

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
June 22, 2016
9:00 – 11:00 AM**

1. Approval of April 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Dave Gorman pointed out that Jim Knudsen's name is misspelled on the first page of the minutes. Larry Cox made a motion to approve the minutes, acknowledging the misspelling on Jim Knudsen's name will be corrected; Shirley Burger seconded; motion carried unanimously.

2. Meet the Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group

Hickory Creek Watershed Management Planning Group (HCWPG) and its members are collaboratively working with regulators to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff; not only WWTPs discharges themselves, but through collective efforts to demonstrate a positive impact on the overall water quality of the watershed. Thirteen municipalities are incorporated within Hickory Creek watershed, in which 12 are MS4s and eight (8) are active members of the watershed group. MS4 communities who are active members of HCWPG have the advantage to document their involvement in HCWPG's activities to meet MS4 permit requirements.

Presenter: Dr. Lindsay Birt, Assistant Project Manager/Project Engineer II, Huff & Huff, a subsidiary of GZA, and watershed coordinator for HCWPC.

Stephen McCracken asked whether they planned to track BMPs. Lindsay Birt responded they will do some tracking for their 319 application for BMPs moving forward. Not necessarily for specific BMPs already identified. They plan to work with Will County for tracking in the future.

Stephen McCracken continued that the MS4 permit calls for examining the 303(d) list and for sampling for any causes listed there. As an impairment may be identified in some reaches but not others McCracken wanted to know if the HCWPG planned to monitor across the board or match sampling to listed impaired reaches only. Lindsay Birt responded that her task is to examine the options and develop a recommendation. This still needed to be reviewed but HCWPG will probably choose the former approach. They would like to have sample consistency – and this option seems favorable. Each municipality will have to pass the recommendation through their board for approval to evaluate costs. Some thought was to sample there and everywhere else to compare impaired and not impaired. The question is, would this be feasible? HCWPG's monitoring program is volunteer based and they would have to train public works personnel. Lindsay will put forward a recommendation to HCWPG steering committee.

Dave Gorman asked whether all the volunteers are from municipalities. Lindsay Birt replied that all the volunteer monitors are from municipalities and trained based on the QAPP. Illinois American Water provided data for 2 stations in Hickory Creek.

Holly Hudson asked for clarification on whether the 319 BMPs referenced in the presentation are newly constructed and being monitored for performance. Lindsay Birt replied negatively. The BMPs are planned for in the 319 application – they are still waiting to find out if they will receive a 319 grant. It is their intent moving forward to schedule for monitoring BMPs – identify location, design, installation and vegetation, which is not usually included in grant applications. They are trying to be strategic in planning for how to monitor in the end. It's a different mindset. It may be that other

future permits might require this. At the federal level it's already happening, i.e. Great Lakes initiatives are already doing that (tracking) and it's important for watershed groups as well. Tracking should not be an afterthought.

Larry Cox asked about the volunteer work and the group's level of funding. Lindsay Birt responded that they have a tight budget. Total budget membership increased in the last couple of years from \$5K to \$7K per municipality. The total budget absorbs all costs for monitoring and watershed coordination salary. These costs are about what a municipality would pay for monitoring under the new MS4.

Larry Cox inquired whether the monitoring would be site specific or watershed wide. Lindsay Birt replied that each municipality would have to monitor at 1 -2 locations but the watershed would pay for 1-2 in the watershed. She added that this is not the case for municipalities in multiple watersheds. The HCWPG might want to do site specific so they can evaluate performance for future BMP implementation.

Larry Cox asked about the role of POTWs discharging in the watershed. Birt stated they are very active. POTWs provide volunteers to monitor, assistance for the Bio-Blitz, meeting attendance, participating in the chloride variance, etc. HCWPG absorbs part of the monitoring program – it also just happens to be part of the new MS4 permit requirement.

Larry Cox noted there are no TMDLs in their watershed and asked about the process for a third party TMDL. Lindsay Birt responded that they have already submitted a memo to Illinois EPA and will have discussions this year to develop it within the next few years. Yes, the leader would be HCWPG.

3. Plans to Meet New ILR-40 Stormwater Requirements.

The new ILR 40 contains a number of new requirements for monitoring, training and education. DuPage County Stormwater Management and the DRSCW have reviewed existing activities in the area and identified what areas are currently addressed and where activities need to be added in order to reach compliance across the DuPage County and the DRSCW area.

