

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Annual Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
February 29, 2012**

Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

10:00-10:05 Welcome, Introductory Remarks

Kevin Buoy, DRSCW President and Director of Wastewater DuPage County

Kevin provided a list of DRSCW accomplishments during 2012 including development of the IPS tool, SB2081 and the Churchill Woods Dam removal.

10:05-11:00 Annual Business Meeting

• **Approval of the minutes for the December 7th 2011 meeting (Attachment 1)**

Larry Cox recommended that “illegal” be removed from the account regarding excess flows and that stated there was a “motion” made to sign a contract with Huff & Huff which was inaccurately written as “tabled.”

Dennis Streicher made a motion to approve the minutes with these two revisions, seconded by Sue Baert, carried unanimously.

• **Proposed changes to bylaws (Attachment 2, New Business)**

Kevin Buoy said a motion was needed to waive 30-day advance notice for the bylaw revisions, a motion to waive that notice was made by Tom Richardson and it was seconded by Nick Menninga, carried unanimously. Sue Baert made a motion to revise the Bylaws as presented, seconded by Steve Zehner, carried unanimously.

• **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

Mary Lou Kalsted made a motion to approve the Officers as presented, seconded by Nick Menninga, carried unanimously.

- 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.

Gary Smith made a motion to approve the At-Large Members as presented, seconded by Jennifer Hammer, carried unanimously.

• **Adoption of FY 2013-17 Budget**

- Review and approval of FY 2013-17 Budget (Attachment 3, New business)

Steve Zehner made a motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Sue Baert, carried unanimously.

- Approval of membership dues for FY 2012-13. A 3% rise in member annual dues is proposed under the budget (Attachment 4, New Business)
William Blecke made a motion to approve the membership dues increase by 3%, seconded by Nick Menninga, carried unanimously.
- Approval of contact renewal with Charles Vaughn for legislative consulting services (new business). This contract would extend our current contract at the same rate for one year (\$19,000 for the next twelve months). The contract gives the DRSCW the right to retain Chuck's services for an additional year at the cost of \$9,500.
Larry Cox made a motion to approve a contract renewal with Charles Vaughn, seconded by Nick Menninga, carried unanimously.
- Accounts Update (Attachment 5, old business)
- **Appointment of Committee Chairpersons by incoming President, New Business**
Dave Gorman appointed the following Committee Chairpersons:
 - 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 – Ross Hill, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
 - Salt Creek Watershed Committee Chairperson – Dennis Streicher, Sierra Club – River Prairie Group
- **Other new business**
DRSCW Board Members met with Illinois EPA in Springfield to discuss the direction of the Workgroup with relation to the watershed based permit planning process in the state. IEPA is supportive of the DRSCW's local approach/ work towards meet CWA goals but is under enormous pressure to do something about nutrients. Stephen McCracken is drafting a white paper on the DRSCW's approach and results. A draft will be completed for the Executive Board to review prior to soliciting comments from members. The DRSCW Board plans to meet with environmental organizations to discuss creating a window where the "DRSCW approach" could be used in lieu of the point source permit only approach. This is to be done prior to the position paper being written.
- *Dennis Streicher stated that this meeting was a follow-up on the IEPA's response to the US EPA's nutrient standards. This continued dialogue can help determine how to address Phosphorus and Nitrogen, without applying higher costs on the regulated community. The DRSCW's position is to postpone issuing new permits in its service area until DRSCW meets with US EPA to propose changes. It will be important that Citizen Advocacy Groups are on board with this hence the meeting discussed earlier.*
- *Larry Cox stated that we are going to spend money be it on permits or projects DRSCW has identified. The risk is ours – ultimately we will have to comply with what is imposed, but would take advantage of an opportunity to show what might be achieved. DRSCW will fund these identified projects now and fund theirs later if necessary. The timing is good; EPA realizes the financial strain local governments are facing in this poor economy. DRSCW introduced MWRDGC's new executive director, David St. Pierre to*

the Workgroup and discussed plans for pursuing this new direction and he was highly favorable.

