



## Technical Advisory Committee

### The Centre at Elgin

(West Conference Room)

100 Symphony Way, Elgin

January 27, 2015

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG, George Roadcap of ISWS; Ed Coggin, McCOG; Tim Loftus, CMAP; Amy Gahala, USGS; Daniel Abrams, ISWS; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Jodie Wollnik, Kane County Water Resources; Dave Schumacher, City of Aurora; Andy Resek, City of Crystal Lake; Kyla Jacobsen, City of Elgin; Jennifer Hughes, Village of Oswego and John Dillon, City of Batavia, Dave Siegel, Elgin Sustainability Commission, David Schmidt, Village of Barrington, Rebecca Von Drasek, Dekalb County, Joanna Colletti, McHenry County Planning & Development and Danielle Gallet, MPC.

Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:11 A.M.

**Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions:** Pete Wallers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given by those present.

**Agenda Changes and Announcements:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2015:** The 2015 meeting schedule was referenced. There was no additional discussion relative to the meeting schedule.

**Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** It was reported the November, 2014 meeting minutes are being developed.

#### General Discussion on Current Water Topics in the NWPA Area

Kyla (Elgin) reported that while it is cold, there has not been as many main breaks as last year. The water quality of the Fox River is good. The City is working with auditors, and the auditors are working on water use accountability. They have found high water use in winter associated with main breaks. Kyla also reported the chloride levels were off the charts in the Fox River last year, but they are not seeing any problems this year. Elgin has seen some freezing water service lines again this year, but they are different services than last year.

Ed Coggin (McCOG) reported the communities he is familiar with are not seeing as many water main breaks this year. He has not heard of any water service line freezing in those communities this year.



Danielle (MPC) reported she is new with MPC and will now be attending the NWPAs meetings. She said she is looking forward to working on the NWPAs strategic plan.

Jennifer (Oswego) reported the Village is in preliminary discussions with Yorkville and Montgomery for a joint water treatment plant that would utilize the Fox River as a source of supply.

Rebecca (DeKalb County) reported the county is working on capping two old wells.

Joanne (McHenry County) reported McHenry County is status quo.

John Dillon (Batavia) reported the City of Batavia's report is similar to Elgin's. It has been pretty calm in Batavia and there have not been a lot of water main breaks.

Jodie (Kane County) reported Tim Loftus will be presenting at the Kane County Development Committee in February.

Amy (USGS) commented she has looked into the chloride and bromide levels in McHenry County a little more. She said the chloride levels seem to be concentrated in the shallowest 25 feet.

Dave Schumacher (Aurora) reported everything is at normal levels, including chloride levels in the Fox River.

Andy (Crystal Lake) reported water main breaks are down from last year. Andy said they recently went through the bid process for purchasing salt for their ion exchange water treatment plants. The first time they issued the request for bid, no one responded. After the second request for bid the lowest quote was 20% over last year's amount.

Dave Schmidt (Barrington) reported water main breaks in Barrington are down in general. He stated there were three water main breaks last weekend that seemed to coincide well with a local fire.

Kyla (Elgin) commented on her discussions with the IEPA of utilizing cation exchange water treatment plant regeneration waste for deicing. She stated while the current regulations do not allow it, it seems like a viable option to consider in the future.

John Dillon (Batavia) asked if the review of deicing impacts on groundwater should focus on chloride, only, or should the focus be on chloride and sodium. George (ISWS) commented that sodium ions can attach to the soils, so the monitoring focus should be on chloride.

**Presentation: "Review of Strategic Plan" – Dr. Tim Loftus, CMAP**

Tim (CMAP) led a discussion through the five worksheets that summarize the strategic plan. The desire is to identify one person/entity as the lead, so that person/entity takes ownership of the task.

Review of the MPC Lead Action Items, Specifically Goal B, Objective 2, Strategy 8: Tim discussed the fact that the NWPAs TAC is supposed to develop a menu of topics for discussion with EC, but we have not done that, yet.



Tim asked the group if we want to develop a list and then suggested the group develop three topics. Kyla (Elgin) suggested education of public officials on water topics should be a priority, especially since there will be new public officials in the spring.