Presenters: Robert Swanson, and Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater Management, Stephen McCracken, TCF/DRSCW

Andrea Cline asked whether they planned to monitor across the watershed? Rob Swanson stated they plan to sample do specific MS4 sampling at pre-existing sites, which spatially represent the main stem for a total of 7 sites; they did add one at Addison Creek and at the headwaters (SC15) to add organics and metals. Rob Swanson calculates they will have 2 cycles of wet weather monitoring for each permit cycle (permit is 5 years plus years to reissue).

Bill Blecke inquired how MS4s would report the monitoring. DuPage County Stormwater Management will provide a single report that covers monitoring. Some communities will complete individual reports. The regional permit reports include all partners in the cover letter. The annual report will also cover analysis of current BMPs and results of the monitoring section.

Larry Cox asked how DRSCW member communities in Cook County will benefit from these monitoring activities. Stephen McCracken stated the annual NPDES activities report the DRSCW generates for members will include this document and graphs which Cook County members can add to their report.

Larry Cox noted the samples have already been collected and wanted to know who collected them. Stephen McCracken replied the DRSCW contract with SLI included floating days to sample wet weather or deal with other unforeseen events. A couple weeks ago, the conditions seemed right, Rob Swanson checked the flow gages, and the Demand/Nutrient/Metals/Organic parameters were all collected. The sediment sample will capture the rest. The permit stated sediment should be collected within 24 hours of a storm; which is normally collected during dry periods. The wet weather samples are within the budgeted amount at no extra cost.

Larry Cox asked whether the 2 wet weather organics sites will continue into the future. This year these additional tests will not affect the budget – there are always some sites that cannot be sampled (i.e. dry). We may need to add organics testing at the sites there permanently going forward if the 48 hours protocol is not refined..

Tom Minarik inquired whether there was a defined number of wet weather events specified. Rob Swanson replied that the original draft specified quarterly sampling and they received lots of comments. The final permit just states that you have to monitor, and does not provide a frequency.

Larry Cox asked if they had to submit a plan or just have a plan and if a summary will be provided so everyone knows their plan moving forward. Rob Swanson stated that DuPage County Stormwater Management is developing a larger regional permit monitoring program for which they will provide a description. Stephen McCracken added that it will be included in the annual NPDES report sent to members. All the sample sites in GIS and we can produce maps quickly.

Andrea Cline noted that a series of other possibilities are presented in the permit, including a watershed wide monitoring program – why did you choose wet weather? Rob Swanson noted that all options are presented as part of wet weather, “must be within 48 hours” (including sediment). Andrea Cline stated the interpretation should be clarified and the DRWW plans to discuss with Illinois EPA. The DRWW is planning to fulfill requirements with their watershed ambient monitoring program which would not guarantee samples 48 hours after a suitable storm. Stephen McCracken stated that for this year, until clarification is provided, the County and DRSCW wanted to be safe and meet requirements as they are stated in the permit. Stephen McCracken agrees that the last sentence “within 48-hours” appears to be a remnant of last revision and needs to be clarified moving forward.

Larry Cox added that the DRSCW discusses wet weather and we need to begin looking to see how much impact it has. This is a low cost option to see what’s happening. Stephen McCracken concurred that it is an easy way to make sure we’re covered no matter how IEPA interpreted the permits language.

Lindsay Birt asked for clarification that the sampling frequency would capture a single wet weather event at all 7 locations for spatial understanding. Stephen McCracken responded affirmatively. In addition it addresses impairments that could lead to the design a small scale study. He added that we are tweaking the program to meet requirements. Within 48 hours means we can relax and not chase storms. It doesn’t say every year or quarter, etc.

Mary Beth Falsey provided additional information on the qualifying local program for NPDES compliance.

Dennis Streicher asked whether each MS4 still have their own permits. Mary Beth Falsey replied, yes, although DuPage County Stormwater Management is proposing a watershed permit. Illinois EPA seems more open to this option. Seeing workgroups like DRSCW, they see they can work with single group for stormwater.

Abel Haile stated that they've had discussion with US EPA regarding watershed workgroups and have been looking at other states such as MN, IN and some west coast states to get ideas. They are working on a proposal. The main issue is that all communities with individual permits have to be in agreement to be involved.

