



Technical Advisory Committee

February 26, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; Abby Crisostomo of MPC; Josh Ellis of MPC; Shannon Madden, MPC; John Dillon, City of Batavia; Victor Ramirez, City of Crystal Lake representing MCCOG; Jeff Freeman, EEI; Angie Ford, EEI; Rebecca Von Drasek, DeKalb County; Tim Loftus, CMAP; Paul Schuch of Kane County; Jodie Wollnik of Kane County; John Dillon of City of Batavia, representing MWCOG; Kyla Jacobson, City of Elgin; Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey; Scott Meyer of Illinois State Water Survey; Ed Coggin; Dave Schumaucher, City of Aurora; Paul Marschinke, City of St. Charles; Kurt Thompson, BACOG; David Husemoller, Lake County; Mary Ann Dickison, Alliance for Water Efficiency.

Pete Wallers called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Pete 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 – Paul Schuch made a motion to accept, John Dillon seconded. One minor correction to be made; Rebecca Von Drasek was not in attendance at the meeting.

Presentation: Never Waste Campaign: Mary Ann Dickinson, Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) gave her presentation on the new campaign that will be released in a week and a half. The campaign means that you can take small steps to not waste water. The symbol is a water bottle that is customizable for each community/utility for a minimal cost. There are also three ads that can be used: Supply vs. demand; stop wasting water; marketing the bottle that can be customized. The campaign is free to AWE members; members are \$200/year. Standard ad files are free. One time cost for resizing \$500.

The bottles which include a black and white logo are \$12 per bottle for AWE members. The minimum order is 24. For custom orders there is a \$60 Charge to set up a custom logo and the minimum order is 360. The campaign will be launching March 11th which is one week before IEPA's Fix a Leak Week. The campaign can be used without the bottles. There are many ways to participate – create your own campaign; events, contests or pledges, local partnerships, employee engagement. AWE has developed a tool kit that gives you tips and suggestions for activating the campaign. To sign up for the campaign contact Jeffrey Hughes, Jeffrey@a4we.org



General Discussion on Current Water Use in the NWPA Area: There was general discussion about water use in the NWPA region. Kyla of City of Elgin; main breaks have gone away; just a couple here and there, nothing like they were. The river level is up a little bit. Water quality has been fine as well. Victor Ramirez of Crystal Lake, nothing out of the ordinary. John Dillon of Batavia, main breaks have substantially trailed off in the last month. David Schumacher of Aurora, at typical July-August levels which is double than what we normally see at this time of the year. They've been at normal production and water main breaks. Paul Marschinke of St. Charles, main breaks are back to normal.

Kyla stated that ISAWWA will be sending out a survey regarding water main breaks after WATERCON is over.

Josh Ellis, MPC commented that if anyone has any stories about lingering impacts from the drought, MPC has been running a blog series on their website. If anybody has any stories how operations are being challenged please contact Abby Crisostomo at acrisostomo@metroplanning.org

Drought Conditions Presentation by Walt Kelly of Illinois State Water Survey: Walt Kelly, ISWS, gave his presentation about Drought Conditions in Illinois. Most of Illinois is considered normal at the moment. The US map shows west of here is still in serious drought. Could still run into some problems with the Mississippi River; could be a long term problem. 10 driest years in Illinois and following year – 2012 came in at #10. Crop yields – corn; down 52 bushels; lowest yield since 1988. Soybeans; down 4.5 bushels from 2011; lowest yield since 2003. Winter wheat; up 2 bushels since 2011. More irrigation wells are being put in because of the loss on corn. January precipitation was high; mainly rain, snowfall was low. Walt reported that February is pretty average statewide as well.

ISWS WARM shallow monitoring wells – all saw an increase in the wells.

USGS McHenry County Monitoring Wells (Shallow) – showing good recovery in the last month.

USGS McHenry County Monitoring Wells (Deep) – showing good recovery in most of them; still recovering.

Discussion was had regarding the irrigation wells that the farmers are considering to put in. There is a permit process in place and legislation has been passed. Tim Loftus, CMAP, gave a brief synopsis of the amended Water Use Act, effective Jan. 1, 2010, he noted that high capacity withdrawals are required to report to IWIP. In addition there's a permit form that has to be filled out for new withdrawals; it is now state wide. Agricultural users have a five year window, through 2015 before they need to report their water use. ISWS has to concur with the method of measurement for the irrigation wells and other agricultural related withdrawals, that work is in progress.

The Drought Monitor Map may be accessed at <http://droughtmonitorw.unl.edu/>

All agency reports have been posted on the website at www.drought.illinois.gov.



LTA – Drought Management Planning et al – CMAP: Tim Loftus gave an update on the Executive Committee presentation. The Executive Committee approved the MOU with a few minor revisions after their last meeting. Tim started the discussion with regards to the aquifer recharge and how to better determine the amount of water that is available to the area. After much discussion it was determined that this group needs to work closer with ISWS in order to better determine the number. Paul Schuch, Kane County is in the process of working ISWS on a proposal for Water Modeling for the entire County. He has offered Kane County as the “poster child” for the group. Tim concluded the discussion and asked everyone to continue to think on this topic.

Strategic Planning: Tim Loftus will plan to come back to March’s meeting and review the group’s mission statement and how we get to where we want to go. Once this is all decided then it will go back to the Executive Committee for their approval.

Pete Wallers asked the group to think about items that you want to include in the strategic plan that we may not have talked about yet so that we can have a discussion in March. We would like to increase our reach so that we get more people at the meetings and become more widely known outside of our area. John Dillon commented that he thinks that what this group has accomplished so far has been great, but we need to get a better understanding of the communities’ interests. He suggested doing a very short survey and sending it out to two or three distinctive groups that have different concerns in order to get feedback. Tim Loftus commented that he thought the survey was a good idea. He suggested that MPC and CMAP start thinking about putting it together in order to gather more information.

Water Reporting: Walt Kelly, ISWS, reported that he had four communities send in their information. Their e-Mor guys looked at it and ended up deciding to do more with the City of Batavia. Discussion was had regarding the spreadsheet that Pete has created vs. the e-Mor system. An update regarding this topic will be forthcoming at the March meeting.

NWPA Executive Committee Update: Pete reported that a Resolution of Support has been developed for those communities that already have an ordinance that incorporates the NWPA Lawn Water Conservation Ordinance. There was discussion regarding the idea of including limiting private wells. This topic will be discussed with Atty. Steve Andersson and a follow-up will be given at the March meeting.

Other Business – Regional Water Planning – Josh Ellis, MPC, reminded everyone about the Regional Water Planning meetings that have started back up again.

Comments on the Lawn Watering Manual to Margaret Schneemann by February 25th: Pete reminded everyone that comments were due to Margaret yesterday, however if you still have them please send them right away.

WaterSense Reporting: Pete reminded everyone that if you’re a member you have to submit a yearly report; he has completed NWPA’s report and sent it in.



Next Meeting: Tues., March 26, 2013

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

Submitted by _____ Angie Ford, Recorder