



## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 09, 2015 Minutes

Present: Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner, Lake County Board Member Nick Sauer, McHenry County Board Members Mary McCann and Carolyn Schofield, DeKalb County Board Member Ruth Anne Tobias, Mayor Terry Counley for McHenry County COG, North Aurora President Dale Berman, Barrington Mayor Karen Darch, Paula McCombie, Kane County Board Members Joseph Haimann and Deborah Allen.

Also: TAC Chairman Peter Wallers, Aaron Cosentino, City of Elgin, Bridget Hardy, NWPA Intern; Dr. Daniel Abrams and Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey; Chris Staron of Northwest Municipal Conference; Colin Duesing of Will County and Mary Randle of Metro West Council of Government.

### **Introductions:**

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of March 12, 2015 were approved after a motion by Terry Counley and a second by Joseph Haimann.

Introduced Bridget Hardy, NWPA's new intern. She has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science. She is generally working 15 hours a week in the MPC offices in Chicago. There is also space for her at the Metro West office in Aurora and the EEI office in Sugar Grove.

Our contact from Will County, Colin Duesing, suggested that we contact the City Council of Joliet rather than the engineering staff. ISWS thinks a couple of wells in the Joliet area will go dry within the next 15 years.

**Mayor Weisner:** NWPA's 501 C 3 status has been granted by IRS.

**Dr. Daniel Abrams: Desaturation of aquifers in Northeastern Illinois.**

*Problems associated with desaturation:*

Contrasted water levels in 1863 with current levels. Now the water levels are so low, the sandstone is being exposed to oxygen. Shallow sandstone wells go dry.

Public supply wells pump less water from the sandstone and potentially go dry.

Exposure of sandstone to oxygen which carries risk for more problems (naturally occurring radium)

Shallow sandstone wells go dry.

Public supply wells pump less water from the sandstone and potentially go dry.

Exposure of sandstone to oxygen which carries risk for more problems (naturally occurring arsenic, etc.)  
Thus far, this has happened in Wisconsin but not in Illinois.)

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Exposure of sandstone to oxygen which carries risk for more problems (naturally occurring arsenic?)

The 2014 measurements show zones representing different risks of desaturation of a sandstone aquifer.

Actual desaturation of an aquifer has been observed at wells in the high and very high zones during 2014.

These observations were made under non-pumping conditions.

Desaturation under pumping conditions is possible for medium, high and very high zones.

Ways in which this is happening

- 1) Desaturation of the St. Peter sandstone due to pumping from wells open to the St. Peter.
- 2) A newer story is desaturation of the Ironton Galesville sandstone due to pumping from wells open to the Ironton-Galesville. Very few instances of this right now.
- 3) When you pump out of Ironton-G., it starts desaturating the St. Peter sandstone.

Where might future desaturation occur? Increasing demand will result in larger zones of desaturation.

Well yields will decrease with larger zones of desaturation. Implications: the sandstone aquifer may not be able to provide enough water to meet the demands of municipal areas.

NWPA: **Yorkville could desaturate the St. Peter Aquifer**. Aurora is in a challenged area but has been addressing it through conservation and using an alternative source. Joliet is most severe. They didn't study southern IL aquifers because they are already contaminated with saltwater so they can't pull drinking water from them.

Risk of Future Desaturation: Simulated 2050 baseline growth shows a much larger problem area. Even if Joliet is removed from the equation, Kendall County still is projected to be much larger area of desaturation.

Possible alternative sources:

- 1) Rivers: Illinois, Kankakee, Fox and the Des Plaines  
Aurora and Elgin use a mix of Fox River and Shallow groundwater.
- 2) Wilmington uses Kankakee River water exclusively.
- 3) Lake Michigan diversion.

**Pete Wallers: Re Joliet:** It will be far easier to deal with the need for alternative supplies now rather than when they are in a full crisis mode.

**Regional Water Supply Planning:** Pete: The state's financial situation means that there is no money now for water supply planning. The grants were pulled back. Dr. Tim Loftus has taken a new job with a university in Texas. He was the driver of water supply planning in Northern Illinois and the author of Water 2050. Joe Szabo is the new CMAP Executive Director and understands the importance of water supply planning.

**Financial Report** – Treasurer Ruth Anne Tobias: Ms. Tobias presented financial reports for March, April, May and June 2015. A final report on Income and Expense for fiscal year May 2014 to April 2015 was also presented. Balance as of June 30, 2015 is \$11,631.13. The financial reports were approved as presented after a motion by Karen Darch and a second by Nick Sauer.

**Clarification re Member Dues:** Ms. Tobias mentioned that \$750 per executive committee representative will still be what we will base the new budget on. We will have a budget ready for approval in September. But in the meantime, COGs and Counties can count on that amount for this coming fiscal year.

**Fundraiser:** Weisner suggested that we consider doing a fundraiser with a workshop or symposium on water supply planning that would pull in elected officials, etc. Mary McCann suggested we do one in the winter on a Saturday morning. We could also bring in business people such as Bob Abboud. McCann offered to work on this.

**Approved a resolution for intern agreement.** The NWPA will reimburse Metro West Council of Government for the \$6,000 in salary plus employer's portion FICA, FUTA, SUTA and workers compensation cost. The intern's approved travel expenses will also be reimbursed. The resolution was approved after a motion by Karen Darch and a second by Carolyn Schofield. Metro West will not charge an administrative fee however.