Andrea Cline asked for clarification whether some can opt out of a watershed workgroup. Abel responded affirmatively, and that those that opt out would have to report for their own municipal permit. Haile noted those opting out would not benefit from the expertise/resources from group.

Lindsay Birt asked whether DuPage County has communities in multiple watersheds. Mary Beth Falsey responded affirmatively, i.e. Des Plaines, Salt Creek, Fox River, West Branch. Their focus is on the three watersheds central in DuPage County. However, they are cognizant that communities with boundaries additionally located in the Fox and Des Plaines watersheds will still have to consider activities in the other watersheds. Discussions will occur with both Kane County and MWRD – is there something developed and some bits we participate in. They are starting conversations with communities whose majority is within DuPage County. Any municipalities with dual watersheds would have to participate in both.

4. NPDES Permit Special Conditions (Old Business)

- Remaining POTW Permits (Elmhurst, Wheaton Sanitary District & Wood Dale) Special Conditions Update.

Four plants are still in permit process. WSD has submitted comments and their permit is getting ready for review. Stephen McCracken noted that some permits had multiple reaches listed. For example, Elmhurst's permit contained segments all the way to and including the Des Plaines. Permits historically listed only the section of stream to which they discharged. This was included in WSD's initial permit to which they provided comments and it was removed. Elmhurst will submit similar comments and we will notify Wood Dale of this as well.

- MWRD-GC Permit Special Condition Update.
- Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition Permit Condition Update.

Jennifer Hammer stated that plants in LDRWC are the downstream condition for the DRSCW, especially for offensive conditions. The full DuPage watershed would participate in the NIP. They are working with Illinois EPA and they've had some early discussions Sierra Club and Prairie Rivers Network. Naperville is the only plant on the lower DuPage without a P limit (including P limits due to expansion). The majority of restoration project funding would come from Naperville, following the same calculations as the DRSCW. Other LDRWC plants would follow the same calculation as Bensenville and Itasca to participate in other studies.

Stephen McCracken added that the DRSCW board supports the LDRWC getting the special condition. The section of the Lower DuPage is the driver for p limits for plants in the West Branch DuPage River and to a lesser extent, the East Branch DuPage River (some are individually listed for nuisance algae). It is still the driver for 1mg/l in WB plants. The NIP extends into LDRWC to provide assistance to implement and as the NIP relates to water quality

based effluent limits; we don't want that simply based. We want physical restoration activities to alleviate macrophyte. If successful, Naperville would pay for a dam removal and significant restoration that would directly address this.

Mike Ott asked whether any permits have been reopened. Jennifer Hammer replied that Minooka's permit includes a note that if the special condition is approved, they will be inserted into permits.

Stephen McCracken is encouraged by discussions thus far and noted that it seems optimistic.

5. Funding update (SB2081) (Old Business)

- IGIG grant program. *No update.*

6. Projects Committee (Old Business)

- Oak Meadows Update (Special Conditions Project 1).
Hope to get the coffer dam out in the next couple of weeks. Bio monitoring started his week. Hope to monitor this July and if not, then this September. Flow should be restored in the next couple of weeks.
- Fawell Dam Update (Special Conditions Project).
Modeling concern was that the FEQ model wouldn't compute the conceptual designs. V3 and DuPage County Stormwater Management have been working on the issue and believe they found a solution by importing into HEC RAS. This is good news because the permit will be based on the FEQ model.
- Fullersburg Woods Concept Plan Development.
We need to have a concept plan to develop a scope. Project committee will meet in next several weeks. Will address how to communicate engineering already done with the public, in a conceptual manner. Dennis Streicher noted that we do not expect elected officials to take a position before election.

Gorman stated that clarification for those who are not aware, Fullersburg, AKA Graue Mill Dam can see him after the meeting. This is a very important project.

Larry Cox added that this concept plan in the permit due at the end of this year to help keep progress moving on this project, even in light of elections.

- PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS). *No update.*
- IPS Tool Development. *No update.*

7. Monitoring Committee (Old Business)

- Resource Managers Guide to Aquatic Bioassessment. *No update.*
- DO monitoring started in June.
Sondes are in place. Additional sampling for DO will occur this year.
- The regularly scheduled membership meeting on August 31, 2016 will follow a modified format allowing it to host the kick-off meeting for our Nutrient Implementation Plan (NIP). All members are requested to attend.
Different format 10-15 minute business meeting then discuss NIP. We'll provide a mailing before the meeting with permit language and other considerations. We encourage all to participate – we

have a schedule to get a good NIP set for use beyond the permit. Bring your consultant, participate and share ideas.

