

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
December 11, 2013
9:00 – 11:00 AM

1. Approval of minutes from the October 30, 2013 meeting (Attachment 1)

Nick Menninga made a motion made to approve the minutes, seconded by Tom Richardson, unanimously approved.

2. Chlorides Management at DuPage County - DuPage County Division of Transportation (DuDOT) is responsible for combating ice and snow on approximately 1000 lane miles of road, >20 acres of parking surface, 5 acres of exposed parking garages and is the single largest snow and ice operation in DuPage County. During the last 8 years, the county has drastically reduced the amount of salt used by implementing best management practices and exploring different chemical options. DuDOT has also adopted the practice of “spot salting,” pre-applying liquids in areas where vehicle accidents, braking or freezing are likely to occur, with great success. The presentation will detail the operation and look at how the County advanced its operations to this stage.

Presenter: John Kawka, Manager of Highway Operations at DuPage County

Rick Federighi asked about pre wetting at the spinner. This can be adjusted up to 16 gallons/ ton. Brown salt works well and 4 gallons/ton should be sufficient- you just want it wet.

Steve Zehner asked about the quality of beet juice products DuDOT has encountered. John Kawka stated that quality varies by vendor. He had to rebid a contract with a preferred vendor after documenting unsatisfactory performance with their product. He relies on vendors to ensure he receives a quality product. A new product, S7, worked out well. The principle problem is the quantity and size of solids in the product.

Jason Elias inquired about how DuDOT uses and maintains liquids over bridges. Kawka responded that he uses “brown salt” to anti-ice on Yackley Hill 15-18X/year to anti ice. Conditions may look icy but the surface allows cars to stop.

The S7 product is corn and soy based – 70% salt brine, 30% carbs. It does not contain liquid calcium chloride and does not clog sprayers because there are no fines in the product (DuDOT has 500 and 750 gallon trucks and the spray heads had to be cleaned all the time). DuDOT incorporates a rust inhibitor (as corrosive as tap water) for use on sidewalks and one application lasted for 3 storms, meaning the residual effects lasted longer than expected. The inhibitors allowed them to use the product in concrete parking structures.

Stephen McCracken asked about how the quality of beet juice products translates to fines. Dean Ennes stated that filtering is a technical issue. They use 20 mesh screens in their lines and flush at the start and end of their lines to keep things clear.

Stephen thanked John Kawka and his staff for their assistance executing the chloride reduction workshops. Stephen also thanked John Kawka and Scott Weber, Village of Hanover Park, for their expertise which has been instrumental for discussions with the Tollway and community partners for the chloride offset program.

- 3. Elgin O' Hare Western Access Chloride Offset Targets and Allocations.** Presentation will look at chloride reduction targets included in the EOWA offset program and how they will be divided amongst communities to meet the target within each effected basin. The presentation will also look at the ambient monitoring system that will be used to judge how the program performed.

Presenter: Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation/ DRSCW

Larry Cox asked whether others, like schools, libraries and park districts, would be eligible to participate in the program. Stephen stated that training for smaller entities such as these are more critical in the smaller watersheds such as Meacham Creek (e.g. Roselle). They were being looked at under the effort presently. Other opportunities may exist with the private sector. John Kawka stated there are also a number of opportunities for communication among operators: training in Madison, WI; Snow Conference in Cincinnati, OH; APWA Certification program.

John Kawka added that Tollway assistance is for equipment and training, and that the Tollway does not dictate levels of service, that remains an agency-level decision. Stephen added the aim was to make an agency more efficient for whatever level of service they are currently supplying. Kawka stated that communication is key and that it takes some work to get public works, DOT and engineers (stormwater/wastewater) on the same page. Another critical area is staff and their response to change.

4. Projects Committee (new business)

- **PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS).** The Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter, is reapplying its efforts to grant local governments authority to ban the “sale and use” of CTS in Illinois. What is the DRSCW’s role?

Stephen McCracken provided a review of the DRSCW’s monitoring results and current research on PAHs.

Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club, asked if the DRSCW would support a ban, and in what capacity. Illinois EPA was uncomfortable with a state-wide ban due to worries about enforcement. Last year Senator Althoff (McHenry County) introduced legislation that would give counties the right to regulate CTS; this effort did not succeed. The Sierra Club is interested in supporting county and municipal codes to ban the sale and use of CTS. Senator Tom Cullerton and State Representative Laura Fine have expressed support.

Antonio Quintanilla stated that occupational health and safety, public health and the human impact, aspects may also provide support for the ban.

