

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
October 29th, 2014
9:00 – 11:00 AM

The meeting began with participants introducing themselves.

1. Approval of August 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Nick Menninga made a motion to approve the August 27th meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Gary Smith, unanimously approved.

2. Chloride Monitoring Results and TMDL Implementation Update

Presentation will look at what the data tells us about how chlorides are entering our waterways, seasonal variation in concentrations and how they affect biology during warm weather months. We will also review our TMDL implementation to date, including the latest round of workshops and BMP adoption within the project area.

Presenters: Stephen McCracken, DRSCW/TCF and Dan Bounds, CDM Smith

Shirley Burger asked if requirements related to salt storage may be a way to get information to contractors. Dan Bounds replied that the DRSCW gathered model ordinances related to salt storage and handling. Tara Neff added that the parking lots and sidewalks had only one contractor in attendance.

Dan Lobbes asked whether there had been any increased interest in establishing or changing levels of service. Dan Bounds responded that the questionnaires revealed that some communities have implemented changes, and that the Village of Carol Stream stretched salt supplies by not salting cul-de-sacs last year. This fall, the Village approved this change as part of their program.

Jennifer Hammer stated that the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition held their second year of deicing workshops this year. Thanks to Stephen McCracken and the DRSCW for assistance with the agenda. The parking lots and sidewalks workshop had around 20 participants from Will, Kane and Kendall counties.

Larry Cox inquired whether the DRSCW plans to coordinate a workshop with the expert from Iowa, Wilfred Nixon, on levels of service. Stephen McCracken replied that after having more discussions on this item, holding a workshop may not be the best way to reach mayors and managers. Stephen believes that getting on their (DMMC) meeting agenda, as we did with the White Paper/ phosphorus removal, might be more successful.

Marilyn Sucoe stated that she has been contacted twice in last the month by large property owners (Navistar was one) about the need for a permit to set up salt storage on parking lots. Marilyn asked if there is a guidance document she could provide to them. Dan Bounds responded that the DRSCW website provides a link to the Ohio Salt Storage Guidance document and that the model ordinances should also be posted soon. Marilyn noted that the Minnesota and Ohio salt storage documents look very similar. Dan Bounds responded that it is common to “share” by copying and pasting information into custom documents.

Dan Bounds continued that pre-wetting solid rock salt can save about 30% including that which is lost due to bounce and scatter. The next step to advancing a program is to incorporate liquids or anti-icing practices before the storm, using weather forecasting and pavement temperature information. This step is where programs can really start reducing the amount of salt they use. Some municipalities report a reduction of up to 70%.

Stephen McCracken interjected that a 50% reduction is definitely achievable. Chloride alternatives that lower melting temperatures are more expensive.

Larry Cox added that those alternative products also have unknown consequences to streams.

Stephen McCracken continued that studies have shown that beet juice does not lower the freezing temperature of water. It seems that its tacky consistency helps keep the mixture on the pavement but chloride must be present in the mix for it to melt. Stephen mentioned that a study by Volkswagen of Germany concluded salt brine with an added carbohydrate reduced corrosion of metal surfaces compared to a salt brine without an added carbohydrate.

Dan Bounds added that the Michigan DOT Bounce and Scatter study showed the impact of different vehicle speeds on salt use quantities. Depending on the kinds of roads being cleared, reduced vehicle speeds for salt application can lengthen the time it takes to achieve levels of service; therefore, a number of variables needed to be examined.

- 2. Fawell Dam- Preliminary Assessment** work on evaluating how to modify the Fawell Dam to allow fish passage for a number of species currently stranded on the downstream side. Presentation will look at the wetland, thalweg and depth of refusal studies and what they tell us about the remedies available.

Presenters: Derrick Martin, V3 Companies; Andy Selle, Inter-Fluve; Jennifer Hintze and Jessica Spurlock, DuPage County Stormwater Management

Derrick Martin responded to a question about landownership upstream – project area is entirely owned by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC).

Larry Cox asked whether the in-stream modifications were more extensive than our initial cost estimate (i.e. step). There was concern about the cost and practicality of re meandering the main stem; Fawell dam will remain a flood control facility, meaning any work inside the pool will likely be silted in. It may not be the best use of funds.

