

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
December 5th, 2012
10:00 AM – Noon

Meeting Minutes

DuPage County Administration Building, 421 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL
Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

1. Approval of October 31, 2012 meeting minutes (Attachment 1)

Motion to approve the October 31, 2012 meeting minutes made by Nick Menninga, seconded by Steve Zehner, motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Presentation:** High concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are accumulating in many urban stormwater ponds in Minnesota, resulting in either expensive disposal of the dredged sediment or no action by economically-challenged municipalities. A study of 15 stormwater ponds in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN metropolitan area showed ponds in industrial land use areas had significantly higher concentrations of PAHs in bed sediments than ponds in residential land use areas. Environmental forensic techniques, including a contaminant mass balance receptor model, were used to determine sources of PAHs. Coal tar-based sealant (CT-sealant) dust was the most important source of PAHs (53.6%), followed by vehicle-related sources (26.1%), and petrogenic (oil-based) sources (15.0%). PAH contamination in three stormwater ponds was high enough to present a risk to benthic invertebrates, while nine ponds exceeded human health risk-based benchmarks that would prompt more expensive disposal of dredged sediment. The State of Minnesota is addressing this issue by encouraging local municipalities to ban CT-sealants (26 to date) and to promote suitable pollution prevention alternatives to businesses and homeowners, such as switching to asphalt-based sealants.

Presenter: Judy L. Crane, Ph.D., Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, St. Paul, MN.

Jim Knudsen inquired about additional costs to the \$40-\$50 per cubic yard to dispose of sediment that did and did not exceed the maximum allowable concentrations for PAHs. Judi answered that she did not have that information but that Don Berger, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, was a good contact for more information. She will send Don's contact information to Stephen McCracken. Some stormwater ponds are large; people think they are lakes and they get upset when their "lake" is filling up with sediment. Some sites may be difficult to access.

Nick Menninga asked about the mechanism for PAHs in traffic tunnel air being deposited in ponds? Judi answered that PAHs produced by vehicle engines is released into the atmosphere either in the gas-phase or associated with particulate matter. They are deposited on impervious surfaces and washed off into ponds.

Dave Gorman asked if the study found street sweeping operations were effective in capturing PAHs? The answer was they could be effective but the question is what to do with them and how to dispose of them properly. Judy mentioned an example of a pond that had been contaminated by improperly disposed of road sweepings.

The question was asked if Illinois required sampling of pond sediment. Stephen McCracken stated that in Illinois, in a number of cases it appeared that one was required to sample sediment in ponds for a number of individual PAHs including Benzo (a) Pyrene and Benzo (a) anthracene. He continued that river sediment in the project area regularly showed concentrations at 3-4 times the maximum allowable concentration under state regulations for clean fills, and suspects the concentrations in area detention ponds would be higher. Judy asked how the maximum allowable concentrations were identified, to which Stephen stated he did not know.

3. Presentation: E3: Economy, Energy & Environment Initiative –

E3 – Economy, Energy and Environment – is a national initiative, supported by six federal agencies, which promotes sustainability in the industrial & manufacturing sector. The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) and Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center (IMEC) are partnering with DuPage County to provide fully funded E3 technical assistance to DuPage manufacturing and industrial facilities. ISTC & IMEC teams will offer customized, hands-on assessments and personnel training, promoting lean manufacturing tools and energy management. E3 performance areas include -- Energy Conservation, Cooling Water Tower & Energy Management, Water Footprinting, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction, Waste Reduction at Source, Waste Diversion through by-product synergy, and Lean & Green Manufacturing Practices. Project outputs include completed P2 E2 (Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency) site assessments, assistance visits, and technology demonstrations. A monitoring and measurement plan will be developed for each facility to track the changes in energy consumption, solid and hazardous waste generation, water use, elimination/replacement of EPA priority chemicals (PC) and the monetary value of the changes.

Presenter: Shefali Trivedi, Environmental Projects Specialist, DuPage County - Economic Development & Planning

Nick Menninga stated that Downers Grove Sanitary District carried out an assessment and had received a number of helpful recommendations. He suggested that you keep in mind that your industrial customers are potentially eligible as well, a point echoed by Shefali. This program is exclusive to DuPage County facilities.

4. Project Implementation and Financing Update (new business)

The DRSCW Board met with representatives of the IEPA Permits Division on the October 31st. The meeting allowed both groups to discuss how to move forward on setting up an agreement that will meet their respective needs. The DRSCW presented its list of priority projects and IEPA outlined what they and USEPA require to allow the Workgroup's adaptive management effort to gain an increased level of regulatory allowance.

Dave Gorman stated that the DRSCW has a lot of champions out there that would like to see efforts continue and grow. Stephen McCracken stated that feedback from Illinois EPA has been quite positive; they are interested in seeing more DRSCW projects and activities put forward in the proposed agreement. John "Ole" Oldenburg recounted that the IEPA had expressed several times that potential litigation was a concern for both them and the USEPA.

Stephen McCracken stated that the DRCW approach promises less cost and better environmental outcomes. Our goals are more fully in line with the goals of the Clean Water Act but the approach is not conventional and that can be problematic for a regulatory establishment. Dave Gorman stated that permitting staff is interested in the DRSCW's diverse membership and the fact that we have already executed projects and have results to evaluate.