Ed (McCOG) suggested education on full cost water pricing be a priority. He said many officials are worried about rate changes, and then gave an example of a community waiting to go out to bid on a project until after the elections. Danielle (MPC) stated the USEPA is developing PR handouts for utilities to hand out. Tim (CMAP) suggested NWPA develop three rate related briefs that would be given throughout the year.

Jennifer (Oswego) stated the discussions of a future Fox River water treatment plant with the board, helped them realize that there will be water shortages over the long term period (40 years). She said the board discussed the ability to extend their resources through conservation.

Jodie (Kane County) mentioned a process the City of Batavia went through when they were looking at an electric rate increase. The City listed the electric use by Alderman so the Alderman could compare their use to each of their households. It was good exercise for the Alderman. Jodie suggested communities should do the same thing for water bills.

Another educational theme that was discussed is each community's Water Works System historical background and the basics of their existing Water Works Systems. John (Batavia) stated their Water Department gives tours of the Water Works System to newly elected officials.

Tim (CMAP) suggested developing a "Water 101" brief that could be discussed with newly elected officials. John (Batavia) and Ed (McCOG) suggested the Water 101 brief should include a discussion of Lake Michigan water service area. Joanna (McHenry County) suggested the brief include information on private wells for those areas that do not have a community wide Water Works System. Dave (Aurora) stated the City of Aurora generally does small water rate increases each year. After the newly elected officials are seated, Dave meets with them and goes through a presentation on the Water Works System. At the next City Council meeting the rate increase is discussed.

On the topic of water loss auditing, Danielle (CMAP) asked for feedback from the group on the IEPA initiative. Danielle commented on the AWWA Water Loss Auditing Software training and the fact that it utilizes a community's existing data. She also mentioned the software defines the cost of water lost and that that information can be shared with a community's policymakers. She recommended the water loss cost could be equated to other municipal budget items, such as not being able to buy X number of needed municipal vehicles.

Tim (CMAP) discussed CMAP's water loss study of Lake Michigan communities in 2013. There was one community in that study that was operating at a budget deficit. They were able to make the connection between reducing water loss and then the cost savings would remove the deficit.

EC Lead Action Items: Next, the table listing the action items the Executive Committee (EC) is tasked to lead was discussed. It was discussed that the EC members do not have the time to be the lead on work items. While all decisions go through the EC, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will develop the information for the EC.



Ed (McCOG) suggested leaving EC as the lead on items, but they need the TAC as a back seat driver to help move it forward.

Pete (MWCOG) stated the TAC is responsible for prioritizing action items and determining which ones should be presented to the EC.

John Dillon (Batavia) suggested to schedule joint TAC/EC meetings, such as the EC quarterly board meetings, so the EC could be part of some of the technical discussion. Others suggested a joint meeting once a year.

George (ISWS) commented that the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium regional planning group developed a PowerPoint presentation that everyone on the TAC could present. Tim (CMAP) stated a presentation has been developed for NWPA and that he and Kyla have utilized it in presentations over the last year.

TAC Lead Action Items: Next the TAC lead action items summary table was reviewed, and specifically Goal C, Objective 2, Strategy 10 was debated. Strategy 10 states "Review the literature and other users (i.e. places) for how sustainability is defined and made operational." Tim (CMAP) stated NWPA is working with ISWS to help define sustainability for our region.

Jennifer (Oswego) stated ASCE and APWA have jointly defined sustainability, and perhaps that definition should be considered.

There was some discussion on the monthly water use data reporting tool. It was stated over 30 public water suppliers are using the tool, but there are many who are not. Tim (CMAP) raised the question of, "How do we recruit others?"

Pete (MWCOG) suggested additional focus on highlighting how it substitutes for IWIP. Perhaps a letter from ISWS stating that would be helpful. Pete also talked about NWPA's desire for ISWS to take over managing the reporting tool.

Dave (Aurora) suggested a handout at the next EC meeting stating who is reporting and who is not reporting.

