

Jason asked about the conditions for activating this plan. Larry Cox stated that the initial plan to fund priority projects will be revisited at the next annual meeting and that none of the increases set out under the proposed assessments would take effect unless approval for the watershed initiative was received from the regulatory agencies.

Larry also noted that if the DRSCW's proposal is accepted by Illinois and US EPA the DRSCW would also need matching funds for the projects. The assessments (\$900K) are only part of the \$1.5M annual funding proposal. We will still need agencies to provide that local match and to work on conceiving, advocating for, designing, managing and constructing projects.

The assessments will be instituted only if approval is received with the regulatory agencies so no vote will be taken today; the funding structure is provided for planning purposes only. If we receive approval, we would like to be ready to proceed with implementation. All details can be found in the five-year financial plan. Members can contact Larry Cox, Stephen McCracken and Dave Gorman with questions. The 5-page detailed spreadsheet for assessment calculations will be posted on the website.

Mitch Patterson asked about involving the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference. Larry Cox stated that DMMC has supported the DRSCW since its inception and that we will be requesting their endorsement contingent upon Illinois and US EPA approvals. DRSCW hopes to receive feedback from Illinois EPA before making arrangements to present the proposal to the DMMC's Governmental Planning Committee. The proposal will be revised based on feedback received.

Gary Smith, Elmhurst, stated that he would like to coordinate discussions with his board with the DRSCW's dialogue with DMMC. The DMMC meeting date will be shared with members. The DRSCW's Executive Board members can assist agency members approach their committees and boards regarding the assessment. Dave Gorman stated that the newsletter will be mailed to Mayors and Managers soon and can be used to help start conversations about the assessment.

It was asked if Resolutions of Support from agency members would be a good way to signal support for the proposal. The response from the Board was that such resolutions would be very welcome.

Illinois EPA is referring other watershed groups to us, which seems to be a positive sign for the concept.

- Approval of contact renewal with Charles Vaughn for legislative consulting services (new business). This contract would extend our current contract for one year at the cost of \$9,500. (**Attachment 3**, new business)

Larry Cox updated members on the capital funding proposal made by IEPA to DRSCW as an alternative to SB2081. David St. Pierre (Executive Director, MWRDGC) supported the DRSCW's bid for the release of these funds in a meeting with the Governor. Due to this support it seems more likely the funds will be released. Motion made by Larry Cox to approve the contract renewal, seconded by Steve Zehner, motion carried unanimously.

- Accounts Update (**Attachment 4**, old business)

- **Appointment of Committee Chairpersons by incoming President, New Business**

- Monitoring Committee Chairperson – Jennifer Hammer, The Conservation Foundation
- East Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – Larry Cox, Downers Grove Sanitary District
- West Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – John “Ole” Oldenburg, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- Salt Creek Watershed Committee Chairperson – Dennis Streicher, Sierra Club – River Prairie Group

Dave Gorman introduced the committee chairs and thanked them for their service. If anyone is interested in joining a committee please speak to the appropriate chairperson or an officer.

- **Other new business**

Elgin O'Hare Expansion update (new business USACE permit)

After reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Stephen McCracken thinks that the magnitude and impacts of the additional chloride loadings are seriously underestimated. The calculations appear to be based on questionable average summer concentrations. The project will add an estimated 90 road miles and an average of 3800 tons of chloride per year and the impacted sites are currently already over the State water quality standard during winter storms. Both the West Branch DuPage River and Salt Creek (impacted waterways under the proposal) have approved TMDLs for chloride. The DRSCW's analysis identified chloride as a priority stressor for fish and macro invertebrate diversity. Additional chloride loadings may further degrade biology and make it more difficult to improve biology.

Stephen explained that the TMDL's ask for “no net increase” in target pollutant concentrations. The DRSCW suggested that the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Tollway) revisit their current practices for salt storage, handling, and products for the benefit of all Tollway roads. The DRSCW also suggested the Tollway establish a fund to help municipalities offset loadings with financial assistance to implement chloride BMPs. The DRSCW may request that the USACE (Army Corps of Engineers) and IEPA include binding language in the project permits if they find merit in the Workgroup's arguments. The pollutants and costs will be passed on to local governments and should be dealt with

as seriously as if the pollutants were coming from a POTW. The Village of Itasca had to meet a number of requirements for their expansion permit to discharge to a 303(d) listed waterway. Stephen requested permission to submit a letter to the USACE to detail problems with the modeling and the legal issues created by the TMDL. Jim Huff stated that the Tollway plans to work with the DRSCW and will contact the DRSCW this week to formally discuss how to accomplish an offset program. In light of this, Jim proposed the DRSCW wait before issuing a letter.

