

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

February 24, 2010

Annual Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Introductory Remarks

Dennis Streicher, DRSCW President and Director of Water & Wastewater, City of Elmhurst
Dennis welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and thanked them for braving the snow.

DRSCW Suggestions to Improve the TMDL Process and Establish a Project Funding Source.

Presenter: Dennis Streicher, DRSCW President and Director of Water & Wastewater, City of Elmhurst

Synopsis

As the DRSCW moves to improved prioritizing and targeting cost effective projects the necessity of a long term funding source for stream management and improvement has become increasingly clear. The DRSCW has been advancing the case at state level that at least a portion of NPDES funds collected from local agencies should be returned to their watersheds of origin to fund water quality and habitat restoration activities. The DRSCW has also engaged with IEPA to improve coordination and design of TMDLs for the program area.

Dennis stated that DRSCW had met with the Governors staff and staff from the IEPA Bureau of water to discuss the status of monies generated by the NPDES permit scheme. The discussions revealed that half of the fees were being sent to IEPA (a move offset there by cuts in general funding) and the remaining half were used to fund general expenditure. Dennis noted that the DRSCW identifies more projects the importance of a long tem funding source to implement them was becoming more critical. Dennis suggested that the DRSCW bring this to the attention of IAWA, who had an experienced lobbyist on staff, and gauge their interest in pushing in Springfield for the restoration of the funds to their intended purpose. A similar move should be made by the environmental advocacy groups. Dennis said he did not foresee the DRSCW getting involved in lobbying directly but that other groups who had experience in this sector would take the lead.

Chris Oszak asked about the nature of a partnership with IAWA. Dennis stated DRSCW would ask IAWA to pick up the cause, which would benefit their members state-wide. Dennis noted that many members of DRSCW are also members of the IAWA. No formal agreement would be made for this issue or future issues with IAWA. Jim Knudsen stated that engaging the DuPage Mayors and Manager's Conference would also be important. Cindy Skrukud, from the Fox River Study Group, will take the information from the DRSCW's meeting with the Governor's staff to the next meeting of the Fox River Study Group. Larry Cox stated that these efforts would help build a coalition of like organizations and momentum for these issues. Dennis stated that the DRSCW is advocating that NPDES funds throughout the state be returned to agency members/permit holders to help fund projects the DRSCW recommends, not redistributed to the DRSCW directly.

Stream Dissolved Oxygen Improvement Project for East Branch DuPage River - Churchill Woods Dam Removal/Modification

Presenter: Sarah Ruthko, Project Engineer, DuPage County Division of Stormwater (DPDS)

Synopsis

The removal/modification of the Churchill Woods dam was recommended in the 2008 Stream Dissolved Oxygen Improvement Feasibility Study Report for the East Branch of the DuPage River. In 2009 a project team led by DuPage County Division of Stormwater and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and consisting of V3 Consultants and Huff & Huff developed a plan to modify and then remove the structure, eliminating the impoundment. Sarah Ruthko of DuPage County will outline the project design, permitting and schedule.

Sarah stated that the goals of this project are to improve in-stream DO, IBI, MIBI, and habitat. There are two phases planned for this project. Phase I is securing funding for partial dam modification and stream channel restoration; and Phase II, full dam removal and restoration of wetland areas. The additional construction costs associated with Phase II are approximately \$600K, currently unfunded, but costs could fall to the \$300-400K range, depending on the project schedule. Funds for Phase I have been secured through NRCS. The timetable presented is on schedule, including the permitting tasks. Larry Cox inquired about requesting alternative bids to include both Phases I and II. An addendum to add Phase II may be added and Sarah stated that her committee is meeting on the 4th to investigate bidding, which would begin in early June after public comments are reviewed. Due to the depressed economy, Sarah anticipates bids will be competitive. Stabilizing and seeding make up the bulk of costs and specifications and maintenance will be added to the contract. Tom Richardson asked about provisions to protect the heron rookery. Sarah responded that there are. IEPA approved a 319 grant for \$200K (inclusive of a 40% match) of construction costs beginning this summer through 2012. This grant requires a local match. The DRSCW has applied for a \$60K US Fish and Wildlife Grant. Churchill Woods is competing with projects targeting high profile species but may benefit because we have already progressed to the implementation phase.