Jeff (EEI) suggested asking each EC member to reach out to 5 – 10 communities who are not utilizing the tool and asking them to start inputting their data.

CMAP Lead Action Items: Lastly, Tim (CMAP) briefly referenced the CMAP lead action items summary table. Tim stated he has not seen the 2013 IWIP data, yet. Daniel (MPC) said she would check with IWIP staff to find out when the 2013 data would be available.

**NWPA – Communication/Outreach:** The plan is to reinstate the newsletter distribution in the near future.

**New Intern – Status:** MPC has drafted a job description for the intern. They are going to post it in several locations. MPC will provide work space for the new intern. MWCOG also would like the person to be at MWCOG/NWPA office some, as well. The goal is to hire the intern by the end of the first quarter.



**ISWS: Presentation: “Update on Synoptic Measurement of Sandstone Aquifers” – Dr. George Roadcap & Dr. Daniel Abrams**

George presented the first half of the slides in the presentation which focused on community water supply source distribution. The maps showed Lake Michigan water use, as well as groundwater use, in Northeastern Illinois throughout the second half of 1900’s into the beginning of the 2000’s. George stated where a community gets its water from is driven by the geology of the area. The maps also show when groundwater withdrawal in an area was becoming a problem, so the area switched to alternative water supply sources. The historical maps provide the foundation for the mass measurement data slides, but those slides are to be presented at the next meeting due to the limited amount of time remaining for today’s meeting.

Danielle (MPC) commented that the patchy colors of community water source distribution on the map show how complicated water use in the region is and show the importance of, and need for, regional water supply planning.

The group agreed updating the 2000 Lake Michigan Allocation map showing the “spider web” of treated water distribution would be beneficial.

During the discussion, George noted industrial water use is not included in the exhibits, because unlike communities, industries don’t have a geographic boundary that is visible on the map. George stated he is looking for feedback of how to integrate the industries into the map. For instance, should the industries be associated with the closest municipality? George will continue to think about that and perhaps present options at the next TAC meeting.

George stated the report needs to be printed by June.

**Water Loss Accounting, Update on IEPA Initiative:** Danielle (MPC) stated the training sessions are ongoing. The steering committee is looking to do some quality control and is looking for suggestions. Danielle also stated the committee is launching a subcommittee of the steering committee to develop an RFP for phase II technical support. One criteria to be eligible for the grant funding will be that the community will have had to participate in the training.

**State and Regional Water Supply Planning, Update – MPC and CMAP**

Tim (CMAP) and Danielle (MPC) gave a summary of the first Water2050 meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. There were 54 attendees. Daniel Abrams (ISWS) presented ongoing work of water level mass measurement findings. The initial analysis indicates desaturation of Ancell (St. Peter) is occurring in Will County sooner than projected. At the meeting, attendees responded to a poll asking if desaturation is a local, regional, state or all of the above concern. The majority stated it was an all of the above concern. None of the attendees thought it was a local concern, only.

Another presenter at the Water2050 meeting was Wes Cattoor of IDNR. Wes presented IDNR’s strategic plan for water supply planning and discussed their current legislative initiatives.



Danielle stated the meetings will be quarterly. Drought planning and water rates will be focuses for upcoming meetings.

Tim stated the goals/purpose of the forum is to: 1) inform IDNR (i.e. funding initiative) of region's views on water supply planning, 2) provide those engaged in Water2050 implementation support and guidance, and 3) communicate any important notices relative to water supply planning, such as the fact that the IDNR Lake Michigan water use revised rules were finalized.

Pete (MWCOC) reported the IDNR Director of Water Resources position has not been filled, yet. There has been a directive from the new administration to cut costs. Based on the numbers being discussed, the IDNR estimates they may need to reduce staff by as many as 200 people.

Pete (MWCOC) also reported the NPDES permit revisions, specifically the post development stormwater runoff recommendations and MS4 language, are being reviewed by the Governor's office.

**Executive Committee Update:** Pete (MWCOC) reported the next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2015.

**Other Business:** The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2015 at the Centre at Elgin.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Jeff Freeman, EEI.