- **Implementation funding update and plan**
Larry Cox said that we continue to negotiate with Governor's office for the release of funds from the capital bill. This has been a slow process which began over 18 months ago.
- **White paper update**
Stephen McCracken stated that we worked extensively on the white paper this past summer. DRSCW decided to postpone further development in order to benefit from regulatory dialogue and feedback before submitting anything in writing to the Illinois EPA. Based on discussions we have had with Illinois EPA, work has resumed on the white paper, which will include an extensive list of projects generated by the IPS tool. Other projects that may have a lower IPS rating, but tackle proximate stressors and are being actively pursued by members or other groups in the watershed could also appear on the list.
- **Member materials and assistance**
The Board already received some questions regarding how the project implementation fund will be established. The DRSCW will provide members with materials and assistance to help explain the same points that will be made in the white paper with the proposed dues increase set at approximately 4 times current levels. The 1X is for operations/ staff/ monitoring and the 3X would be for our 60% match for projects. This is what we are planning at this point in time.

Jim Knudsen asked if agency members should plan to include the increase in FY2014 budgets. When membership dues statements are mailed in 2014, they will include the increase.

Tom Richardson inquired whether an increase is planned for associate members. No decision has been made regarding an increase for associate members but it was deemed unlikely.

Mitch Patterson asked if the DRSCW planned to talk with the DuPage Mayors & Managers Conference (DMMC). Larry Cox stated that the DRSCW usually holds an annual meeting with DMMC and this would be organized once the details of the plan had been set out.

John “Ole” Oldenburg commented that the white paper set out a number of projects to be completed and inquired if it would be better to ascertain the funds needed to execute those specific projects rather than aim to raise money in a projects fund? Should we raise money and dive into a project or select a project to raise funds?

Stephen McCracken agreed that the latter approach may be preferable, but it was harder for members to budget for projects that could not yet be fully planned and for which the scale and nature might well change during or following implementation. For the adaptive management approach to work we need to evaluate what we’ve done and review the results. New projects not previously identified, or having a low score, might move to the top (he referenced some of the upstream segments north of the Churchill Woods Dam). The process as set out foresees an ongoing investment in activities aimed at improving aquatic assemblages rather than just working through a list of projects. A question was asked about matching funds, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District-Greater Chicago, DuPage County and the Forest Preserve District are all potential project sponsors.

John “Ole” Oldenburg said that it was a good time to mention that DuPage County and the Forest Preserve District just received a permit, after 4 years of work, for a major project on the West Branch of the DuPage River (the “mega project”). DRSCW had sent a letter of support for this project to the Army Corps of Engineers. It ranked as a priority 2 project in IPS and the design addressed many of the reaches’ proximate stressors. Stephen encouraged members to put forward projects even if they are not on the priority list. He said that it was better to have lower priority projects implemented than to focus on a level one project that was not getting done.

Jennifer Hammer pointed out that the Projects Committee was originally formed ad hoc to manage the Stream DO Improvement Feasibility Project. As this committee was going to become increasingly important in the next few years she suggested that the bylaws be amended to make it a standing committee. John “Ole” Oldenburg made a motion to make the Projects Committee a standing committee; seconded by Steve Zehner. Motion carried unanimously. The Board will look into this.

Oldenburg stated that a representative of the DRSCW should present the organization’s work to Chicago Wilderness (CW). Collaboration would be mutually beneficial. Stephen said that he had presented the IPS tool and methodology to the Aquatics Task force of CW twice and agreed that making the DRSCW more visible would be beneficial.

At this stage DuPage County Chairman, Dan Cronin, and DRSCW Board President, Dave Gorman, signed the PAH MOU. Dave Gorman pointed members to the policy brief on the subject that had been sent out with the meeting packet.

A question was asked about the products used in the cost comparison. Stephen McCracken stated that the cost comparison table only looked at coal tar based sealants and asphalt emulsion sealants as these were the most similar in terms of application costs and life cycle. The comparisons were only for the cost of materials and were not a life cycle cost analysis. Products such as GSB88, which is more expensive to purchase but has a much longer life span, were not included. The aim of the exercise was to identify if there were comparable products out there at a comparable cost. Stephen continued that the cost comparison suggested that we could make significant reductions in loadings of PAHs from individual parking areas by switching sealants at very little cost difference. That suggests a very cost effective BMP.

Dave Gorman stated that the more members who voluntarily sign the MOU, the better. An additional general MOU will be available for non public works agencies; we would like to present a united front. The County plans to issue a press release by end of the year. Bill Blecke inquired about articles on coal tar based sealcoat that could be used for education on this item. Tara said that there were links to a pamphlet on driveway sealcoat published by the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center on DRSCW's website. She would also provide the article on driveway sealants and PAHs that appeared in The Conservation Foundation's publication The Heron.