Attachment 1

The primary stream corridor is being mitigated from a fish passage perspective. A restoration plan is necessary to control for more than just where head cutting occurs.

Dave Gorman asked about debris, which can currently be removed from the trash rack. Derrick Martin noted that, at least conceptually, plans do not include modifying the existing gates because they are rarely, if ever, completely closed under current conditions. We need to look at the impact of erosion downstream of the dam to see if new erosion control issues emerge. At this point there are no proposed modifications regarding rack issues.

Andy Selle added that the transport of logs would only happen during main flood events and he doesn't anticipate an increase in debris removal. Derrick Martin agreed that it should be consistent with what we see today.

Jessica Spurlock noted that the HEC-RAS modeling completed to date includes only low flow conditions for conceptual plans; the model will need to be extended upstream at a later date. The HEC-RAS modeling is more informative than the FEQ modeling. She added that velocities raised above the project objective rate when she modified only the center culvert. The rate went down again when one of the adjacent culverts was also modified.

Derrick Martin noted that the difference in flows noted between the two models could be due to the different data sources. There will be some natural head cutting upstream.

Ross Hill asked whether darkness would be an issue. Andy Selle replied that the question of darkness comes up quite a bit; however empirical data shows that fish move at night. Andy further explained that the culvert length is also a concern as fish must sustain individual bursts of speed to travel upstream (i.e. northern pike can travel up to 16' in 2 seconds) against the current. Turbulent areas can include places for fish to rest, which will be created with boulders and cobble to minimize the burst length necessary.

Stephen McCracken noted that johnny darters and creek chubs went through the culvert upstream from Churchill Woods. That culvert is longer and darker than those at Fawell (but had lower velocities).

Larry Cox asked where the DRSCW stands for this project's implementation. Stephen McCracken responded that the request to transfer an additional \$13,000 to match 319 funds made available through the MOU with DuPage County had not been exhausted, even while Inter-Fluve and V3 Companies deployed a lot of resources in a short time. DuPage County continues to provide staff time for work on this project.

Andy Selle stated that the project is still a good project with key players invested in seeing it through to implementation. It has always been a question of whether one or two culverts would need to be modified to gain the fish passage benefits.

Derrick Martin continued that the question of having to drop two culverts has now been posed and needs further investigation to verify the initial findings. Derrick agreed that the project implementation is a matter of design.

Jim Knudsen added that there are some misconceptions about this flood control structure modification project that should be clarified - it is strictly for fish passage. Derrick Martin concurred and stated that maintaining current operating conditions will receive additional scrutiny, especially regarding the structure.

Stephen McCracken clarified that his request was to permanently reallocate the \$13,000 transfer, leaving the team with \$15,903.60 to spend on advancing the project. There would be no further matching against these funds at this time. Dennis Streicher made a motion to permanently reallocate the \$13,000 from the budget line item: legal review of the White Paper, which is no longer necessary, to the Fawell dam modification project to increase existing contractor scopes; Nick Menninga seconded; motion carried unanimously.

3. Projects Committee (new business)

- *Fawell MOU/319 Grant- An invoice for \$107,269 was sent to DuPage County for submittal to the Illinois EPA. The DRSCW owes \$103,837.06 in contractor fees (the net between this and the invoice total is DRSCW management costs), of which \$64,361.40 is eligible for reimbursement. The final cost to DRSCW is \$39,475.66. The DRSCW has \$15,903.60 remaining in this budget line item (including \$13,000 assigned to the project at the August meeting). This item was carried out under an MOU signed between DuPage County and the DRSCW. See attached*
- *Oak Meadows Update*
Erin Pande reported the project received \$1.2M in IGIG funding. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) is checking on the legality of holding a project preview for potential contractors in November. The project will be out to bid in February and the preview would allow contractors view the landscape prior to the arrival of winter snow. Construction would begin following the Fourth of July holiday.

Stephen McCracken stated that the preview site visit is also an excellent opportunity to get information from previous surveys.

