

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

April 25, 2012

10:00 AM – Noon

Meeting Minutes

Lombard Village Hall, 255 E. Wilson Ave., Lombard, IL 60148

Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

1. Approval of February 29, 2012 Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Motion to approve February meeting minutes made by Nick Menninga, seconded by Steve Zehner, motion carried unanimously.

2. **Presentation: Liquids - A Success Story** – Chlorides are one of our area waterways' priority stressors and a target for several area TMDLs. The Village of Hanover Park has built an impressive anti icing program over the past few years by experimenting with, adopting, and expanding their use of liquid anti-icers. The presentation will cover both the technical aspects of the program (mixes, equipment storage, decision making processes for what product to apply when, etc.) and how the program was presented to Village administrators and elected officials.

Presenter: Scott Weber, Streets/Forestry Supervisor Village of Hanover Park

In 2006 Hanover Park began using Geomelt 55 mixed w/ salt brine (80/20 blend) 20 gallons for every ton of salt. Pre-wetting saved 30-33% from bounce scatter alone. In 2002, they went to tailgate systems which disperse at the spinner (better than bucket loading). Then, they went to spray-on auger – got this from IDOT (Harvey Williams /Monroe/Autotruck) . Scott rated the poly stainless tank behind cab as more effective (weights on tailgate door slams) as it had more uses in the summer. Now the Village is using poly saddle tanks of up to 200 gallons. Stephen McCracken asked for a clarification of definitions, Scott explained deicing (removing ice) and anti icing (inhibiting the formation of ice). During the snow season, Hanover Park anti-ices one time per week whether snow is forecast to or not. Geomelt is tacky and stays down longer but have had no complaints about the tackiness for windows cars, etc. Citizens now look for their anti-icing "Safety Stripes" which help make them feel safe.

Scott said that the program can be a challenge to sell to the village manager. He recommended attending conferences (i.e. Iowa they're genius) for ideas and additional cost benefit information. Hanover Park was one of the villages that got this started this in the area. Have your village manager get board buy-in (ie cost control, sod repair and other arguments) then use board approval to get publicity from newspapers (i.e. citizens looking for safety stripes. Scott also noted that Hanover Park is mostly residential with some industrial and no downtown. WBDR runs through town. Other points that came up in the discussion were

Beet juice – it has a really strong odor and PW crews need to be ready for that, it also is prone to foaming, something that a couple of ounces of an agricultural product can take care of. On managing corrosion – if you eliminate Calcium Chloride, trucks will last longer. On new spreader systems New spreader systems 250/350 lock out operators and reduce operator waste. Savings of 40-50 % on brand new tucks with the new system (retrofit probably not cost effective).

Dennis Streicher asked about the oxygen demand from beet juice. They haven't seen any horrible number but know that everything has an impact. 35g/mile is not a lot of material and typically the bacteria that use the oxygen is not active in the winter. Larry Cox suggested the DRSCW calculate loading of beet juice.

A question was asked about how wide spread the acceptance of the techniques were. Scott answered that Hanover Park is their area leader in anti-icing programs. Schaumburg is working along the same lines, but not as aggressively. Questionnaires will tell why other communities have not yet embraced liquids/anti-icing methods. One barrier may simply be change. There is a mentality that, "I've been doing it for 28 years I don't need that." It needs to be underlined that these are not new techniques – they're proven and they work.

Do the products stain sidewalks – No they do not and they reduced bagged material by 50%. It was asked about how the system held up in the extreme conditions such as February 2011. Scott said that the weather service they subscribe to was on the money for the blizzard a couple years ago. It was great to map everything out and plan fire truck paths, police, etc. They put no material down during the event and let traffic carry salt through (spot salt only). 45tons/event. Anti-icing helps labor hours (anti icing saves first 2-3 hours of event) and totally eliminates call outs on smaller storms. Anti-icing can save money without considering water quality issues.

3. Presentation: Preliminary Results for Churchill Woods Dam Removal

The Churchill Woods's dam and impoundment were targeted for removal by the 2008 East Branch DO study and identified as barriers to fish passage in the 2008 Bioassessment report. The main part of the dam was removed in early 2011 and biological and continuous DO data for the site was gathered during the summer months. The presentation will review that data and compare it to project objectives.

