



Technical Advisory Committee

February 28, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; John Sterrett, representing Kendall County; John Dillon, City of Batavia, representing MWCOG; Bryan Faivre of City of DeKalb, representing MWCOG; Kurt Thomsen, KDT Environmental, representing BACOG; Jon Schmitt of City of McHenry, representing MCCOG; Cassandra McKinney representing McHenry County; Steve Cieslica of Trotter and Associates representing LCML, Dennis Burmeister of Village of Barrington representing NWMC; Victor Ramirez, City of Crystal Lake representing MCCOG; Larry Thomas, Baxter and Woodman, representing Lake County; Bob Van Gyseghem of City of Geneva, representing MWCOG, Ed Coggin of HR Green, representing MCCOG and Paul Schuch of Kane County.

Also Present: Tim Loftus and Amy Talbot of CMAP; Scott Meyer and Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey; Josh Ellis and Abby Crisostomo of MPC; Kelly Borman of CNT; Ken Schroth, City of Aurora; Dave Schumaucher, City of Aurora; Tina Seaman of Openlands; Jeff Freeman of EEI; Dave Surkowski of Christopher B. Burke Engineering; Eric Babcock of Lake in the Hills; Jim Urek of CDM; Joe Munder of City of West Chicago; and Mary Randle of Metro West Council of Government.

Delegate Absent: Paul Miller of DeKalb County, David Lawry of Village of Wauconda

Chairman Peter Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Peter Wallers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

Agenda Changes and Announcements – None at this time.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting were approved with two changes: Add Amy Talbot of CMAP and Tina Seaman of Openlands to list of those present. Also, Amy Talbot presented a report on Water Conservation inserts. The motion was made by John Dillon and seconded by Josh Ellis.

Education – *Municipal Ordinance Review* ~ Josh Ellis, MPC gave a brief overview of the Municipal Ordinance Review project. MPC has received 35 responses from survey participants. Responses will be used to craft model water conservation ordinances for the Northwest Water Planning Alliance. Mr. Ellis noted that most of the responders do not have metrics for tracking success of the ordinances. He stated that they are looking for the ordinances that have the greatest impact on water quantity and quality. They want to identify those that could be most effectively replicated across the entities. Bob Van



Gyseghem noted that some model ordinances would require signage changes. MPC will present its preliminary recommendations on March 27. The final presentation should be ready by April 24. There was a discussion about how to score the survey responses. Pete Wallers noted that we need to find a way to make some universal recommendations. We need to be able to recommend best practices. If some entity is unable to implement part of that, we'll deal with that later.

Dr. Loftus encouraged the group to not be timid. "Let's go for the gold." Let's recommend the best practices. He noted that CMAP already has a model ordinance. Pete Wallers stated that we should take the CMAP model ordinance and then add in other elements that our survey results indicate may be effective. We will need to get feedback from the Executive Committee about what may be possible to implement.

Scott Meyer stated that Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) has a state climatologist who declares drought conditions and makes relevant statements by region. Paul Schuch said the Office of Emergency Management may also be involved in making drought conditions declarations.

CMAP Bill Inserts and Newsletters Inserts: Mr. Wallers stated that the newsletter/water bill insert proposal will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval. The TAC recommends that the following messages, which were developed by CMAP, should be sent out: March: "That drip is money down the drain." June: "Is your lawn a water guzzler?" September: "Out of sight shouldn't mean out of mind." December: "Water mains cost much more to fix after they break." They also recommend that the NWPA Fact Sheet be sent out with the first message. The "inserts" will be available in several formats and may be used in whatever venue the county or municipality chooses: in newsletters, water inserts, on websites, etc. We will also request that members add a link to the NWPA on their websites. This recommendation was approved after a motion by Paul Schuch and a second by Victor Ramirez. This will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval on March 8.

Water Resource Plan: Abby Crisostomo presented a report on the U.S. EPA's Integrated Planning Approach Framework. The overarching principles include:

- 1) Maintaining existing regulatory standards.
- 2) Addressing the most pressing issues first.
- 3) Municipalities developing an integrated plan.

The U.S. EPA is taking comments through February 29.

WaterSense Report: Pete Wallers reported 17 municipalities/counties have become WaterSense partners thus far. Some of the smaller communities have expressed worries about what may be required of them as WaterSense partners, especially the annual reporting function. We need to let them know that the report may be as simple as noting that they made water conservation materials available



to their residents on their websites. We request the member COGs' assistance in following up to make sure that their members join WaterSense.

Goals and Strategies: Mr. Wallers noted that the water loss goals discussion has been moved to April 24. John Val Arsdel of M.E. Simpson Company will make a presentation.

Plumbing Codes: Josh Ellis of MPC stated that they are trying to get the Illinois Plumbing Codes revised to include "green" technology. There had been efforts for three years to get the legislature to pass a bill that would accomplish the same thing, but it was defeated each time because of jurisdictional issues between the plumbers and the pipefitters unions. The Illinois Department of Public Health has agreed to update the plumbing codes to allow for rainwater harvesting and the use of greywater. MPC will hold two informational public meetings for comment on these issues. The first meeting will be held on April 10. Pete Wallers noted that we may need to look at the code for licensing plumbers may also need to be looked at as a companion piece. This would not **require** homeowners to use these systems. It would **allow** them to do so.

World Water Day: March 22 is World Water Day. Josh Ellis is creating a report on what communities are doing to acknowledge the event. Members are encouraged to contact him if they are doing something to celebrate or note the event.

Northeast Illinois Regional Water Supply Plan: Scott Meyer of the ISWS is currently working with the editor's markup of the report. Several other people need to review the report and then it will be ready to publish.

East Central Illinois Water Supply Report: Walt Kelly stated that the Mahomet Aquifer is in better shape than had been anticipated. The surface waters in that region are not as good as the condition of the aquifer. He noted that the President's budget calls for an increase in groundwater resource funding.

Other Business – Cassandra McKinney reported that the Illinois Pollution Control Board is considering downgrading their protection standards. They are trying to reduce standards on waste materials that may be dumped. She stated that the testing methods are not adequate. They need some pre-filed testimony on this issue. This information will be distributed to NWPA TAC members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Next Meeting: The next TAC meeting will be held on March 27, 2012.

Submitted by _____ Mary Randle, Recorder