

NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

March 10, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner, Chairman; Barrington President Karen Darch, Hinckley President James Roderick; McHenry County Board Member Carolyn Schofield; DeKalb County Board member Ruth Anne Tobias, Treasurer; South Barrington President Paula McCombie; Kane County Board Member Joseph Haimann; Elgin Mayor David Kaptain

Also present: Peter Wallers, Technical Advisory Committee Chairman; Peter Skosey and Danielle Gallet of Metropolitan Planning Council, Jaci Amundsen, NWPA intern; BACOG Executive Director Janet Agnoletti, Metro West COG Executive Director Mary Randle, Will County Planning Director Colin Duesing.

Mayor Tom Weisner called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and made introductions. Jaci Amundsen is the new intern. She is an environmental engineer currently working on her Masters Degree in Public Administration. She is being housed at the Metropolitan Planning Council office.

Approval of Minutes: The January 14, 2016 minutes of the Executive Committee meeting were approved after a motion by Joseph Haimann and a second by Ruth Anne Tobias.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman: After a motion by Paula McCombie and a second by David Kaptain, the Executive Committee voted to confirm the appointment of Carolyn Schofield as Vice-Chairman.

Approval of Financial Reports: Treasurer Ruth Anne Tobias presented financial reports for November 2015 through February 2016. They were approved after a motion by Paula McCombie and a second by Karen Darch. The February 29, 2016 fund balance was \$18,897.

NWPA Strategic Plan Update: Our strategic plan had been a little too optimistic for what we were able to accomplish as an all-volunteer organization. Danielle Gallet first led a conversation with the Technical Advisory Committee. They reviewed the mission and vision statements.

Goal 1: Build the organization's capacity to achieve its mission

Goal 2: Provide education and outreach.

Goal 3: Build sustainable practices.

Accomplishments from the 2014 to 2016 Strategic Plan:

- 1) Produced an NWPA e-newsletter
- 2) Began an Internship program
- 3) Developed the NWPA/ISWS water reporting tool
- 4) Developed a NWPA fact Sheet
- 5) Built a municipal outdoor water conservation program.

- 6) Developed educational brochures and water bill inserts re water conservation.

Goals of the Technical Advisory Committee:

- 1) Identify two to three management priorities that but for the NWPA would not have happened.
- 2) Discuss a workable structure to accomplish goals.

They conducted a survey on this and received 23 responses.

- 1) Develop a succinct message for use in materials and outreach.
- 2) Engage state legislators.
- 3) Create a budget with goals to reach it.
- 4) Distribute a values and needs assessment to members.

The lack of funding to Illinois Department of Natural Resources set us back with water reporting tool. CMAP also lost Dr. Loftus and its water funding.

Other top priorities. 1) Identify our new target audience, 2) foster partnerships and communications among agencies; 3) reinvigorate NWPA reporting pilot project to test bmps, potable water re-use.

Overall goal: Impact policies and effect change. Mayor Weisner noted that we need to educate our councils and boards about why we need to invest in water infrastructure. This may take water rate increases. We also need to emphasize public policy. Mayor Kaptain stated that we need to repeat that process each time there is an election. Peter Skosey noted that we can use the national conversation on water supplies as a jumping off place.

Pete Wallers stated that we need to communicate a message for the general public to gain their support for this issue within their communities. We need help from the councils of government to encourage municipalities to use the water reporting tool. We had hoped to be able to turn the water reporting function over to the Illinois State Water Survey by now but this has not happened because of the lack of state funding.

Carolyn Schofield said that we need to share what each county or council of government has been doing to address water supplies. An example of this is McHenry County's program about de-icing. We need a process to engage the right officials.

Peter Wallers stated that he would take this input back to the Technical Advisory Committee.

Water Day Forum May 12: There will be a water supply forum on May 12 at Two Brothers Roundhouse in Aurora. This is a full-day water focused event to bring together elected officials to talk about the water supply issues in northeastern Illinois. Pat Mulroy is the keynote speaker. She ran the South Nevada Water Authority and now she works on climate change.

The NWPA Executive Committee will meet at the forum event instead of holding its regular meeting that day.

Regional Water Supply Planning: Peter Wallers stated that there is not very much happening at this time. The Illinois State Water Survey has developed a one-page summary of their IWIP report.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has put us on notice that there will be a program for replacement of lead-coated water pipes.

The next meeting of the NWPA Executive Committee will take place on May 12 in Aurora.

Respectfully submitted by _____

President Dale Berman of North Aurora, Secretary