Dennis Streicher stated this is part of the permit special condition and is due 2023.

Stephen McCracken noted this is an opportunity to take all analysis and data, IPS tool and monitoring and fold it into one. Water quality based effluent limits – these can be part but can't be only thing in there or we're back to solely focusing on POTW concentration limits. If you are interested call Nick or Stephen.

- USGS Phosphorus Study – Bill Selbig presenting the findings of an evaluation of leaf collection as a means to reduce nutrient loads from urban basins at the DRSCW's April meeting. The Executive Board recommends providing \$2500 to USGS for support of the ongoing research. *Stephen McCracken noted this could be included as part of NIP and that funding would come from the special condition NIP line item.*

Larry Cox made a motion to approve this expenditure, Steve Zehner seconded the motion, all voted in favor; none opposed.

8. Chloride Reduction Committee (New Business)

- 2015-2016 Deicing Questionnaires – we have not yet received responses from all agency members.
These are important and hit both POTW and MS4 NPDES permit requirements. Please see Tara Neff if you are not sure whether your agency submitted a completed survey. Tara Neff has been in contact with all members that have not yet submitted their questionnaire.
- Chloride Offset Program with the Illinois Tollway - Proposals from Bensenville and Wood Dale have been submitted.
These have been submitted to the Illinois Tollway and we hope to have an application from Elmhurst soon.

Larry Cox asked the dollar amount much in terms of the Tollway funding is applied. Stephen McCracken responded that on average, each community applied for approximately \$150K from the Tollway. For example, a municipality may purchase a new truck and the Tollway funds would be used to outfit the truck with improved deicing equipment. Stephen McCracken added that only certain villages are eligible. We also have a consultant working on the project.

- The possibility of a level of service workshop is being explored with DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and the Salt Institute.

The plan is to discuss with Mayors and Managers their role in chloride reduction. DMMC is eager to help execute a workshop. The format is being discussed (breakfast meeting?). The Salt Institute's, Dr. Wilf Nixon of the Salt Institute will participate and the institute pick up his costs. Levels of service includes evaluating policies, i.e. how much time is necessary to clear at what level. We are not preaching change, but how to think about decisions. If public works makes a change the mayor/manager can provide residents with an informed answer that supports the public works deicing program policy.

Dave Gorman provided an example: If it's 3AM do you need bare pavement or can it wait until the next shift? Stephen McCracken added that this is a discussion DMMC has already having internally.

- A draft trends analysis has been submitted and is being reviewed by the chloride committee. *Draft – there were a couple reviews and the report was reissued. Stephen McCracken is reviewing the final. This will be included in next year's Special Conditions report to IEPA and USEAP.*
- Chloride Workshops (Parking Lots & Sidewalks, September 22, 2016; Public Roads, September 29, 2016).
- Chloride Toxicity Study – Jim Huff presented a proposal to DRSCW members at the April meeting. He is requesting support to begin a process that would result in report that may start the process of supporting seasonal chloride standards. The Executive Board recommends supporting this investigation in the amount of \$2500.00.

The study will add to the body of literature and is not being presented in challenging way. This might help US EPA with discussions and we know this single study is not enough to change the standard.

Dennis Streicher made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$2500 for the analysis of seasonal chloride toxicity; Bill Blecke seconded the motion; all voted in favor; none opposed.

- CAWS and Des Plaines River Chloride Variance Update. *No update*

9. Watershed Permitting Update (Old Business)

10. Update on TMDL Development for the DuPage River/Salt Creek (Old Business)

- Illinois EPA's TMDL Division has requested assistance with data gathering for the QUAL 2K model on the northern segment of the West Branch DuPage River. If the proposal is accepted the monitoring would occur in two phases (calibration and validation) July/August. The Executive Board recommends supporting this initiative, not to exceed \$4000.00 and approximately twenty-four hours of staff time.

Low flow conditions will be monitored all at the same time. We will provide staff and use our DO probe. Money will come from NIP line item. QUAL2K is one of the models we would have to do. \$4K includes 1K buffer.