Presenter: Stephen McCracken, DRSCW/ The Conservation Foundation

Stephen out lined the project, ¾ of "dam" was removed and the apron is still there so instead of the modeled 4.5, we got a 3 foot drop. A riffle installed and that part of the impoundment look like a river.

Project objectives – identified as DO improvement project

Increase daily minimums/ decrease DIEL values

Physical Fish passage improve QHEI

Biological improvement (improve fish and macroinvertebrate IBI scores)

The site met state DO meeting for the single month that we have data for (minimums and averages). Site still exhibits DIEL swings. Some evidence that DIEL swings themselves may

be harmful even if high DO levels. Fish biology is definitely up at dam removal site, estimates an 11.5 increase in fIBI 4 months after dam removal . fIBI is also up at sites upstream as johnny darter and creek chub have moved into the upper DuPage. Stephen noted that an error had been made in recording the species at one station near Bloomingdale and had requested that MBI fix it. Substrate issues - still lots of sediment covering gravel and cobble bottom – big drag on QHEI and creates SOD (couldn't change because of culvert elevation which would have an additional 4 million to replace). Both new species had moved through a long dark tunnel just north of EB 23 (culvert under a railway line). Scores did not move at EB21 and EB26 seems to due to local habitat.

Larry Cox asked why fIBI scores were down in the downstream section. Stephen answered that it was not known at this time, possibilities were sediment could have been released from the site and deposited downstream but there was no evidence of sediment been released at the site. Data from the QHEI and ambient chemistry will ultimately answer that question. If fIBI decreased in the tributaries to then the cause was independent of the project. This provides an opportunity to learn what did drive the drop, which had not been seen on the West Branch or Salt Creek is. Rather than a release it is possible that the dam modification allows the sediment to go downstream that was usually captured. These are all speculative; the QHEI results need to be combed through for evidence. Dan Lobbes asked if data was to be gathered at Churchill woods this year, Stephen answered that DO data was for June, July, August.

Nick Menninga agreed with the assessment of the lower part of the project where there was still a pool above where the dam used to be, there was also a backwater section north of island. In other dam removal projects we can observe lots of natural re- carving of a stream channel but we do not have enough gradient at Churchill Woods for that? We have a meander forming immediately downstream of riffle but conditions will remain poor in the bottom third where it is still like a pond.

Tom Richardson asked if there had been any observed impact of the rookery. Stephen said he had several anecdotal reports that it had not. The Forest Preserve District will be observing.

4. Project Implementation and Financing Update (old business)

On the 3/13/2012, several DRSCW Board members met with representatives of The Sierra Club, the Environmental Law & Policy Center, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Prairie Rivers Network to discuss creating a space to carry out local initiatives on watershed management.

Larry Cox provided an update for the DRSCW's meeting with environmental groups. The feedback was better than expected with the EGs being sympathetic to what DRSCW was trying to achieve. Albert Ettinger thought we'd get better returns in the short to medium term than with the conventional system. At this point DRSCW is seeking flexibility in the regulatory system rather than scoping out a detailed plan. The Environmental groups agreed to support DRSCW's meeting Region 5 and the white paper detailing what we have in mind is in progress.

DRSCW would be looking for a delay in the increase in NPDES permitting requirements, but DRSCW still needs local money to tackle identified problems. Larry Cox recently met with Chuck Vaughn (lobbyist) who continues to pursue funds from the capital bill. Even with the State budget woes in Springfield, Vaughn is very optimistic about the chances of receiving the funds.

The IEPA has approached both the DRSCW and the Fox River Study Group (FRSG) about nutrient abatement. Nutrient abatement is being pursued via the narrative standard on nuisance algae. FRSG is developing a DO model for the much larger Fox River Basin and both organizations may have to find different strategies moving forward.

5. Monitoring Committee (new business)

- West Branch 2012 basin assessments- Cost scopes for chemical component (SLI) and the biological and habitat assessments (contractor MBI) are attached. The Board is seeking permission to sign contracts with the relevant contractor up to the amount in the contract cost column. Attachment 2.

