



## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2015 Minutes

Present: Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner, Lake County Board Member Nick Sauer, McHenry County Board Member Carolyn Schoefield, DeKalb County Board Member Ruth Anne Tobias, Mayor Terry Counley for McHenry County COG, North Aurora President Dale Berman, Barrington Mayor Karen Darch, Tower Lakes Mayor Kathleen Leitner, Kane County Board Member Joe Haimann.

Also: TAC Chairman Peter Wallers, Chalen Daigle, McHenry County COG; Dr. Tim Loftus of CMAP, Chris Staron of Northwest Municipal Conference; Janet Agnoletti of Barrington Area Council of Governments, Colin Duesing of Will County and Mary Randle of Metro West Council of Government.

**Introductions:** Lake County Board Member Nick Sauer was welcomed to the Executive Committee.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of November 13, 2014 were approved after a motion by Dale Berman and a second by Kathleen Leitner.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_