Chloride Usage Education and Reduction Program Study

Presenter: Daniel Bounds, P.E., Senior Project Manager, CDM

Synopsis

The Workgroup, in collaboration with APWA and the DuPage County Division of Stormwater hosted two workshops in 2009, including one for private operators, one of the first in the state. Plans for 2010 include repeating the 2007 questionnaire, expansion of the certification workshops and the introduction of calibration workshops. CDM Project Manager Daniel Bounds will deliver the presentation. *Daniel Bounds was unable to attend the meeting.*

Jim Knudsen, Village of Carol Stream, Chloride Committee Chair, presented the Chloride Usage Education and Reduction update. The committee works to develop and implement program elements to meet chloride TMDL goals. Two chloride reduction workshops this past year, one targeted public agencies and one targeted private operators. The Public workshop had 97 participants. Presentations on the evolving practice of pre-wetting were given by John Kawka, DuPage County Department of Transportation, and Robert Harazin, City of Wheaton. An overview of new deicing products was given by representatives from a number of vendors. A truck and on-board equipment show was available for participants in the facility parking area. The private workshop had 43 participants. John Lambrecht, Building Owners and Managers Association of Suburban Chicago (BOMA), gave a presentation on Facility Deicing Operations.

Fortin Consulting followed with their Deicing Training and Certification. All participants who took the certification exam passed, and their names and agency affiliation are posted on the DuPage County Stormwater Division's webpage. Both workshops were well attended and future workshop topics include application and calibration. 2010 Goals for this committee include: reissuing the deicing program questionnaire to determine if the chloride reduction workshops resulted in different practices; training on equipment calibration; developing guidance for application rates; ongoing chloride (conductivity) monitoring; and developing awards/recognition for deicing & anti-icing program improvements (potentially).

Data Collection 2009

Presenter: Stephen McCracken, DRSCW

Synopsis

Continuous dissolved oxygen, conductivity monitoring and bioassessment work continued throughout the year in 2009. A review of each of the programs will be given as will a look at preliminary data from the continuous DO program and fish and habitat data from the West Branch of the DuPage River.

Stephen covered results from 2009 and 2006 for IBI (fish) and habitat (QHEI). QHEI scores showed a considerable increase in two reaches, probably a result of the restoration work accomplished along the river. Stephen then looked at the DO monitoring program, showing that 2009 had the coolest ambient monthly averages since 2006. 2009 data from Oak Meadows and the Fullersburg Woods sites was also reviewed. Karen Kabbes asked if groundwater inputs had been considered. Stephen stated that those may be looked at as a factor. Dennis continued that the DRSCW DO Feasibility project had been recognized for an ACEC award (Honors awards watershed division). He congratulated the contractors (Huff&Huff, Interfluve and HDR) on their achievement and thanked Jim Huff for putting together the submittal package.

Annual Business Meeting

- **Approval of the minutes for the October 28, 2009 meeting**
Motion to approve minutes made by Jennifer Hammer, seconded by Shirley Burger, accepted unanimously.
- **Election of Officers and Members-at-Large**
 - President – Kevin Buoy- DuPage County Public Works
 - Vice President - Dave Gorman, Village of Lombard
 - Secretary-Treasurer – Tony Quintanilla, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
 - Member-at-Large- Sue Baert, Wheaton Sanitary District
 - Member-at-Large- Dennis Streicher, City of Elmhurst
 - Member-at-Large – Steve Zehner, Baxter & Woodman

Dennis stated that Tony Quintanilla was not originally on the slate of officers. Manju Sharma, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, is not able to continue serving as DRSCW Secretary-Treasurer due to her employment responsibilities. Motion to accept officers and members at large made by Jennifer Hammer, seconded by Mary Lou Kalsted, accepted unanimously.
- **Change in tax exempt corporation status from 501(c)4 to 501(c)3**

At the February 25, 2008 annual meeting, the Workgroup authorized a change from 501(c)4 tax exempt status to 501(c)3 tax exempt status. The primary advantage of the 501(c)3 status is the tax deductibility of contributions by individuals and organizations. This change has not yet been filed with the IRS.