Motion made by Nick Menninga to give the Board permission to sign contracts and release funds for the West Branch basin assessment up to the budgeted amount in contract cost column found in Attachment 2, seconded by Jennifer Hammer, the motion carried unanimously.

SLI will begin soon after June 1st and MBI will begin their surveys soon after July 4th. The Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition is also monitoring this year (biological, habitat and chemical) so the dataset for area waterways will be increased. How that data fits into the IPS tool, stressor analysis and the database is yet to be determined. The results will be of great interest as the lower DuPage is listed for nuisance algae..

- Salt Creek Basin Assessment 2010 – The final draft is under review by the contractor and all DRSCW comments have been submitted. The final report will be published prior to end of May. *Salt Creek report is in its final edits and should be posted on website soon.*
- East Branch DuPage River Basin Assessment 2011- All effluent, chemical, and continuous DO data for the basin assessment have been supplied to the contractor.
- Database Development Update *The database is under development. It may be possible for data generated by the DRSCW to be imported into the database, saving time and labor.*
- DO monitoring – 12 sites will be monitored in 2012. Attachment 3 shows a map of the locations. The southernmost site on East Branch has been added to support the East Branch ammonia study. A workshop was held on April 13th for seven agencies that maintain the continuous DO monitoring sites. The Village of Plainfield attended and plans to maintain two sites on the main stem DuPage River. *The second DO sonde in Salt Creek will be placed for this monitoring season. The Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition will place and maintain a total of 4 DO sondes on the mainstem.*

6. Projects Committee (new business)

- Topographical screening of stream segments update - *None*
- Ammonia study (lower East Branch DuPage River) update
Lindsay Birt of Huff & Huff supplied an update. They have completed the load duration curve analysis using 2013 technology to identify 14 sampling sites in the East Branch DuPage River north of the golf course on Hobson and Bolingbrook - first sampling will be completed this week including wet weather.
- PAHs – Legislation and action update - *McHenry County legislators introduced a senate bill that would give counties the ability to regulate sale of coal tar sealants. DuPage County and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference plan to support this legislation. DRSCW is proposing a voluntary list for public works agency members to approve stating that coal tar based sealants are not used by their departments internally or by contractors hired by them. This would allow the DRSCW to take a position with this issue and seems to be a good next step. Dave Gorman stated that the language in the list should include text for not what we want to but what we don't want Jim Knudson stated that DuPage County Department of Transportation is hosting a sealant workshop on May 11, which will include alternative products. Jennifer Hammer stated that US Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-TX is seeking a nationwide ban to the use of coal tar based sealants in the United States. Tom Richardson stated the Sierra Club supported the bill, but was informed it was going to a House sub-committee and was not sure it would make it out of that committee.*

Larry Cox proposed that biological monitoring at the Churchill Woods location might help support Fullersburg Woods's dam removal. A fish survey would incur minimal costs as the team would already be on the West Branch. This additional sampling is not currently budgeted. Larry Cox made a motion to approve East Branch biological and chemical monitoring upstream and downstream of the site to get more data, not to exceed \$10K. Tom Richardson seconded the motion, carried unanimously.

Sue Baert recommended that we keep in mind the need to monitor sites after project implementation and build these costs into the budget. Rick Federighi noted that the basin assessments had shown things that we couldn't have anticipated.

Jim Knudson inquired where the money for the monitoring was going to come from. Larry Cox stated that there is currently \$30K budgeted for watershed based permitting, which is not something to which DRSCW has already committed funding. Funds may be used from a future initiative as part of the cost. DRSCW will look at adjusting next year's budget with this in mind.

The subject of the Warrenville Dam removal and post dam removal monitoring was raised. Stephen added that that the data suggested strongly that Fawell Dam is a barrier to fish passage and to take advantage of the considerable habitat improvements to the West Branch it would need to be modified. Nick Menninga stated that the Salt Creek permits above Fullersburg Woods dam are starting to recognize the permitting pressure – we are in no position to do nothing regarding this dam.

Dennis Streicher stated that we need to be flexible to respond to unforeseen things. Fullersburg Woods will be a focus for years – we need to have data to make the case. Jim Knudson asked whether the results would change enough in one year to make an argument for Fullersburg Woods. Stephen answered that they could, but based on the data to date the case liked quite solid already.