**IEPA Water Loss Accounting Steering Committee:** Pete Wallers stated there may be some funds available for training for Water Loss Audits.

Report on Technical Advisory Committee: Weisner and Wallers: The TAC has still been concentrating on the Water Loss Auditing. The TAC has requested that the executive committee send a letter to the State IDNR Director asking that the \$250,000 water planning budget be reinstated to CMAP. The request to send the letter was approved after a motion by Joe Haimann with a second by Terry Counley.

**Next meeting is in September 10.** We can get information on upcoming events, etc. out to executive committee and TAC, the newsletter and on the NWPA.us website.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by Mary Randle, recorder

**Approval of Amended Articles and Amended Bylaws:** A resolution adopting the Amended Articles of Incorporation and Amended Bylaws was approved after a motion by Kathleen Leitner, and a second by Karen Darch. The new sections added more detailed language about our exempt purpose. The amended documents will be filed with the Secretary of State and that will be communicated to the Internal Revenue Service.

**Update on Strategic Plan:** Dr. Tim Loftus presented a report on our progress with the strategic plan.

We added two columns to strategic plan: Year One Accomplishments and Course Corrections. Part of this is to list whom is responsible for making sure the goal or strategy gets accomplished: the TAC, the Executive Committee, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Metropolitan Planning Council or Illinois State Water Survey.

Janet Agnoletti: NWPA obviously doesn't have the large scale funding to accomplish many of these stated goals. Dr. Loftus stated that CMAP has funding to fulfill the strategies for which they are responsible. Metropolitan Planning Council has water-issue related funding but doesn't directly fund the NWPA. Each of the other organizations agrees to the particular strategies and projects. NWPA will fund an intern. The NWPA executive committee has the overall responsibility for policy, for the overall program. It is responsible for guidance, policy, and for assigning our partner agencies who agree to take on aspects of the strategic plan. There is a need to discuss how some issues never get from the executive committee all the way down to each municipality. There is a disconnect. In some cases, our key strategies have not been implemented in the individual communities.

Janet Agnoletti noted that the COG directors are under-utilized in this organization. Perhaps the COG directors could meet with someone from the executive committee. The TAC definitely needs the support and cooperation of the COG directors.

Goal B: Provided an outreach to raise awareness of the value of water as a finite asset. Objective 1: Strategies 3 through 5. These three have not been accomplished. The Executive Committee was to have taken the lead on this. What are we doing to accomplish these and do we need a new approach or should those particular strategies be replaced?

Goal C: Objective 4: Make recommendations to protect ground and surface water quality.

**Financial Reports:** Ruth Anne Tobias reported that all members have paid their dues. The account balance was \$11,659.13 as of Feb. 28, 2015. The reports were approved after a motion by Karen Darch and a second by Terry Counley.

Timing of invoicing for 2015/2016: this could be moved to September so it is more in line with COGs and county fiscal years. The intention was to bill for \$750 again.

Finance: Committee: Chaired by Ruth Ann Tobias with Karen Darch, Dale Berman and Tom Weisner.

NWPA Internship: The subject of an Intern was added to the agenda. Peter Wallers noted that our previous intern was actually through MPC. The TAC advertised for interns and received seven applications. They are interviewing three candidates. Mr. Wallers asked for the authority to hire one of the persons and the executive committee agreed. This was included in our NWPA budget at \$2,500 for each semester for 20 hours a week. MPC has offered quarters in Chicago. Also welcome at Metro West to coordinate with Mary Randle. Our candidates were from the Chicago area. Our first priority for the intern is to get the newsletter running again. Tim Loftus noted that the candidates are highly qualified. Most have graduate degrees. The executive committee voted to change amount of stipend to up to \$3,000 per semester after a motion by Joseph Haimann and a second by Karen Darch.

**Statewide Water Planning:** Tim Loftus said they held the first meeting already of Water2050. IEPA Director Lisa Bonnett took part in the first meeting. IDNR was not able to send someone because of changes in leadership after the election.

We haven't been able to get 2013 figures from IWIP. Dr. has been working on a water system improvement plan for Lake Michigan water users. Loftus is looking to meet with Joliet this spring regarding the desaturation occurring in their area. Joliet's withdrawals have been more serious than had been projected. Tim He asked the COG directors to encourage members to take advantage of water loss audit training by AWWA.

Brochure: A brochure has been prepared for this year. Last year's centered on water conservation: outdoor lawn watering. We will probably work again with Margaret Schneemann. NWPA has a certain amount in budget for printing. Mary Randle confirmed that we have \$1,500 in the budget for printing.

TAC report. Pete Wallers: Revolving State Loan Fund: The past process was very onerous and took so long to get approved that many communities won't even apply any more. Contractors' bids were no longer valid by the time the loans were approved. We've been working for two years to get this process improved. More money will be available this year. There needs to be more certainty in the timeline.

North end of our area: McHenry County has a deicing policy. We may use this as a model for NWPA to encourage better deicing policies. We may share this also with IDOT. Janet Agnoletti suggested this could be an important topic for COG meetings with IDOT during drive downs.

Pete Wallers: Three things could be addressed during drive downs. Water conservation ordinance, water reporting and deicing. In May meeting, Margaret Schneemann will talk about an education program for water conservation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2015.

Submitted by Kathleen Leitner, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_