- *US EPA sought stakeholder input on “Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Management Plans” on February 17th. Basically it suggested stretching out the compliance schedules and some flexibility in setting priorities. Stephen noted that it was clear that municipalities were struggling with costs and Citizen Advocacy Groups were frustrated by the lack of progress toward meeting CWA goals. Larry Cox noted that state data suggested that streams state wide were declining for years. No one is looking at physical stressors (habitat, biology), but we continue to get poor results? The timing is good and we need to stick together. This is why we exist.*
- *In addition to the regular membership dues, DRSCW will be proposing additional funds from members for projects. In return, the Board would try and negotiate a stay on 2-3 permit cycles (so 10-15 years) for DRSCW members. The DRSCW would have to proceed with identified projects, seeing those implemented and documenting improvements. What would project costs be in relation to staying permit cycles? Project costs have not yet been determined. A formula might be based upon Operations and Maintenance costs (figure would be less than those costs, exclusive of how we pay the costs). Members may anticipate projects dues around 2-3 times more than current annual membership due. An annual projects spending budget of at least a million dollars is targeted.*
- *Jason Elias asked about presenting this information to mayors/managers and getting information to help make the case at a municipal level and it was agreed that this was key. Nick Menninga stated that showing the calculated costs for phosphorus limits (increased sludge = ½ M dollars/year) would show the cost-effectiveness of implementing DRSCW identified projects.*
- *Dennis Streicher stated that the DRSCW board members would be available to meet with city mayors/managers to help support your communication efforts.*
- *Jim Knudson stated that we are not just comparing costs; we will ultimately also be comparing results. Nick Menninga stated that the idea is to reverse the trend (declining streams) spending the same or less money.*
- *Larry Cox stated that at end of the 10-15 year period if the implemented projects do not yield the anticipated outcomes (our approach hasn't worked), we need to know that information. We also need to know how many streams we might remove from the impaired list.*
- *Jim Knudson asked if DRSCW had received any feedback from environmental groups. Tom Richardson stated that the Sierra Club needs to be updated, which is why a separate meeting is necessary; decisions of support are made at the state level.*
- *Stephen McCracken stated that if this new direction is approved, DRSCW assumes the risk in measuring whether DRSCW's identified projects show environmental progress (fish/ biological).*
- *Gary Smith asked which budget year members should expect projects dues. Larry Cox stated that DRSCW is hopeful that IEPA/Governor's Budget would initially fund the projects, then the Workgroup would begin self-funding; maybe the two sources would overlap. It will be at least a year before next budget cycle.*
- *Stephen McCracken stated that the Workgroup needs the stay on permits before putting funds into the program. On making projects happen the Workgroup will need both*

financial and personnel investments, using Fullersburg Woods Dam as an example where members were going to have to put in hours as well as money. The list of projects is underway.

- *Larry Cox stated others have sought assistance from the Workgroup and access to its data. Some recent projects were DRSCW investments and data could be useful include a golf course dam removal; village for buyouts for flood properties incorporating habitat restoration; Elgin-O'Hare mitigation dollars. What would happen if the Workgroup was not here to supply the data and momentum?*
- *Jennifer Hammer stated that we have good confidence that this will work, and we have data to help drive us there and evaluate performance. The Workgroup is not advocating a general model promoting other watershed groups fix habitat and expect to achieve the same results. The data, and resolution of data the Workgroup collects, prioritizes projects; data determines the what, where and why. It was important that other groups did not get the idea that they could "cut in line"*
- *Larry Cox agreed – especially with regard to discussions with US EPA and environmental groups. The precedence the Workgroup sets is not just a test case; it follows a methodology and there are no shortcuts.*
- *Jim Knudsen stated that stressors can be chemical, which means permit holders are not off hook, and that they, for example chlorides can continue to be stressors even while meeting state standards.*
- *Jim Kleinwachter, The Conservation Foundation, gave a brief summary of their public outreach/education program targeting Homeowners Associations and residents to increase their understanding of our water resources. Jim and Stephen McCracken will speak with Village of Lisle residents about the Conservation@Home program and the "State of the DuPage River" on March 22. Jim also provided information on the Municipal Rainbarrel Program. For more information, please see the attached flyer and/or contact Jim at Jkleinwachter@theconservationfoundation.org.*

- **DRSCW Calendar**

- 12/15/11 IPS tool development and application – IEPA Springfield
- 12/17/11 DRSCW Chloride Reduction Program –CMAP Chicago
- 1/9/12 What's going on in our rivers- League of women voters Elmhurst
- 2/2/12 Road Salt Symposium- Aquatic Society Road Salt Symposium Minnesota (expenses covered by host agency)
- 2/16/12 Executive Board meeting with IEPA Springfield
- 2/17/12 US EPA Integrated Planning Workshop
- 2/21/12 Meeting between DRSCW Executive Board members and MWRDGC Executive Director David St. Pierre and his staff in Chicago

Upcoming:

- 3/20/12 DRSCW Watershed Management Update - WaterCon 2012
- 3/22/12 State of the DuPage River- Village of Lisle

- **Workgroup meeting schedule (10:00 AM start time)**

All meetings are scheduled to occur at Lombard Village Hall

- April 25th 2012
- June 27th 2012
- August 29th 2012
- October 31st 2012
- December 5th 2012
- February 27th 2013

- **Meeting Presentations**

11:00-11:15 IEPA –Stage 2 TMDL Development of Septic System Map for Targeted Sub-basin project. This presentation will focus on the methodology required to create a comprehensive inventory of septic system use within a sub-basin of the DuPage River watershed. The end result, a map of residential septic systems, will be a useful planning product for watershed stakeholders.

