



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2014

The Centre, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin Illinois

The meeting was chaired by Chairman Tom Weisner, Mayor of Aurora. He called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Present: Tom Weisner, Chairman, Aurora Mayor; Kathleen Leitner, President of Tower Lakes, NWPA Secretary; Ruth Anne Tobias, DeKalb County Board member, Treasurer; Patsy Smith, Campton Hills Village President; Barrington Mayor Karen Darch, Dale Berman, North Aurora Village President, Mary McCann, McHenry County Board, Joseph Haimann of Kane County Board.

Also present: Josh Ellis of Metropolitan Planning Council, Kaitlyn McClain of MPC, Steve Andersson, NWPA legal counsel; Pete Wallers, TAC chairman; Chris Gentes, Anna Bicanic Moeller, executive director, McHenry County COG; Janet Agnoletti, Barrington Area Council of Governments, Executive Director. Angela Zubko of Kendall County; David Hosemuller of Lake County, and Mary Randle, Metro West COG executive director and Anna Bicanic-Moeller, McHenry County COG executive director.

Approval of Minutes: Approved minutes of November 14, 2013 were approved after a motion by Dale Berman and a second by Patsy Smith.

Revolving Loan Fund: Tom Weisner and Pete Wallers discussed the State of Illinois's Revolving Loan Fund for water infrastructure. They have been giving input on possible improvements such as shortening the time between application, grant award and payment of funds. Traditionally, by the time the application has been reviewed and granted, the relevant bids are out of date. We are seeking improvements to the loan program. The Mayors Caucus is taking the lead on this. Governor Quinn has added about \$8 Million to the fund and is encouraging municipalities, counties, etc. to apply for the loans. Met with IDNR, Illinois EPA and Illinois Finance Authority. Josh Ellis noted that the IEPA would like to add storm water projects to the types of projects that could be covered through the loan fund.

Water Reporting Tool on NWPA Website: Pete Wallers reported that the Water Usage Reporting Tool is up and running on the NWPA website: He reviewed the tool with the executive committee members. He asked the COG directors to encourage their municipalities to use the reporting tool to report their water usage. We will also do a second wave of this effort that would include the non-NWPA communities within our five counties. We worked with the ISWS to develop the program and hope that eventually they will take it over. This does not generate extra work for participants. This data is already being collected. This just changes the timing. Pete distributed a list of communities that have already

begun using the reporting tool. Mary Randle will send out information to the other COG directors and to Metro West members. The TAC will work to get the municipalities involved in reporting their water usage. This will help to understand how much water is available versus the demand for the water. This replaces the Illinois Water Inventory Program.

Strategic Plan, Dr. Tim Loftus of CMAP: No update this month.

Regional Water Supply Planning: Josh Ellis: Mayor Weisner thanked Josh and the MPC for all of their help with NWPA. IDNR Proposed Rule Changes on Lake Michigan were submitted to JACAR last week. Now a public comment period is open for 45 days... IDNR has made changes in response to input from municipalities. They will also allow municipalities to use a partial allocation from Lake Michigan water. This is only for new applications.

Water Loss Calculations: They are changing how water loss is being calculated. The old rule was to write off the loss: 8% of loss/pumping. If they lost over that amount, they could be fined but they rarely were. The old rules didn't make sense. IDNR modified the rules to "non-revenue water"--the difference between pumped water and water charged on bills. They have a five year window to get to 10% to 12% of non-revenue water. Communities have to adopt a law on watering regulations (similar to NWPA ordinances.) Eight percent is about as low as it is possible to get.

Plumbing Standards: Plumbing standards have also been changed. MPC still trying to make some changes that would allow the use of greywater (non-potable) such as rainwater and air-conditioner condensate for certain uses such as flushing toilets, etc. The plumbing rules and standards may be transferred to the auspices of JACAR. They have been trying to get across to legislative leaders that this is a water resource issue, not a labor issue.

Funding for Water Supply Planning: Mr. Ellis presented a map of regions within Illinois and the status of regional water supply planning within each region. It shows which regions have completed their plans, which are in process and which have not begun. Arlen Juhl of IDNR has been supporting this. IDNR has given funding to CMAP for water supply planning in our Northeastern Illinois region. They have also given some funding to the Illinois State Water Survey. They are developing a strategic plan to present to the state legislature about what it would cost to fund regional water supply planning groups. They will revise their strategic plan within the next six months. MPC and CMAP are giving input on this. Mr. Ellis feels the changes happening with the state agencies are encouraging.

MPC/NWPA Vista Fellow: Kaitlyn McClain has been very helpful to NWPA. Among other things, she has been producing the NWPA e-newsletter, working on brochures and applying for grants for NWPA. MPC has donated half of her time to NWPA. Her time will be up in July. How will we accomplish these things after July? Can we figure out a way to pay for a staff person? Could we get an unpaid intern who is working in this area of expertise? AmeriCorps interns have to be working on something that has some connection to addressing poverty. And does an intern have the experience and gravity to handle some of the work we need done?

Approval of Financial Reports: After a motion by Mayor Darch and a second by Mayor Leitner, financial reports for November and December of 2013 and January and February of 2104 were approved. Treasurer Tobias noted that there was one major expense: \$562--to fund the printing of the water conservation manual. Pete Wallers will bring back costs of producing the water usage reporting tool on the website. It was over the \$2,000 originally estimated. Ms. Tobias stated that we need to have a discussion soon about establishing funding including dues.

TAC Report by Pete Wallers: The TAC is continuing to promote the model water conservation ordinance for adoption. They are working on a presentation that our COGs or counties could use. They have been discussing the use of salt for de-icing and the resulting chloride levels in streams, etc. after snow thaws. McHenry County is seeing spikes of chlorides in shallow water sources. What should NWPA do to promote this issue of de-icing methods? We need to develop more strategies to address this. The de-icing practices we have been using are not sustainable. Mayor Weisner stated that we need to educate public officials and the public about this issue.

In October the Illinois Groundwater Association will partner with NWPA to hold a day seminar. ISWS is the primary driver of this combined meeting. M36 Water auditing system will replace the traditional method of auditing water loss. There will be a seminar on this at WaterCon next week. March 18 in Springfield. Pete could bring that presentation to the NWPA executive committee.

Water Conservation Lawn Watering Manuals: We are thinking print copies should be available at Village Halls and libraries. There is no cost to distribute it electronically. Pete discussed pricing of print copies. Mayor Weisner noted that this may be a good time to promote our model water conservation ordinances. We need to have an in-depth discussion on these matters.

Mary Randle brought up issue that has been raised by two of the COGs. Who may represent a COG on the NWPA executive committee? Could a trustee represent a COG if a mayor/president is not available?

Ms. Tobias mentioned that next week is FIX a Leak Week. She encouraged people to put something on their websites to promote this event.

Will County: David Hosemuller reported that now that the South Suburban Airport is a possibility, they have decided to form a committee to address this. They want to study water supply among other issues.

Kendall County's groundwater study was just completed by ISWS. The results will be presented in late April or early May.

McHenry County: McHenry County has just received the water supply mapping report from ISGS. They also want to address the issue of salt supply storage by landscape companies so that this may be regulated.

Pete: Joliet's mining of the deep aquifer is unsustainable. It has a definite impact on the deep aquifer.

The next meeting will be held May 8, 2014. The meeting was adjourned after a motion by Mr. Berman and a second by Ms. Tobias at 11:30 a.m.

Kathleen Leitner, Secretary