It was agreed that we needed to build an understanding of both the ability of priority projects to improve IBIs and how long they took to do (rapidity of a given response). Motion made by Larry Cox suggested that the workgroup adopt a policy of incorporating annual fish or other surveys at post project locations, it was agreed this was good idea.

7. Chloride Reduction update (old business)

- Workshop dates
- 2012 salt use questionnaire

The Chloride Committee will meet on Friday. This has been a light winter with 19.8” of recorded snowfall (normal is 38)! Municipalities used about ½ the salt they would normally use. One area of concern is how/where the salt surplus will be stored. The committee will get BMP information out. The survey includes slight revisions this year. One challenge has been comparing responses year to year – there’s a lot of variability in how the data is collected and reported. Changes will also be made to the alternative product fact sheet to include soybean and corn based products, which contain no chlorides. Workshops will be held in October and potential subjects include: Recordkeeping for effective management; Equipment calibration; Chloride inhibitors – equipment and roadway/structure life.

Another recommendation was presenting The Conservation Foundation’s Low Salt award at the public workshop. McHenry County has introduced language at the state level to give counties the authority to regulate salt/deicing chemicals storage by private operators. DRSCW has also been discussing possible assistance from the Elgin-O’Hare project to offset chloride loadings from the expansion (i.e. assistance to municipalities for costs to improve salt storage handling).

Jim Knudson stated that Scott Weber mentioned IDOT does not anti- ice or pre wet much at all and inquired how those decisions are made. Scott answered that one of the biggest barriers is attitude – are we targeting pw directors? You may run into a brick wall have to wait for staff to change.

This year provides a great opportunity for summer monitoring to determine the floor for chlorides. \$2K from the coal tar based sealant literature review could be reallocated for the monitoring. DRSCW was invited to participate in a PAH workgroup, which has already created that literature review.

A motion to monitor effluent chlorides at POTWs in the southern part of the West Branch DuPage River this summer was made by Jennifer Hammer, seconded by Dennis Streicher, motion carried unanimously.

8. Watershed Permitting Update (old business)

Watershed permitting update is planned for next board meeting. Ron Swanson brought up Washington DC's new ms4 permit (individual permit but includes all of DC). 16 approved TMDL measures are included in their permit. They are required to retrofit 18 million square feet of impervious surfaces.

Tom Richardson asked about the vote for the DuPage County Stormwater and Floodplain Ordinance. Dave Gorman stated that the recommendation to keep the minimum width of the riparian zone at 100' was unsuccessful. In 6 months DRSCW will make the recommendation to revise that paragraph. DRSCW and DMMC had met with Anthony Charlton, DuPage County Stormwater Management Division on the subject the week before.

9. Fecal Coliform TMDL (old business)

Member comments on the materials presented at the annual meeting have been compiled and submitted to Illinois EPA.

10. Watershed Committee Updates – West Branch, East Branch and Salt Creek

None.

11. Business Items

- **Membership 2011 -2012** - Membership mailing completed this week.
- **Accounts Update** - See Attachment 4
- **Other Business** - Salt Creek Volunteer Cleanup Day Saturday, May 5th at 9:00AM
- **Grant Management Update** – A quarterly report was filed with Illinois EPA for FAA 3191008. The grant period is scheduled through September 30, 2012.

12. DRSCW Calendar, Presentations and Press Coverage (new business)

- 3/9/2012 Municipal Engineers Advisory Group for DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference: Lombard, IL “Optimal Buffer Width for mIBI Scores”
- 3/20/2012 WaterCon 2012, Springfield, IL “DRSCW Update”
- 3/22/2012 Village of Lisle, Lisle, IL “What’s Going on in Our Waterways?”

13. Workgroup Meeting Schedule (10AM-Noon at Lombard Village Hall)

- June 27, 2012
- August 29, 2012
- October 31, 2012
- December 5, 2012
- February 27, 2013 (Annual Meeting)

The next meeting will be held at Lombard Village Hall in the community room on June 27 beginning at 10:00 AM. Meeting Adjourned.