Presenter: Jennifer Clarke, Illinois EPA

This presentation is available at www.drscw.org. Discussion following the presentation included:

- *Stephen McCracken will send members the project methodology and pamphlet for review and comment, compile all comments and submit them to Jennifer Clarke.*
- *Stephen McCracken stated that while fecal coliform data exists at the state level, a duration curve analysis of the data for area waterways did not identify any pattern associated with flow stages. The Health Department does not currently have comprehensive spatial data for septic system locations. Mapping septic systems would be beneficial for municipalities to identify septic owners and educate them on operating, maintaining, and identifying failing septic systems.*
- *Larry Cox asked if the method and costs to map all the watersheds for septic coliform and other parameters have been extrapolated. Jennifer Clarke stated that it varied depending on how much data was available by a municipality. The study set out to look at a number of different cases in order to gauge those differences.*
- *Larry Cox asked who will be driving the next steps because no one is currently responsible for implementation. Stephen McCracken stated that the Health Department is on board to map septic systems and would be the primary user of the outputs. The state TMDL is still in progress.*
- *Jim Huff stated that there is a lot of point-sources discharge and that fecal coliform is not necessarily from a failing septic. Jim Huff stated that we should identify where surface dischargers are located.*
- *Are service laterals included in the data? Jennifer Clarke stated that 100' for sewer lines was used for buffer coverage (that is why they did ground proofing). Carol Stream provided information that included which were and were not on the sewage system.*
- *Mary Lou Kalsted stated that some recent toxic spill situations caused Lisle to determine well and septic locations. They found that just because there was a sewer line within 100' of a property did not mean that the house was connected.*

- *The exercise helps determine the “probability” of having septic systems within geographic areas to target homeowners/ populations for proactive outreach and education efforts.*

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Stephen McCracken provided introductory remarks for the following two presentations. He set out how the two studies had been launched to validate or design projects suggested by the IPS tool.

11:15 -11:30 Development of Ammonia Mass – Balance techniques: Web based load duration curve system. The stressor analysis in the IPS tool analysis has revealed a stretch of the East Branch with elevated ammonia (NH₃-N). Without adequate streamflow and load characterization, sources of ammonia such as wastewater effluent, flows from stormwater retention ponds, and upstream and downstream are unable to be identified. The Web-based Load Duration Curve (LDC) system (<https://engineering.purdue.edu/~ldc/>) provides opportunities to identify the load allocation at various flow intervals. The data analysis includes grouping flow intervals by hydrologic conditions (i.e, high flows, moist conditions, mid-range flows, dry conditions, and low flows. The data can also be separated by season and wet-weather conditions (i.e., runoff events and storm flows). In addition, the data can be separated by flow regime using a baseflow separator technique. The Web-based LDC will be useful for identifying potential sources and best management practices appropriate in improving water quality.

Presenter: Lindsay Birt, Huff & Huff

This presentation is available at www.drscw.org. Discussion following the presentation included:

- *Lindsay Birt announced the 2012 Load Duration Curve system developed by Purdue University has an interface that can incorporate LOADEST data.*
- *Larry Cox asked if the project expectations are on target. Lindsay Birt stated that they are and that additional data supplied by DRSCW and Woodridge STP effluent data will be added.*
- *Jim Huff stated that ammonia water quality limits are based on the 75th percentile pH and temperature; un-ionized ammonia is the more is toxic and is present at high temperatures and higher pHs. It was discussed if the local “toxicity” could be refined based on quantile regression? Also verification if the DRSCW thresholds data based on un-ionized or total?*
- *Jim Knudsen stated that DuPage County is designing a large flood control reservoir in Carol Stream. The current design will removes the remaining heavily sediment laden water through the front of the reservoir into a smaller basin and then into the stream. Can you use the Load Duration Curve system to help predict the effect on the stream? Are there tools available to analyze the design to help ensure we are not creating a problem?*
- *Lindsay Birt stated that the system uses data provided by DRSCW which indicates “in” during wet weather and “out” in dry weather conditions. The system does not allow for management changes. More complex modeling would be necessary to predict future concentrations, maybe in 2013.*