Larry Cox asked about the project budget. Erin Pande responded that the project scope including building costs is estimated at \$20M and the FPDDC has approval for \$16M to proceed with no building. Total costs include the golf course, elevated floodplain outside 10 year event, new pump house, 24.6 acres of wetland, riparian buffer, upland and woodland restoration.

Stephen McCracken stated that our interest is in the approximately \$6M for restoration work. Andy Selle added the restoration work includes about 1 mile in Salt Creek. The dam is a barrier to fish passage; however because of the Fullersburg Woods dam (fish species aren't there), IBI increases will not be dramatic. This work includes dam removal, a-jacks and sheet pile removal, in stream wood jams and gravel augmentation and backwater areas for amphibian habitat.

Larry Cox asked about the \$4M funding gap. Stephen said that \$1-2 million will be come out of the NPDES Pilot Grant to Oak Meadows and if the white paper moves forward, then the DRSCW would have more funds available. The timing of that decision is becoming critical.

Stephen and Larry both acknowledged that the unknown factors include, whether the white paper moves forward and if so, which members will decide to participate in the special assessment.

Dave Gorman wanted to know if the stream restoration at Oak Meadows area will be open to the public. Erin Pande responded that there are plans to incorporate a mixed use path, connecting this area to another forest preserve on the other side of Wood Dale Road. The site is open to paddlers but you would need to be outside the path to view the area. Dennis Streicher asked if the trails would be open to the public and proposed a Workgroup tour. Erin Pande responded favorably to this proposal.

Stephen McCracken added that the FPDDC agreed that the Workgroup will have easements on the restoration areas (that they remain in perpetuity). Discussions regarding this project started in 2007, at which time the FPDDC was not interested.

- PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS) – The Village of (Wilmette) *Winnetka* is the second community in Illinois to ban Coal Tar Based Sealants.

Stephen McCracken reported that this was the second municipality to ban RCT after South Barrington and the Workgroup's MOU initiative with member public works departments. Members with the ability to do so may wish to consider following suit.

Jim Knudsen asked how they plan to enforce the ban Stephen McCracken responded that we do not know. This might be a good presentation to include in our next meeting.

Dave Gorman added the Village of Lombard got lots of responses from their social media and resident newsletter education efforts on CTS. Marilyn Sucoe stated that the box stores are no longer selling CTS.

Stephen McCracken noted that after having some conversations with contractors, they don't know what they're putting down. In Illinois, there are only 2-3 contractors that have publicly stated they are not using CTS. Some are aggressively pushing alternative products. This seems pretty straightforward.

Tom Richardson requested that a list of contractors that use asphalt based sealant be added to the DRSCW's website. Stephen McCracken stated that a link to the contractor pledge website should be shared with private companies.

- Watershed Plan – We are still awaiting feedback from US EPA on the Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan the DRSCW submitted for approval in July.

4. Monitoring Committee (old business)

- Water quality chemical, biological, habitat and sediment sampling of the East Branch DuPage River is complete.
- Water quality chemical, biological, habitat and sediment sampling for the four reference reaches is complete.

Attachment 1

- The East Branch POTW chloride monitoring is scheduled to begin in November.
This will include Egan and Roselle on Salt Creek.
- DO winter probe deployment will begin in early December.
Tom Minarik confirmed that MWRD-GC will deploy two on Salt Creek.

Stephen McCracken stated that USGS is gathering conductivity data under their contract with the Tollway.

Rick Federighi stated that an industrial user may add to Addison's wastewater effluents which has relatively high chloride concentrations. Stephen McCracken stated that East Branch POTWs will try to get samples before snow season, or early next year.

5. Chloride Reduction Committee (new business)

- 2014 Deicing Workshops – DRSCW held its Public Roads (September 25th) and Parking Lots & Sidewalks workshops (October 9th). Thanks to DuPage County DOT (DuDOT) for hosting.
- 2014 Questionnaire – If you have not returned your community's questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. These results are supplied to the Illinois EPA and are part of our TMDL implementation reporting.
- Chloride Offset Program with the Illinois Tollway - program update
Stephen McCracken reported that he visited two communities and both have plans to move forward with the Tollway grant program.