John "Ole" Oldenburg disagreed and stated that if the permits are under Section 401 consideration, the letter should be issued to get comments registered. Larry Cox concurred and stated that if the Tollway is on the right track, having comments on record is a good way to remind them. Stephen stated that Illinois EPA has not yet issued a permit for public comment. Jim Huff agreed to ask the Tollway if DRSCW Chloride Committee members can attend trainings with the Iowa State experts.

Larry Cox made a motion to submit comments regarding the Elgin-O'Hare Expansion project, seconded by Gary Smith, motion carried unanimously.

A second water quality issue of concern for DRSCW members is the increase in ambient zinc concentrations. Stephen has a number of questions about the zinc modeling and will include them in the letter. A number of agency member POTWs in headwater areas have been struggling to meet zinc standards (Illinois standard is related to hardness). Steve Zehner added that that hardness has increased 15% in headwaters, according to the IEPA's information.

Jen Boyer asked whether wetland mitigation would occur in the watershed where the disturbance occurred. Stephen said FAA requirements create buffers around airports in an effort to control nuisance wildlife, which restricts habitat creation or land purchase. Jen offered to help with language to that effect in the DRSCW letter.

Coal Tar MOU (Attachment 5 list of members already signed up)
Dave Gorman stated that the DRSCW is looking for executed MOUs to convey a majority of members support the discontinued use of coal-tar based sealants. Dave pointed out that the public works MOU is worded in a manner such that Agency members may not need to go all the way up the chain of command to execute. Dave added that the action would probably not have measurable impact on sediment PAH concentrations at a watershed level but may affect PAH concentrations in receiving detention basins.

Stephen McCracken stated that having a majority of DRSCW members execute the MOU lends credibility to DRSCW's position with the IEPA and statewide environmental groups. DRSCW's position may make it easier for state wide action to occur on the subject. Dave Gorman encouraged members to lead by example and apply some peer pressure to get more members involved. Dave recently talked with a major property owner about coal-tar based sealants at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He suggested members consider reaching out to shopping centers, schools, libraries, etc. in their communities.

Update on IIT proposal for grant to establish a systems approach to nutrient management
Stephen McCracken stated that we have not had contact with IIT since the last meeting and do not know if they submitted a proposal.

Special Recognition

The Village of Hanover Park received The Conservation Foundation's 2012 "Low Salt Community Award." The decision was made after reviewing the 2012 Public Roadway Deicing Questionnaire results, which indicates deicing practices, products, training, equipment, application rate, etc. The Village of Hanover Park aggressively implemented anti-icing practices with increased use of liquids, and serves as a resource to other communities by sharing their experiences. Scott Weber, the Village of Hanover Park's Streets and Forestry Supervisor, accepted the award from Dan Lobbes, The Conservation Foundation's Director of Land Protection.

Scott thanked The Conservation Foundation for the award and reported a new initiative. The Village of Hanover Park is evaluating a new program which involves direct application of 23% salt brine with beet juice in 5 commuter lots, using no rock salt. Getting the plowed lots to bare pavement would have used 16-18 tons of rock salt. Today will provide an opportunity to evaluate the results.

• DRSCW Calendar

1. Presentation on the DRSCW White Paper at watershed symposium at WaterCon March 18th 2013 (hosted by the Illinois Section American Water Works Association & Illinois Water Environment Association)
Stephen McCracken will present information about the White Paper proposal and why it makes financial sense for communities and environmental outcomes. Dan Bounds, President Elect, Illinois Water Environment Association, thanked the Workgroup for allowing Stephen to provide this education/outreach to the conference attendees.
2. Presentation and invited panelist at the 2013 Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference in Wisconsin (hosted by Sweet Water - the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc.)
Stephen McCracken will provide a presentation "A Look at Six Dams in DuPage County" for a plenary session on April 25 in Milwaukee, WI. Sweet Water is a watershed group with a watershed permit. We may invite them to present at an upcoming Workgroup meeting.

• Workgroup meeting schedule (9:00 AM start time)

- All meetings are scheduled to occur at Lombard Village Hall beginning at 9:00 AM.
- April 24, 2013
 - June 26, 2013
 - August 28, 2013

- October 30, 2013
- December 11, 2013
- February 26, 2014 (Annual Meeting)

Meeting Presentations

1. **10:00-10:15 – IPS Tool Outputs and White Paper Recommendations.** The white paper outlines DRSCW's proposal to fund priority projects generated by the Identification and Prioritization System. The system is calibrated to maximize progress on meeting aquatic life goals. The presentation will examine the logic behind the selection process and projected outcomes. **(Stephen McCracken TCF/DRSCW)**
No questions or comments at this time.

