



## **November 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**The Centre, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin IL**

**PRESENT:** Elgin Mayor David Kaptain, Chairman; Kane County Board Member Deborah Allan, Treasurer; North Aurora President Dale Berman, Secretary ; Barrington Mayor Karen Darch; South Barrington DeKalb County Board Member Misty Haji-Sheikh, Vice-Chairman; South Barrington President Paula McCombie; Tom Wiesner, past chairman and MPC Senior Fellow.

Peter Wallers, NWPA TAC Chairman; Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council; Jim Eggen, City of Joliet; Kendall County Administrator Scott Koeppel, Barrington Area Council of Governments Executive Director Janet Agnoletti; McHenry County Council of Governments Executive Director Chalen Daigle; Metro West Council of Government Executive Director Mary Randle; Guests: Dan Abrams and Devin Mannix of the Illinois State Water Survey.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Mayor Kaptain opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and all participants introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the July 13, 2017 Executive Committee meeting were approved as presented after a motion by Dale Berman and a second by Deborah Allan.

**Approval of Financial Reports:** Treasurer Deborah Allan presented the financial reports of July through October 2017. They were approved as presented after a motion by Paula McCombie and a second by Misty Haji-Sheikh. The account balance as of October 31, 2017 was \$35,778.54.

**Proposed Bylaws Change:** The executive committee voted to add Township Supervisor to the list of acceptable Council of Government representatives to the NWPA Executive Committee after a motion by Karen Darch and a second by Dale Berman.

**Program: NWPA Regional Challenges: Aquifer Drawdown and the Impact to Domestic Wells and Increasing Chloride Levels in the Shallow Aquifer. Presented by Dan Abrams and Devin Mannix of the Illinois State Water Survey.** Dan Abrams noted that as water levels have dropped, some wells have started getting oil in their water. Shorewood is an example. This is also happening in Kendall and Will Counties in the shale level. Chlorides are also a growing problem. There are many sources but treated wastewater and road salts used to treat roads for snow and ice during freezing weather are important ones. Salt lowers the melting point of water. If it gets severely cold, the salt doesn't work.

Salt in drinking water: Neither chlorides nor sodium are toxic to humans Sodium levels of less than 20 mg. per liter is recommended for people with hypertension. Chloride has an aesthetic standard of 250 mg per liter. TDS secondary standard is 500 mg. per liter.

Salt is corrosive and can damage grasses and other vegetation. High salt levels reduce biodiversity.. Salt can also be toxic to algae and aquatic life at levels as low as 200 mg. per liter.

There are increasing chlorides in individual public water supply wells. This has been really spiking. Fifty-five percent of wells in Northern Illinois have increasing levels of chlorides.

Sand and gravel aquifers generally have increased transmissivity than does sandstone. From 2003 to 2015, five wells increased more than 100 mg per liter. Some use reverse osmosis for treatment but this uses a great deal of energy.

The Technical Advisory Committee wants to develop some suggested guidelines for privately owned parking areas such as those owned by hospitals, schools and shopping centers. These account for over half (55%) of the chlorides from road salts. The question is “How do we persuade these private entities to make changes?”

Cities such as Geneva, St. Charles, Algonquin and Crystal Lake are more at risk because they pull some of their water from shallow aquifers. Campton Township and Kendall County are also problematic areas. There is a risk to domestic sandstone wells. Even if we stopped with the chlorides today, it would take decades for them to be flushed out.

What kind of regulation of private wells would be helpful?

Mr. Mannix showed an animation of what types of wells there are across the state. Some other states require homeowners to get a well water sample before selling their homes.

**Metropolitan Planning Council Report:** Danielle Gallet presented a report on Drinking Water 1-2-3, a water supply guideline for elected officials. This should be completed in January and will be presented to the member councils of government. Gallet also noted that very few municipalities include a water supply plan their comprehensive plan.

**NWPA’s Strategic Plan:** We would like to review the NWPA Strategic Plan. Do we need to re-focus the TAC?

**Technical Advisory Committee Report:** TAC Chairman Peter Wallers asked if the executive committee wants the TAC to continue working on the chlorides issue on privately-owned areas. The executive committee directed the TAC to do so. The TAC will come back with a recommendation for action. They have a slide show that shows projected water supply versus water demand. They are working on one for our area. Based on preliminary information, our demand looks like it will outstrip supply. One way to address this is through water conservation. We can develop strategies for the future.

Gary Clark will be here in January to talk about water law. Also in January or March, we plan to discuss updating our strategic plan.

The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2018.

Submitted by Dale Berman, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