6. DRSCW White Paper Proposal (Update)

No update – we have not heard anything from Illinois EPA.

7. Funding update (SB2081) (New Business)

Success on this item. The Board would like to thank the Forest Preserve of DuPage County Board President, Dewey Pierotti and his staff, and local legislators for their assistance with the Governor's Office.

Larry Cox provided an update on the alternative funding proposed by the Governor's office. On October 18th in Westmont, the Governor announced "\$3.6M for a variety of environmental concerns in DuPage County." The DRSCW is in the process of finalizing the details of the \$2.7M in that is earmarked for the DRSCW.

To bring new members up to date: In 2011, the DRSCW's proposed legislation to return a portion of NPDES fees paid by local POTWs to the Workgroup for projects, passed the Senate unanimously and was on its way to the House. We learned that these fees were being used to pay salaries at Illinois EPA and the Governor's staff asked if the DRSCW would accept capital money funds instead of pursuing the original proposal. The DRSCW accepted this offer. A more detailed update will be provided to members when we have the details finalized, which will include thanks to our legislators and FPDDC whose push at end may have helped bring this to fruition. These funds will be used for three (3) priority projects: Fawell, Oak Meadows dam removal/stream restoration and the Spring Brook 1 restoration plan.

Jim Knudsen asked whether the funds were from 319. Stephen McCracken clarified that these funds were classified as an IGIG grant, requiring a 25% match. Our original proposal included a 40% match; although all projects will probably require more from the local sponsor. Stephen continued that it appeared as though the matching funds already exist. Our internal match requirements are more than what is required, but it is likely that additional funds may be needed. Thanks to everyone who initially supported this initiative.

Dennis Streicher thanked Larry Cox and Stephen McCracken for writing the legislation and traveling to Springfield to testify on behalf of the Workgroup, which helped legislators take action. Special thanks to Larry!

8. Watershed Permitting Update (Old Business)

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

Dave Gorman noted that DuPage County Stormwater Management and The Conservation are hosting environmentally focused meetings in each watershed and encouraged members to be involved.

10. Business Items (new business)

- Membership Dues – (Attachment 2)
Welcome to our newest agency member, the City of Winfield.
- Accounts Update – (Attachment 3)
- Other Business

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

- Please review the draft fall newsletter and send comments to Tara Neff by the morning of November 3rd.
Please remember the newsletter will be mailed to a number of boards, mayors and managers and elected officials.
- The DRSCW presented “Winter Maintenance and Environmental Impacts” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s course, *Managing Snow and Ice Control Operations*, in Madison, WI, October 7-8, 2014.
This went very well and Stephen McCracken was thankful for the opportunity, and brought back valuable information.
- The DRSCW delivered two presentations on regulations related to salt management at the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition’s deicing workshops on October 16, 2014 in New Lenox.
- The US EPA invited the DRSCW to participate in a national webinar on chloride management on November 6th. DuDOT will co present.
Indiana will present information on making brine using wash water from equipment and the DRSCW will present on the TMDL implementation area wide BMPs.
- A final draft of the “Resource Managers Guide to Bioassessment” is nearly complete.

Attachment 1

The information contained in the guide was determined to be more suitable for resource managers and so the title was changed from “layman’s guide.” The draft is about 95% complete.

Other comments or questions?

Shirley Burger asked about the special assessment and member dues for next year. Stephen McCracken responded that membership dues will increase by 3% and that there will be no changes for special assessment budgets from materials previously distributed. We hope for approval to collect special assessment this spring for the new fiscal year.

Larry Cox noted that we are under the impression that other permits will be issued prior to ours.

Gary Smith reported that the City of Elmhurst already planned for the special assessment, which appears in their budget; just waiting for Illinois EPA’s go.

Dave Gorman reminded attendees that the sign-in sheets from our meetings will be used to issue the PDHs – these will be distributed after this meeting.

Dave Gorman invited attendees to take their lunch break at The Patio across from the Yorktown Mall on the east side for a chance to network with other members.

12. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- December 10, 2014
- February 25, 2015 (Annual Meeting)
- April 29, 2015
- June 24, 2015
- August 26, 2015
- October 28, 2015

Meeting adjourned.