2. **10:15-10:30 – Chloride Usage Education and Reduction Program Summary.** For the Chloride Committee, Dan Bounds will provide a summary of recent Chloride Usage Education and Reduction Program efforts. An overview of the 2012 Public Roads Deicing Workshop and Parking Lot and Sidewalk Deicing Workshop will be presented. Preliminary results of the 2012 Public Agency Deicing Program Survey will be presented. The program will conclude with tasks planned by the Chloride Committee for 2013/ 2014. **(Dan Bounds, CDM Smith)**

Jim Huff asked about the return rate of questionnaires and whether the results were incorporated at the chloride reduction workshops. Dan Bounds stated that 80 questionnaires are sent and 33 communities responded and that it was possible that it may be that the more progressive communities respond. However the questionnaire responses would indicate that procedures and practices being discussed at the workshops were being adopted by communities. Jim Knudsen added that expanding the questionnaire base would be included as a deliverable in the agreement with IEPA.

John "Ole" Oldenburg suggested that Elgin-O'Hare Expansion Project provided the opportunity for the environmental community to discuss practices and design with the Tollway and IDOT, especially if they are directly over water bodies. He complained that, despite efforts by the DRSCW and FPD, the Butterfield Road bridge deck did not incorporate any water quality BMPs.

Stephen McCracken stated that in the Statewide post construction recommendations, a BMP presented for bridges was to drain stormwater through scuppers directly into the river. Capturing some of the smaller storms means a large percentage of some pollutants would be captured; however, this is not the case with chloride, which is a source reduction problem.

Larry Cox asked whether private operators are surveyed. Dan Bounds stated that private operators had not been surveyed. Previous parking lot and sidewalk deicing workshop attendees can be sent a follow-up survey. Model ordinance language may make a pathway for permitting private operators. Dave Gorman recommended a financial bottom line approach – operators are wasting money; however, trumping the cost of rock salt and application rates is liability. Private operators do not appear to be anti-icing.

- 3. 10:30-10:40 – Database present capabilities and future web portal (Mark Willobee, Geosyntec)** The presentation will recap the work completed to date in which we developed and populated a relational data management system for storing and retrieving DRSCW data from historic and present habitat, biological, and water quality sampling events. Additionally, we will discuss the next step envisioned for the system which involves migrating to an online environment that allows for public access to the data through an interactive website featuring a simple request-based query interface, as well as a sophisticated map-based query interface. The proposed system enhancement will provide interested parties with the means to search for and download relevant data as needed with minimal administrative overhead.

Stephen McCracken stated due to formatting issues, we are still in the process of importing data. This project will increase the likelihood that our data will be used and can save staff time. One recent example was an inquiry that might have taken 2-3 hours which was completed in 3-minutes.

Larry Cox asked whether the database could produce maps. The data would have to be imported into a software package to generate a map.

Lindsay Birt stated that how end users access the data should be considered at the front end of design. Lindsay suggested combining the look-up table and the map features and adding locational direction by municipality. St. Joseph in Indiana has an online database to reference. Stephen stated that canned queries are being considered as well.

Larry Cox asked what percentage of data is currently available in the database. Stephen stated 75-80% has been imported. Remaining to be imported is continuous DO data (due to formatting issues). We anticipate 100% of the data will be successfully imported by the end of the year. Our laboratory's raw data will now be imported directly, saving staff time and potential errors. We plan to contract with our intern this summer to maintain 100% from this point forward.

After we determine what the end result will look like, we will need to maintain a web service. We have not determined a contract, scope or amount.

- 4. 10.40-10.55. - IPS Tool and DO TMDL Implementation at Oak Meadows Forest Preserve.** The Oak Meadows dam removal project was identified in the Stream DO Improvement Feasibility Study (2006-2009). The Forest Preserve District is currently evaluating major work on both the preserve's natural areas and golf courses. The DRSCW is assisting with stream corridor and dam removal analysis in order to maximize the positive impacts on aquatic life. While the work completed to date is still very preliminary, it is indicative of the type of survey and analysis that will be necessary for most of the projects recommended by the IPS tool. (**Andy Selle, Inter-Fluve**)

Jason Elias asked how reconnecting the water to the floodplain would impact the playability of the golf course. This project is being implemented, in part, due to the amount of time the golf course was closed due to flooding. The golf course will be moved

out of floodplain and natural areas will be moved to the floodplain. Removal of the dam is part of an unofficial agreement for the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL – which calls for three dams to be removed. This is second one.

Larry Cox asked how the project will impact IBI scores. Stephen McCracken stated that fish diversity is unlikely to increase but the number of fish present may (fIBI 19 – 25/ mIBI 21 - >35). To increase diversity in the upper watershed, at minimum, the Fullersburg Woods dam must be removed. Tom Richardson noted between these two dams is the Old Oakbrook Dam, which is largely on private property.

John “Ole” Oldenburg stated that Illinois Department of Natural Resources dialogue about habitat improvement, bio recovery, and the food web could substantiate reintroduction. Ole recommended looking at augmentation to introduce species that they know existed prior. Documentation of biology to support reintroduction of species. How many, etc. niche habitats for sustainability.

Stephen agreed that fish populations are truncated and that some will have to be reintroduced.