- *Stephen McCracken stated that the Load Duration Curve system is a backward looking model; it looks at observed loads under various flow stages to allow insights into sources.*
- *Larry Cox stated DRSCW is looking at ponds to develop a sampling program. Fullersburg Woods is essentially a large detention pond; Ammonia is pretty ubiquitous in the three watersheds.*

11:30 -11:45 IPS in- stream habitat improvement reconnaissance project(s) Update

The IPS tool identifies aquatic life stressors at a stream reach level and then allows those same stream reaches to be prioritized according to how straightforward it would be to remove them from the 303 (d) list. However, to develop actions targeting those stressors involves a number of additional steps such as ensuring that the chosen segments will support natural habitat, allow fish connectivity, and provide a spatial scale that will allow meaningful results. The presentation will review field data collected in late 2011 at a number of priority segments and will look at some of the tools available for evaluating possible interventions.

Presenter: Andrew Selle, Inter-Fluve

This presentation is available at www.drscw.org. Discussion following the presentation included:

- *Larry Cox asked if the Workgroup should continue efforts at restoring habitat, in light of the field reconnaissance results. Andy Selle stated that the constraints are as high as he has ever seen, yet the Biologist in him is amazed at how little it takes to get biology to respond. The concern is whether you hit the metrics; disruption and continuity of the stream are big factors. There is a lot going on along Kress Creek that makes it worth pursuing; aim for 5 and see if it goes to a 7. If we can't what else is going to get us there? It is a process to go through.*
- *Jim Knudsen asked if the Workgroup needs to reassess goals or create a new range. Andy Selle stated that the data is currently documenting the decline of stream habitat and biology. The Workgroup is one of the first to take a different approach to see if scores can be improved. There may be a limit to improvement, then the laws will regulate.*
- *Larry Cox stated that while not at the point of lowering project expectations it is extremely complex.*
- *Dennis Streicher asked about the impacts from intersecting stream segments that cannot be improved with relation to Kress Creek. Andy Selle stated that the area in question is a warm water system and that fish will move through an undesirable area to get to habitat rich sections (i. e. in a cool water system, areas of warm water can become a barrier). This brings back the "how big is big enough for an improved section to have an impact" question. Is a 1.3 mile stretch at Fermilab going to be enough to get that section off the list?*
- *Jennifer Hammer stated that some barriers (i. e. railroad crossings) are not insurmountable; and the Workgroup should determine what those options may or may not be.*

- *Andy Selle stated that connectivity for fish passage can be simply and effectively addressed through ordinances (if you design a new culvert it must be 1.2 X banks full width).*
- *Jennifer Hammer agreed that a key to this example is that culverts will have to be replaced at some time, which allows for improvements.*
- *Larry Cox asked if the IPS tool is sophisticated enough to factor in to the QHEI scores the variation in river systems Andy pointed out (wetland/pool and riffle).*
- *Stephen McCracken answered that he felt that was not adequately addressed in QHEI but it was possible to integrate into the metric result using either the gradient qualitative result in the QHEI report or outputs from the FEQ model.*
- *Mary Lou Kalsted added that making culverts bigger may change the upstream and downstream flood profile and that need to be taken into account.*
- *Dan Bounds stated with space constraints, funding is going to flood control rather than water quality projects. Can you expect reduced flows and added flood control benefits from a linear meander? Andy Selle stated that Sara Strassman with American Rivers has documented flooding benefits of taking out small dams. It is really a volume issue; the only way to get more flood control is excavating to create the storage. You can slow the water down with a conveyance component rather than a channelized segment.*
- *Given the need to both provide aquatic passage, and maintain compensatory storage, hydraulic structures can be built that will allow normal flows to pass unhindered, but limit flood flows to induce ponding upstream and thus create storage of stormwater.*

11:45 – 12:00 Chloride Reduction CDM

The stressor analysis found chloride to be a priority stressor throughout the watersheds with 29 out of 114 stream segments assessed being limited by summer concentrations of chlorides. The presentation will look at results from the chloride reduction improvement program to date and what the aims will be for 2012-13.

Presenter: Dan Bounds, CDM

This presentation is available at www.drscw.org. Discussion following the presentation included:

- *Stephen McCracken added to Dan's presentation stating that monitoring in the West Branch will occur this year as it provides a great opportunity to observe whether lower salt application totals during the winter months resulted in lower concentrations in the summer months and improved IBI scores .*

Special thanks and recognition

Dave Gorman thanked and presented Kevin Buoy with a special gift for serving as the DRSCW Executive Board President for the past two years. Kevin Buoy will remain active with the Workgroup, moving into the Ex-Officio Board position.