

NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2011

Present: Mayor Tom Weisner, Chairman; Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay, Vice-Chair; North Aurora President Dale Berman, Wauconda Mayor Mark Knigge; DeKalb County Board Vice-Chair Ruth Anne Tobias, McHenry County Board Chairman Ken Koehler; Fox River Grove President Nunamaker, Barrington President Karen Darch, Barrington Hills Mayor Robert Abboud; Lake County Board Member Bonnie Carter; Tower Lakes President Kathleen Leitner.

Also Present: Janet Agnoletti, Barrington Area Council of Governments Executive Director; Philip Rovang of Lake County; Angela Zubko of Kendall County, Anna Bicanic-Moeller, McHenry County Council of Governments Executive Director, Lake County Municipal League Executive Director Chris Gentes, Chris Staron of Northwest Municipal Conference, Paul Schuch of Kane County, Steve Andersson, Metro West Legal Counsel, Peter Wallers, President EEI, TAC Chairman; Metro West Legal Counsel Steve Andersson and Mary Randle, Metro West Executive Director.

Guests: Dr. Tim Loftus, CMAP Principal, Water Resources, Colin Duesing of Will County Land Use,

Mayor Weisner opened the meeting at 10 a.m. After general introductions, Mayor Weisner introduced Dr. Loftus from CMAP.

Presentation by Dr. Loftus of CMAP: Dr. Tim Loftus heads up the Water Resources division at CMAP. He led the Regional Water Supply Planning Group, which produced the Water 2050: Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply and Demand Report. Dr. Loftus noted that he has been “making the rounds” addressing two topics: water quality and water quantity.

His presentation was entitled “**Meeting the Challenge of Water 2050.**”

- He noted there are concerns about rising chloride counts in shallow wells, mainly from road salts. There is not a primary standard for chlorides.
- The population is expected to rise by 28% from 2005 to 2050 in the NWPA five-county area of the northeastern Illinois region.
- There will most likely be a growth in water demand of between 36% to 68%.
- Factors determining growth in demand include price of water, conservation efforts and household income.
- Even at current withdrawal rates, the bedrock aquifer will be challenged by mid-century.
- The report breaks down types of demand including the deep aquifer, shallow aquifers, streams and rivers and shallow wells.

- The question is “How do we accommodate millions of people and avoid an imbalance between supply and demand.

Dr. Loftus encouraged members to support SB 38, the Rainwater Harvesting Bill. It was unanimously approved by the Senate Environmental Committee and now will go to the Senate floor for a vote. It would update the state’s plumbing codes to allow for rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses such as using rainwater to flush toilets. The change would be permissive rather than mandatory. There may be some problems with the bill in the House. There seems to be some conflict on the bill between the plumbers and the pipefitters unions.

Partnership between CMAP and NWPA: Dr. Loftus asked how CMAP could be of service to support the efforts of the Northwest Water Planning Alliance. He believes there is great potential for partnership between the two organizations. CMAP has Technical Assistance Programs available. Some of the tools available for our use include:

AWWA audit form, the Alliance for Water Efficiency Tracking Tool, Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance, Conservation Pricing, WaterSense Partnerships, bill inserts for water conservation and more.

Dr. Loftus recommended that the NWPA support any federal legislation that would authorize WaterSense . It needs to be on the same footing as the Energy Star Program. It would then be eligible to receive funding.

He showed two bill inserts that are available for public water suppliers: “Is your lawn a gas guzzler?” Every drop counts. Did you know that more than 50% of

“It shouldn’t be out of mind because it’s out of sight. Ground Water is not an endless supply. Let’s conserve our resources. Did you know.....”

Dr. Loftus doesn’t think we’ll see much state or federal assistance for water supply options.

In conclusion, Dr. Loftus stated that ground water stewardship needs NWPA’s leadership and action. He sees the NWPA as the laboratory for the future. He noted that CMAP has a dedicated budget for water planning efforts. Some of the ways in which CMAP may be of assistance include: 1) Available to speak to public water agencies about water rates, leakage, etc. 2) Local Technical Assistance Program, which brings CMAP staff to communities.

Mayor Weisner agreed there should be a partnership between the NWPA and CMAP. The NWPA can provide leadership on water issues and CMAP can provide critical technical assistance. The executive committee concurred with that statement.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the November 12, 2010 executive committee meeting were approved after a motion by President Berman and a second by Mayor Darch.

Discussion on Incorporation: Steve Andersson led a discussion on legal issues for the NWPA. He stated that there isn’t any one right answer to whether the NWPA should incorporate. It would provide some

advantage when seeking grants. After the discussion, McHenry County Board President Ken Koehler moved that the Northwest Water Planning Alliance move forward to incorporate. The motion was seconded by President Berman of North Aurora. The motion passed.

Financial Report: Interim Administrator Mary Randle stated that all councils of government and counties have paid their initial dues totaling \$7,000. She discussed budget preparation and the Committee recommended that we wait until a work plan has been completed before we develop the budget recommendations.

Technical Advisory Committee: Peter Wallers, TAC Chairman, stated the TAC will meet for the first time in March. He has sent letters to CMAP, the State Water Survey, IDNR and others requesting they serve as consulting members of the TAC. He noted that we can move forward on such things as the approval of a model water conservation ordinance. Mr. Wallers made a presentation recently to the Center for Neighborhood Technologies. It was noted that it will be very helpful to have consulting members on the TAC. They will not have votes but will serve as technical consultants. The Executive Committee will need to prioritize tasks for the TAC. Kane County Board Chairman McConnaughay stated that part of their charge should be to bring all Alliance-area technical data up to the same level.

Approval of TAC members: The executive committee approved the membership of the Technical Advisory Committee subject to one change by the McHenry County Council of Governments. The motion was made by Mayor Abboud with a second by DeKalb County Board Vice-Chair Ruth Anne Tobias. MCCOG will notify Mary Randle of the change in their TAC representative.

Logo choice: After discussion of the final three logo choices, the committee voted to approve choice three but with the substitution of a water drop for the circle element. Ms. Randle will contact Lake County Board Member Bonnie Carter of the choice.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 10. The meeting time will be changed to noon to accommodate the schedule of two of the councils of government, which will be completing their Springfield Drive Downs that morning. Chairman McConnaughay offered to supply lunches for the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Submitted by _____

Mary Randle, Recorder

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