- **Grant Management Update**

- FAA 3190522 – Final grant reimbursement has been received. The full amount of the grant award (\$597,000) was received.
- Grant FAA 3190707 has been revised to better suit the evolving needs of the DRSCW.
- New 319 grant award.(2278.14*)
- Grant application submitted to CMAP for staff time covering outreach on non-point source pollution.

Stephen McCracken gave an update. The FAA 3190522 grant funds were all received and the final report was accepted. Changes to FAA 3190707 had been negotiated with IEPA to reflect new priorities, including a change to use wet weather education dollars for developing a restorability index and a PAH literature review. The new 319 grant in the amount of \$220,014 has been awarded for Churchill Woods database development, the restorability analysis and staff time.*

- **Adoption of FY 2010-11 Budget**

Larry Cox presented the proposed Five Year DRSCW budget. He noted that the budget for biological and chemical assessment costs vary year-to-year due to study size, noting that the East Branch is the smallest of the three and funds allocated for the 5th year reflect that. Larry stated that the detailed budget will be made available on the DRSCW website (www.drscw.org). The DO Improvement Churchill Woods project needs an \$80K local match. Motion to approve budget made by Tom Richardson, seconded by Steve Zehner, accepted unanimously.

- **Membership dues for FY 2010-11**

- **Membership list and 2005 -2009 dues received**

Membership has been steady since the inception of DRSCW. Motion to approve membership list and dues received made by Tony Quintanilla, seconded by Steve Zehner, accepted unanimously.

- **Appointment of Committee Chairpersons by incoming President**

- 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 – Tom Richardson, Sierra Club - River Prairie Group

Dennis noted that the Executive Board met and approved all appointments as listed here.

- **Newsletter and website update**

Tara Neff gave an update on the new DRSCW website. The website will allow both members and other interested parties access to our data. Members may direct others to the website to find out who we are, what we do, and to utilize other resources. Now available online: meeting schedules, presentations, agendas, minutes, sign in sheets, reports (bioassessment, dissolved oxygen, chloride reduction, non-point source), watershed descriptions and maps, chloride reduction/deicing resources, and financial records. This may be a good resource to encourage new membership and keep your superiors informed of the value of DRSCW membership.

- **Investment Update**

Larry Cox stated that there are two CDs that will mature in March, which will be reinvested. If anyone knows of a better rate than 1%, please contact him.

- **DRSCW Calendar**

- December 8 - Conference call with IEPA Bureau of Water Personnel
- December 15 - Meeting with Governor's staff
- February 12 - ACEC Award Presentation, Springfield
- February 18 - Dennis Streicher presented "A data-driven approach to Best Management Practice Selection" at The Conservation Foundation's "Beyond The Basics: Green Infrastructure for Clean Water" Seminar.

Dennis Streicher added that the Board is proposing that DRSCW members use DRSCW ambient data instead of duplicating data with their own work. IEPA is open to the idea. Also, the DRSCW is advocating that future TMDLs be put on hold until the benefits of current projects can be evaluated.

- **Workgroup meeting schedule**

- April 28, 2010
- June 30, 2010
- August 25, 2010
- October 27, 2010
- December 8, 2010
- February 23, 2011 (annual meeting)

Special recognition for exiting president, Dennis Streicher. Kevin Buoy presented a gift to Dennis on behalf of the workgroup.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Steve Zehner, seconded by Ron Johnson, accepted unanimously