

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
August 31, 2011 Meeting
10:00 AM - Noon

Venue – Lombard Village Hall, 255 E. Wilson Ave., Lombard, IL 60148
Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

1. **Minutes for 6.29.2011 Meeting (Attachment 1)** *Motion to accept the minutes put forward by Glenn Sullivan, seconded by Dennis Streicher. Accepted unanimously.*

2. **Presentation: Identifying and Prioritizing Projects to Meet the Aquatic Life Goal of the Clean Water Act.** Supporting a viable and diverse aquatic community is essential to meet the aquatic life goal for streams categorized as general use. However identifying why aquatic communities are absent from stream segments is a complex exercise filled with uncertainty, and for NPDES permit holders the stakes are very high. Such analyses are, however, critical to making better resource allocation decisions on a watershed scale. The DRSCW is attempting to identify project objectives at stream reach scale and prioritize the segments for intervention by utilizing the IPS tool. These objectives are meant to address bottle necks to improved aquatic life thresholds. The presentation will look at how data was gathered, the stressor response mapping and outputs, the variables for prioritizing reaches and highlighting the constraints, and the unknowns and open ended questions.
Presenter: Stephen McCracken DRSCW

3. **Presentation: Turning Priorities on Selected Stream Segments into Implementation Projects.** The IPS tool identifies reach objectives and then prioritizes the reaches according to an agreed upon system of ranking; it does not identify specific projects. Once a reach is prioritized, projects then need to be designed to meet the stated objectives. Examples of this process are currently under investigation will be discussed.
Presenter: Stephen McCracken DRSCW

The two presentations were delivered together. During the discussion of the implementation of projects the subject of the two RFQs was covered (item 6 in agenda). Stephen outlined both RFQs and what the aims were, noting that the hope was to have a consultant for the survey RFQ on board by the October meeting. Stephen described the topographical screening RFQ in detail. A motion was made to allow the projects committee to launch the RFQ and for the Executive Board to sign a contract up to \$10,000. Motion made by Jim Knudsen and seconded by Mary Lou Kalsted. Motion accepted unanimously.

The second RFQ proposal was for an ammonia mass balance on the lower East Branch DuPage River. A motion was made by Dennis Streicher to release the RFQ, select a consultant and then have the item brought to the DRSCW before the contract signed (due to start in spring 2012). Motion seconded by Fred Maier and accepted unanimously.

4. **Presentation: Developing and Putting Projects on the Ground.** In order to move towards compliance with the aquatic life designated use thresholds, physical changes will have to

occur in each of the three basins. There is a range of possible funding scenarios for project engineering, permitting and implementation costs ranging from members to third party projects to the Workgroup itself. Of course, these various scenarios are not mutually exclusive. The presentation will review a number of possibilities for discussion by members

Presenter: TBD

Discussion was led by Larry Cox. Larry described the position on the NPDES permits and suggested that we look at additional ways of generating revenue for implementing the IPS, noting that even if the state did deliver the funds, the DRSCW would still have to find matching funds. Shirley Burger said we need to consider funding for years out, monies were not currently allocated but could use the tool as a way to get them assigned. Glen Sullivan raised the subject of Fullersburg Woods Dam. He outlined the paradox that members discharging wastewater to Salt Creek were all being held up on the Fullersburg Woods project by Oak Brook, a community without a WWTP. Oakbrook would not be interested in funding any part of the project, it should, he continued, be funded by those basin members who would benefit (by forgoing future upgrades). Perhaps a mechanism similar to membership dues could be developed.

Stephen McCracken suggested that Jennifer Clarke (IEPA), recap the conversation they had previous week concerning the permit update for the Village of Roselle's plant discharging to Salt Creek. Jennifer Clarke stated she contacted Stephen to talk about the DO models for Salt Creek and East Branch DuPage River. The Devlin Plant permit had come up for renewal; it discharges to an impaired waterway; the TMDL Department had to review the permit. Jennifer felt she could sign off on the permit given the DRSCW's work on analysis and implementation of DO improvement projects, specifically the area's success in modifying dams (Churchill Woods, McDowell Grove and Warrenville). Logically the Fullersburg Woods Dam would be next. A number of plants renewing permits discharging to the area had been treated this way. Larry Cox said that this was an excellent endorsement of DRSCW's work, and underlined the importance of our "funding for implementation" conversation. Jim Knudsen asked about the status of the Federal 319 program. Jennifer Clarke answered that while it would be subject to cuts it would remain in place. Jennifer Hammer pointed out that 319 in terms of funding watershed plans or the IPS tool was always going to form a small piece of the funding puzzle.

