



DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

Fall 2006

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for your membership and support of the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW). The Workgroup is a collaborative effort by sanitary districts, municipalities, counties, forest preserve districts and private environmental organizations to address the water quality impairments identified in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports prepared by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the East and West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek. The goal of DRSCW is to achieve attainment of water quality standards and designated uses in these three streams in a rational and cost efficient manner. The participation of your organization in DRSCW is vital to achieving Workgroup objectives and insuring local input and control of future water quality decisions in these watersheds. The Workgroup will only achieve the benefits of acting together to maximize results and minimize costs if all stakeholders in these watersheds participate. In order to keep you up to date with progress towards our objectives, we have prepared a short summary of Workgroup activities during the last year and half. If you have any questions about current or future Workgroup activities, please contact our staff.

Thanks again for your membership!

Lawrence Cox, DRSCW President

Membership Activities and Funding

The Workgroup launched its membership process in February 2006. Since then twenty-eight Agency members and twelve Associate members have joined the Workgroup, generating \$262,071 in annual dues, and we continue our efforts to recruit new members. Members contribute more than financial resources, however. From June 2005 until the present, members have contributed more than 2000 hours of time attending meetings, reviewing contracts and reports, maintaining our network of water quality probes and staffing public meetings. This effort has been vital to the initial success of the Workgroup. The Workgroup has successfully leveraged these membership dues with the receipt of \$677,000 in grants

from the Illinois EPA (IEPA). IEPA has been extremely supportive of the Workgroup, a fact underscored when IEPA Director Douglas Scott personally presented the Workgroup with a grant check in March 2006.



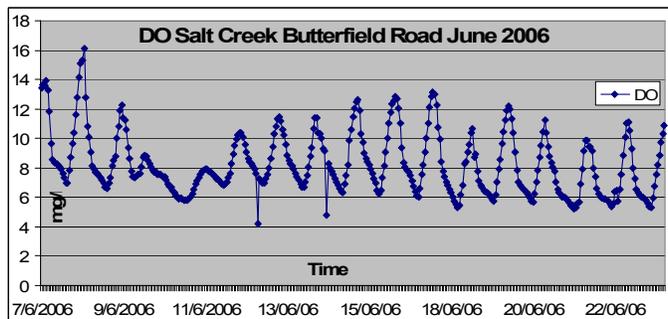
Illinois EPA Director, Doug Scott, presents members of the Workgroup with a grant check for \$677,000.—Salt Creek Sanitary District May 2006.

Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Program

Between June and October of this year the Workgroup maintained a network of nine water quality probes throughout the three watersheds. The submerged probes are equipped to measure dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, conductivity and temperature at hourly intervals. During this period, personnel from nine Agency member organizations were involved in constructing probe housings, carrying out weekly site visits and retrieving probes for maintenance. In addition, two other



Elmhurst Water & Waste Water staff retrieving data from a DO probe at Butterfield Road bridge on Salt Creek.



Agency members (MWRDGC and Wheaton Sanitary District) have contributed to the DRSCW water quality data base by supplying data from their preexisting probes, bringing the total number of continuously sampled DO sites to fourteen.

Bioassessment Plan



During the summer of 2006 sampling of fish, macro invertebrates and water column and sediment chemistry was carried out at 41 sites in the West Branch DuPage River watershed. The collected data will allow the Workgroup to build a detailed picture of stream ecological health, plan improvements and measure impacts following project implementation. The plan is also vital to determine if the waterways are achieving the desired level of aquatic life. The Bioassessment sam-

pling will move to the remaining two watersheds next summer. Thereafter, each watershed will be sampled on a three year cycle.



Midwest Biodiversity Institute staff collecting fish on Kress Creek at Fermi Lab—August 2006

Dissolved Oxygen Feasibility project

Recently approved IEPA Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports listed dissolved oxygen as being lower than acceptable on all three waterways with the problem first being identified on segments of the East Branch DuPage River and Salt Creek. The reports recommended several remedies for this problem including lowering pollutant limits in existing NPDES permits for treatment plants, dam removal and in-stream aeration. Tightening permit levels is both expensive and unlikely to meet the targeted water quality levels due to the fact that treatment plants actually discharge pollutants at levels below those recommended in the reports. The Workgroup therefore resolved to initially look at dam modification and in-stream aeration. The DRSCW contracted with HDR Engineering, Inc. in September 2005 to complete the Stream Dissolved Oxygen Improvement Feasibility Study. The goal of the Study is to determine the feasibility and benefits of the removal or modification of dams, and the construction and operation of in-stream aeration projects on Salt Creek and the

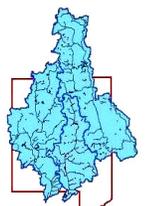


Enhanced photograph illustrating expected conditions at Old Oak Brook Dam site following potential dam removal .



Old Oak Brook Dam—Present Condition

East Branch DuPage River. Since that date a thorough examination of existing conditions and an initial review of options have been produced. An updated model for the streams capable of analyzing the impacts of potential projects is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. The model is employing the data collected by the Workgroup network of probes and discharge data from contributing treatment plants. The project will identify appropriate projects for specific dam and in-stream aeration sites, consider dam removal, partial dam removal, or other modifications, including regulatory issues, and project costs. As part of this process extensive efforts have been made to obtain feedback from the public. Two stakeholder meetings to inform the public of the project goals and to allow commentary have already been held and a third is scheduled for the end of the year. The Workgroup will publish a list of recommendations for reaching the DO standard in Salt Creek and the East Branch early in 2007.



In the Works

We are currently working on:

- A Chloride Reduction Plan: The plan would examine options of lowering the levels of applied road salt while maintaining public safety. The pilot phase will be carried out in the watershed of the West Branch and will be extended to the other two watersheds the following year.
- Watershed permitting: The Workgroup is constantly looking for cost effective means to realize water quality improvements. During the next year, the Workgroup will examine the feasibility of adopting watershed permitting. Watershed-based permitting is an approach to developing discharge permits for multiple sources in a watershed that allows for consideration of watershed goals and the impact of multiple sources and stressors, including nonpoint sources.



West Branch DuPage River at Gary Mills Road

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup Members & Executive Board

Agency Members *

Village of Addison
Village of Arlington Heights
Village of Bloomingdale
Village of Bolingbrook
Village of Carol Stream
Village of Downers Grove
Downers Grove Sanitary District
DuPage County
City of Elmhurst
Glenbard Waste Water Authority
Village of Glen Ellyn
Village of Glendale Heights
Village of Hanover Park
Village of Hinsdale
Village of Hoffman Estates
Village of Itasca
Village of Lisle
Village of Lombard
MWRDGC
Village of Oak Brook
City of Oakbrook Terrace
Village of Roselle
Salt Creek Sanitary District
Village of Schaumburg
Village of Villa Park
City of Wheaton,
Wheaton Sanitary District
City of Wood Dale

* Membership as of October 31, 2006

Associate Members *

Baxter Woodman, Inc
Clark Dietz
The Conservation Foundation
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Hey and Associates
Huff & Huff, Inc.
Illinois Department of Transportation
Prairie Rivers Network
Salt Creek Watershed Network
Sierra Club, River Prairie Group
Strand & Associates
York Township Highway Department

Workgroup Executive Board

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Jim Knudsen—West Branch DuPage
River Committee Chair
Village of Carol Stream

Tom Richardson—Salt Creek Com-
mittee Chair
Sierra Club

Jennifer Hammer—Monitoring Com-
mittee Chair
The Conservation Foundation

Staff

Stephen McCracken—Workgroup Coordinator *The Conservation Foundation*