Dennis Streicher inquired wither the arrangement with Illinois EPA as 50-50. Stephen McCracken responded affirmatively, Illinois EPA is monitoring the second site. Also, Tom Minarik noted where MWRD does sampling we may be able to add that to the data set.

Larry Cox made a motion to approve the TMDL monitoring expenditure; seconded by Nick Menninga. All voted in favor; none opposed.

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

- Lower Salt Creek 319 Watershed Plan update. *Holly Hudson provided an update. They will begin reviews of plans and utilize the US EPA Water Quality Scorecard throughout the watershed with regard to water quality and aquatic life*

to plan for these protections. Also DuPage County Stormwater Management will hold another detention basin assessment workshop. There are gaps that need to be address. Water Resource Inventory is underway

CMAP is seeking to hire a water resource planner – this position will work on the Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan.

Larry Cox inquired whether communities are notified of deficiencies identified in the comprehensive plan reviews (i.e. sent letters). Holly Hudson replied that the results of the reviews are included in Watershed Based Plan and are available for communities to reference the next time they plan to make updates. Additionally, some communities may not have a comprehensive land use plan, but they may have other plans to reference such as a Green Infrastructure Plan.

12. Business Items (New Business)

- Welcome Sergio Serafino, MWRD-GC. *Looking forward to planning and participating.*
- Membership Dues 2016-2017 (Attachment 2).
- Financial Report Summary – (Attachment 3). The Executive Board has reviewed the first monthly DRSCW financial report, prepared by Tara Neff and Larry Cox. The first report contains three months, March/April/May, but future reports will cover one month. The report includes:
 - Revenues and expenses for each budget line item by month, year to date and total annual budget amount (financial report summary).
 - Dues and assessments received, by member.
 - Bank statements, including the reconciliation detail for the Itasca checking account, to allow independent verification of the account balances shown on the last page of the financial report.

The intent of the report is to increase Executive Board knowledge and oversight of financial activities in a concise report. From June 2016 forward, the Executive Board will review and approve the financial reports for the preceding two months at each scheduled Executive Board meeting and provide the financial report summary to members.

This report is warranted due to growth and is not the result to any recommendations provided by the auditor.

- Agreement with the Conservation Foundation (Attachment 4). Agreement with The Conservation Foundation for the provision of staffing services to the Workgroup will expire on 6/30/16. The attached renewal agreement for the period from 07/01/16 through 06/30/17 has been approved by the Executive Board and is recommended for approval by the Workgroup. The Workgroup is currently paying \$11,210.82 to TCF at the beginning of each month in personnel and overhead costs. The amount in the new contract will be \$12,463.60 per month.

Dave Gorman stated that the Board recommended this increase after reviewing comparable rates. This brings salaries closer to fair/ within reason to comparable rates and is in line with the budget that was approved at the annual meeting

Steve Zehner made a motion to approve the new contract with TCF; Bill Blecke seconded; all voted in favor; none opposed; Jennifer Hammer abstained from this vote.

Dan Lobbes added that the agreement includes the option to add 1 FTE in an addendum.

- New FTE. Has been advertised on several career and water resource-focused sites and will be open until mid-day on July 11, 2016.
- Other Business.

13. DRSCW Calendar, Presentations and Press Coverage (Old Business)

- May 2, 2016 – Audubon Society. “Watershed Management in the Upper DuPage and Salt Creek”, Stephen McCracken, TCF/DRSCW.
- May 19, 2016 – APWA. “Chloride Management in the Upper DuPage and Salt Creek”, Stephen McCracken, TCF/DRSCW.
- May 25, 2016 – Watershed Partnership Signing at Oak Meadows. Dave Gorman spoke on how we gain efficiencies by collaborating.
DuPage County Stormwater Management organized this event and it was well executed.
- May 26, 2016 – DuPage Advisory Council. “Watershed Management in the Upper DuPage and Salt Creek”, Stephen McCracken, TCF/DRSCW.
- June 7, 2016 – Chicago Wilderness Confluence. “Rethinking Implementation of the Clean Water Act” Stephen McCracken, TCF/DRSCW.

14. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- August 31, 2016
- October 26, 2016
- December 14, 2016
- February 22, 2017
- April 26, 2017
- June 28, 2017

Dave Gorman encouraged members to inform Tara Neff if other employees should be added to the DRSCW’s mailing list. Gorman added that staff and board members will eat lunch at The Patio and everyone is welcome to attend for more discussion/networking.