5. Monitoring Committee (old business)

- West Branch 2012 Basin assessments – All sample collection is complete. Thanks to the DuPage County Stormwater Management Division for providing assistance for follow up monitoring at the Churchill Woods project location on the East Branch which will be included to the 2012 basin assessment.
- East Branch DuPage River Basin Assessment 2011 – working on report
- Database Development Update
Stephen McCracken stated that the Geosyntec consultants assigned to this project have good turnaround times. Next year's budget will include funds for construction of a portal to allow stakeholders to access the database directly on the website.
- 2013 conductivity monitoring will start next week
Continuous data loggers will record temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity, a proxy for chlorides, starting next week or the week following.

6. Projects Committee (new business)

- A scope of work has been agreed upon with Inter-Fluve to develop a topographical map and preliminary recommendations for the Oak Meadows Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project.
The Projects Committee had agreed to progress with this contract. A high resolution survey of in stream features is necessary to ensure that we maximize QHEI scores post project. The DRSCW will work with ERA Consultants and the golf course design company to maximize the "naturalized condition" inside the framework of appropriate goals into the ongoing master plan at Oak Meadows.

- Fawell Dam fish passage evaluation- scope is being negotiated with Inter-Fluve as an extension of their previous contract.

DuPage County Stormwater Management Division, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County collaborated on upstream restoration activities (McDowell Grove and Warrenville dams have both already been removed). A number of valuable fish species (eight or more) are not present upstream of the Fawell dam which is an important flood control structure. In the scope of work, Interfluve will work with a DuPage County structural engineer to recommend if the dam's structure could be safely modified to allow fish passage at low to average flows. Additional monitoring would be carried out to map fish movement upstream.

- Ammonia Mass Balance Study update (lower East Branch DuPage River) 2011
- IPS outreach materials.
The scope of work includes developing a template to house IPS recommendations on both a watershed and a municipal level and will be issued after the white paper is submitted.
- PAHs – Coal Tar Sealant MOU (Attachment 2)

7. Chloride Reduction update (old business)

Discussion on this item turned to how it was treated in the white paper. Jim Knudsen and Stephen said that the items would cover quantifiable objectives such as the number of agencies carrying out regular calibration, or percentage of communities that use pre-wetted salt. The principle is that both the DRSCW and partners can get reports and evaluate uptake of BMPs.

8. Watershed Permitting Update (old business)

NONE

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

Oldenburg stated that the permitting process and regulatory community can become an arduous process. DuPage County and the Forest Preserve District had an agreement for four-years to execute the so called “mega” project, a project that would naturalize over 1 mile of stream channel on the West Branch DuPage River. Forest Preserve District staff and Illinois EPA had to work hard to get the Army Corps of Engineers on board. We need a way to expedite that process in the permitting system if these other projects, similar in scale and scope, are to move ahead efficiently.

EB - NONE

SC - NONE

10. Business Items

- **Membership 2012 -2013** – Attachment 3
- **Accounts Update** - Attachment 4
- **Grant Management Update**
- **Other Business-** The DRSCW filed comments on the recommendations for Post Development Stormwater Runoff Performance Standards in Illinois - Attachment 5

Stephen McCracken described the letter briefly, that the DRSCW agreed with a volumetric approach, but that the supporting information (the costs and benefits of capturing a given storm percentile, etc.) was not available in the documents provided, and that he advised stormwater agencies to ask for that information so they could review it. Thank you to everyone who helped/ contributed. Al Keller (Illinois EPA) corrected Stephen saying the working group was not being managed by IEPA. IEPA was just facilitating the process and would be receiving the group's recommendations.

- The USEPA has released an RFP for the establishment of two water research centers to investigate a systems approach to nutrient management. The Illinois Institute of Technology is very interested in pursuing this and would like DRSCW to be a partner. *Nick Menninga recommends we pursue discussions with IIT. While the IPS stressor response analysis did not find phosphorus or nitrogen as priority stressors; other nutrients like ammonia and TKN have been identified. One potential benefit for partnering with IIT on this project is reporting the indirect benefits for addressing nutrients (streambank erosion reductions) and creates another level of commitment. Krishna Pagilla is writing a proposal.*

Tom Richardson made a motion for IIT to include the DRSCW as a partner in their proposal with the understanding that there would be no financial commitment; Gary Smith seconded, motion passed with one abstention (John "Ole" Oldenburg).

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

- Thursday 8th of November a presentation on chlorides in area streams was delivered to the Village of Arlington Heights Public Works staff.
- Thursday 15th of November a presentation on the DRSCW's work on TMDLs and adaptive management was delivered at the USEPA Region 5 TMDL Practitioners Workshop.

Jennifer Clarke, Illinois EPA, was named TMDL practitioner of the year. DRSCW will send a congratulatory letter to her. Abel Haile, Illinois EPA, said speaking for the agency that they appreciated the work on TMDL implementation that the DRSCW had done.

We plan to have a draft newsletter out before the annual meeting in February. The newsletter will include information about the membership dues increase and any feedback we may have received from Illinois EPA on the draft white paper.

12. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- February 27, 2013 (Annual Meeting)
- April 24, 2013
- June 26, 2013
- August 28, 2013
- October 30, 2013
- December 11, 2013
- February 26, 2014 (Annual Meeting)