

# NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2011

Present: Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner, Chairman; Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay, Vice-Chair; North Aurora President Dale Berman, Wauconda Mayor Mark Knigge; Mayor Ed Schock of Elgin; DeKalb County Board Vice-Chair Ruth Anne Tobias, Fox River Grove President Nunamaker, Barrington President Karen Darch, Tower Lakes President Kathleen Leitner.

Also Present: Robert Walberg, Boone County Board Chairman; Mary McCann, McHenry County Board member, Philip Rovang of Lake County; Cassandra McKinney of McHenry 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, Bea Torres of the City of Aurora, Colin Duesing, Will County Land Use Planner, and Mary Randle, Metro West Executive Director.

Mayor Weisner opened the meeting at 10 a.m. After introductions, he welcomed Bob Walberg, Boone County Board Chairman, and Mary McCann, McHenry County Board Members.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the February 10, 2011 executive committee meeting were approved with one change after a motion by President Berman and a second by President Kathleen Leitner. The change was to add Cassandra McKinney to list of those present.

**Financial Report:** Interim Administrator Mary Randle stated that the Northwest Water Planning Alliance bank balance stands at \$6,976.89. The report was approved as presented after a motion by Mayor Schock and a second by Mayor Darch.

**Discussion of formation and bylaws issues:** Legal Counsel Steve Andersson led a discussion of formation and bylaws issues. The executive committee directed Mr. Andersson to list Mayor Tom Weisner, Karen McConnaughay and President Dale Berman as directors on the Incorporation Application. There was initial discussion about issues such as quorum, proxies (giving your vote to another member on a specific issue); substitutes, email votes, day to day operations, taking positions on legislative issues, amending the bylaws, spending decisions and bylaws for the Technical Advisory Committee. A few of these issues are already addressed in the intergovernmental agreement. After receiving input, Mr. Andersson stated that he will develop a bylaws proposal that he will bring back to the executive committee for consideration at their April meeting.

**Discussion of NWPA Goals:** Mayor Weisner led a brainstorming session to begin the development of potential goals for the NWPA. The discussion included the following points (in no particular order.) Mayor Weisner and Peter Wallers will present these in a format of long- and short-term goals at the

April executive committee meeting. Once approved, the goals will provide a guide to the Technical Advisory Committee:

*Overarching Goal:* Provide a sustainable water supply for the NWPA region in a manner that is both economically and environmentally sound

*Question:* What are some of the things we need to address as we work toward this goal?

- Revising building codes to promote best practices including landscaping
- Educating public about best practices/conservation
- Survey water prices throughout region
- Survey water systems
- Inventory private wells use
- Pricing strategies
- Drought management planning
- Analyze storm water ordinances throughout region
- Serve as a clearing house for information
- Compare (eliminate) Lake Michigan water as an alternate supply for our region
- Determine sustainability of current supply with existing practices
- Educate/inform the public as to results
- Inventory and compile data
- Properly maintain data
- Water conservation
- Develop data on unexamined water sheds
- Develop and implement water conservation strategies and programs
- Develop and follow best practices
- Sustain water quality
- Address water reuse
- Examine limitations and opportunities for the Fox River as additional water source
- Management of used water-storm/waste and how it affects sustainability
- Full cost analysis
- Matrix of municipal water sources
- Identify gaps in knowledge
- CMAP's water conservation tips/ideas (e.g. water billing inserts)
- Educate elected officials
- Have local government analyze codes for effects on water (building code, zoning, SWM)
- Impact of water softeners/road salt
- Use of incentives to encourage use of Best Practices

- Private sector opportunities
- Smart water use – appliances
- Address legislation issues
- Influencing state and federal water policies/legislation
- General advocacy
- Macro area impacts
- Relationships with other interested organizations, areas and regions
- Awareness of how we are perceived
- Engage everyone in the conversation

**Technical Advisory Committee:** Peter Wallers, TAC Chairman, stated that he TAC met for the first time on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Aurora. In addition to the appointed TAC members, a number of people from agencies/organizations such as CMAP, Illinois State Water Survey, Metropolitan Planning Council and the Center for Neighborhood Technology also attended. There was a discussion about the structure of the TAC: the status of regular members versus consulting members. Consulting members will not have votes but will serve as technical consultants. Mr. Wallers is also following up with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources about appointing a staff member to serve as a consultant to the TAC.

**Final appointment to TAC members:** McHenry County Council of Governments noted their second appointment to the TAC is Jon Schmitt, Director of Public Works for the City of McHenry.

**Next meeting date:** Because many of the NWPAs COGs will be in Springfield on the next scheduled executive committee meeting, a new date will be chosen. Mary Randle will forward several possible alternate dates for the April executive committee meeting. A date will be chosen based on the highest number of members that would be able to attend on a particular date.

**MPC Water Roundtable:** Mary Randle noted that Metropolitan Planning Council has invited NWPAs members to attend the next Water Roundtable in Chicago. She will forward the email message. The executive committee asked Randle to check with Josh Ellis of the MPC to obtain information on how and when the Water Roundtable will be broadcast for those who are unable to attend the Roundtable event.

Mayor Weisner recommended an excellent book to executive committee members: Hot, Flat and Crowded by Thomas Friedman. It addresses the issue of water resources.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Randle, Recorder