Stephen McCracken mentioned the US Geological Survey is researching and has published papers on the human impacts of CTS.

Jim Huff asked about alternatives to CTS and whether contractors are on board with the use of the other products. Stephen stated that different products require different application protocols and that providing contractors with trainings would be essential. Stephen said that there were asphalt sealant alternatives and pavement rejuvenators. John Kawka added that the US Air Force did a study on GSB88 a gilsonite pavement rejuvenator. Tara Neff reminded members about the product comparison sheet and other information available on the DRSCW's website.

Will there be opposition? Stephen McCracken said that the CTS industry has an active lobbyist organization which contacted the DRSCW during the implementation of our MOU. Larry Cox suggested we find out why retailers like Lowes and the Home Depot choose not to sell CTS. Nick Menninga asked if this topic should be addressed with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.

- Workshop on “Facility planning for nutrient management” related to a potential positive response to DRSCW’s white paper proposal.
- Oak Meadows Project update –Schedule for dam removal and river restoration set to start in mid- 2015. River restoration should be completed by fall 2015.
- Fawell Dam fish passage study update.
Phil Maloney, V3 Companies. This flood control structure is located in northwest Naperville on the West Branch DuPage River. It has a 3 cell concrete box culvert and 3 individual steel gates on the upstream side. The dam is a barrier to fish passage- there are 12 fish species found downstream of the dam which are absent upstream. One option to create fish passage during low flow is to replace the bottom slab of the center barrel. The team will meet with DuPage County Stormwater Management and prepare a preliminary cost estimate. The goal is to de-list the upper river segment.

5. Monitoring Committee (new business)

- 2013 Salt Creek basin assessment update. Sampling is complete.
- East Branch DuPage River Basin Assessment 2011 –under review.
Members will be sent the draft report for review.
- DO sonde deployment for 2013-14 - winter season conductivity monitoring is starting.
Thank you to Mary Dressel, DuPage County.
- Database Development Update –comments from last meeting have been integrated, where possible.

6. Chloride Reduction (new business)

- Tollway MOU – Each participating community’s preliminary target reductions were assessed and a framework for the ambient monitoring network created (maps and details of both items will be reviewed at meeting).

7. White Paper Update

- Illinois EPA Update

The DRSCW created a draft of special conditions which will be sent to Prairie Rivers Network for comments. An implementation document will be created.

- Resolution of support update
Currently, we have 8 commitments for resolutions of support (5 received with 3 in the works). It is important that we have support from elected officials and managers. We will need our officials to make projects happen. The assessment will not be reassessed regardless of participation; however, it is critical to the DRSCW's proposal that all POTW communities participate.

Nick Menninga stated that Downers Grove Sanitary District conducted a study to look at chemical BPR. In an effort to help agency members determine how and what is necessary to develop a plan to remove phosphorus, the DRSCW will host a 3 hour session in January that outlines incremental approaches with operations and maintenance costs.

Larry Cox stated that information will be presented on the most cost effective manner to meet 1mg/L now by utilizing existing tanks/space without major expenditure. The potential 5-year window provides an opportunity to understand operations and parameters.

8. Watershed Permitting Update (old business)

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

10. Business Items (new business)

- 2013-2014 Membership Dues - Attachment 2
- Accounts Update – Attachment 3
- Funding update (SB2081) and lobbyist contract – Attachment 4

The contract with Chuck Vaughn to represent the Workgroup on our legislative item expires on December 31. Our current contract allows us to renew for another year at \$9,500, which is the same amount we paid this year (we paid \$19,000 for each of the first two years). The approved DRSCW budget includes the renewal of this contract through 2014. The sole focus of this contract during 2014 is to finalize the \$2.5M capital funding commitment which was proposed by IEPA and the Governor's office as an alternative to SB2081. A copy of the proposed contract is attached. The Executive Board recommends approval of this contract and will request Workgroup approval of this contract at the December 11 regular meeting.

Larry Cox made a motion to approve the contract with Charles Vaughn, seconded by Dennis Streicher, unanimously approved.
- Items for annual meeting- Board and Bylaws
- IL Route 53 & IL Route 56 expansion
- Grant Management Update
- Other Business

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

- 11.21.2013 – The DRSCW (Stephen McCracken) was invited by Lake County Stormwater Management Commission to discuss dam removal as a tool for managing improved water quality and biological outcomes.
- A draft winter newsletter has been developed (sent to members separately).

12. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- February 26, 2014 (Annual Meeting)
- April 30, 2014
- June 25, 2014
- August 27, 2014
- October 29, 2014
- December 10, 2014