There then followed several comments on the TMDL implementation costs versus removal those of projects versus those of projects such as the Fullersburg Woods dam removal. Jim Knudsen commented that this is the time to look at identifying implementable projects to meet the watershed restoration goals, he stressed the cost-effectiveness of watershed projects as opposed to projects based solely on local priorities. Stephen McCracken discussed the line between project identification and design and implementation. He stated that a lot of work needed to be done (survey, position, flow and land ownership data) before projects would be ready for design work, which could be completed by members. Larry raised the possibility of skipping a year of basin assessment to allow funds to be allocated to getting projects to the point of development. Dennis Streicher said that the monitoring was vital to assess the impacts of projects. Larry replied that targeted-monitoring could be used for individual projects. Tom Richardson pointed out that the sample interval of 3 years was arbitrary, and was based on the number of the basins (1 every year). Jennifer Hammer advised that limited

monitoring would raise the cost per site. Jim Knudsen stated that a watershed fund needed to be established. Larry Cox stated that may be the case, but we were in the midst of an economic downturn. Dan Bounds suggested putting IPS into a format that would publicize the work to member municipalities. He recommended a product containing a summary of the work, facts and findings, prioritization effort, and potential WQ improvement projects in the watersheds from the Workgroup's perspective. The "product" would cover project opportunities in each community. The material would allow communities to target projects or modify existing or future plans in order to meet multiple goals.

This idea was greeted with enthusiasm. Larry Cox made a motion for the Executive Board to develop a summary of IPS priorities by political jurisdictions and then to send letters to those municipalities to inform them of the outputs. The motion included the approval to seek assistance if necessary (RFQ/RFP). Seconded by Jennifer Hammer, approved unanimously.

5. Monitoring Committee

- The draft report for the 2010 Salt Creek Bioassessment is nearing completion. A draft should be available before the October meeting.
- East Branch 2011 Survey - water column chemistry monitoring is complete. Sediment collection continues though it has been delayed by the summer storms. The second passes for biology and habitat are currently underway. Some additional monitoring of detention ponds and lakes is also planned.
- Database RFQ- three sets of qualifications were submitted following an RFQ. They are currently being reviewed by the monitoring committee. It is proposed that the DRSCW give the monitoring committee authority to negotiate a contract up to \$10,000 with approval by the Executive Board. *Stephen McCracken explained that the process includes field reconnaissance, topographic surveying, and formulating the project. The RFP would go to our 15 firms that are members. A motion to allow the monitoring committee to negotiate a contract up \$10,000 with the selected consultant and to allow the Board to sign it was made by Jennifer Hammer and seconded by Larry Cox. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

6. Projects Committee (old business)

- IPS Implementation RFQ's
- Churchill Woods Update – planting update and survey feedback.
- PAH Update - Peter Van Metre (USGS), a nationally recognized expert of the subject of PAHs and coal tar will be speaking at our October meeting.

7. Chloride Reduction Report (new business)

Chloride Reduction workshops are scheduled for Wednesday October 12 (public agencies for public roadways) and Thursday, October 13 (private operators and agencies for parking lots and sidewalks). Both will run from 7:30AM-12:30PM. The public roads workshop will address retrofitting equipment for liquids and pre-wetted solids. Fortin Consulting will provide their certification training at the private workshop. Please see the "Save the Date" announcements attached (Attachment 2).

8. Fecal Coliform TMDL (old business)

A questionnaire to supply data for field proofing the mapping exercise has been produced by the contractor and reviewed by members in the project area. Comments have been supplied to IEPA

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

Ross Hill brought the welcome news that the Warrenville Dam was likely to come out this year at a cost of \$1.8M. He also said that the bridge in Fullersburg Woods impoundment (pedestrian foot bridge) that had been damaged in storms in 2010 (it had had a casing for a DO probe on its abutments) was being replaced with a spanning bridge that would have no abutments, making placement of the probe difficult. Stephen and Ross will discuss options.

10. Business Items

- **Membership 2011 -2012** Dues letters have been prepared and will be mailed out next week.
- **Federal and State Filings** – Federal and State Tax returns have been made FYE 2011
- **Accounts Update** (Attachment 3 old business)
- **Other Business** (new business)
- **Grant Management Update** – DRSCW submitted a 319 grant application for a project amount of \$93,360 to IEPA.

11. DRSCW Calendar and Press Coverage (new business)

12. Workgroup meeting schedule

- October 26, 2011
- December 7, 2011
- February 29, 2012 Annual Meeting
- April 25, 2012
- June 27, 2012
- August 29, 2012

Adjourned at 12:35 following motion by Jim Huff, seconded by Tom Richardson and unanimous vote in favor.