



Technical Advisory Committee

October 25, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Present: Peter Wallers, Chairman representing MWCOG; John Sterrett, representing Kendall County; Paul Schuch representing Kane County; John Dillon, City of Batavia, representing MWCOG; Cassandra McKinney representing McHenry County; David Lawry of City of Elgin, representing MWCOG; Bryan Faivre of City of DeKalb, representing MWCOG; Kurt Thomsen, KDT Environmental, representing BACOG; Larry Thomas, Baxter and Woodman, representing Lake County; and Scott Trotter of Trotter and Associates representing LCML .

Also Present: Jeff Freeman, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.; Dave Schumaucher, City of Aurora; Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva; Dan Dinges, City of Geneva; Joe Munder, City of West Chicago; Al Wehrmann, ISWS; Dr. Tim Loftus, CMAP; Kelly Burma, CMT; Kyla Jacobsen, City of Elgin; Jim Urek, CDM; Mark Emory, Christopher B. Burke Engineering and Angie Ford, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

Delegate Absent: Dennis Burmeister of Village of Barrington representing NWMC; Ed Coggin of HR Green, representing MCCOG; Paul Miller representing DeKalb County and Jon Schmitt of City of McHenry, representing MCCOG.

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. A reminder was given about the NWPA’s Facebook page and website. We need 25 people to “like” us so that we can secure our vanity URL. There is a link to John Dillon’s interview for the water level measurement initiative on the website. (www.nwpa.us)

Agenda Changes and Announcements – Due to Cassandra McKinney running late, Peter stated that we will start with Item No. 4 and move forward until Cassandra arrives.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the September 27th meeting were approved with changes by a motion from Dr. Tim Loftus and a second by John Dillon. The changes to be made to the minutes are to be reflected on Page 3 under *Goals and Strategies* with reference to what Paul Miller said regarding the need for the modeling of the deep aquifer that they do in fact have in DeKalb County. Al Wehrmann stated that it is very expensive and it would be better spent looking at other alternatives.



McHenry County Water Resources Action Plan – Cassandra McKinney, McHenry County gave a brief overview of the Water Resources Action Plan. The McHenry County board adopted the plan last week, it took 4 ½ years to develop. The plan looks at the following – managing supply and demand; plan for growth and drought; utilizing water conservation programs; value the land; treat water in all its forms as resource; consider all “development” options; increase access to recycling centers and educate on quality and quantity. There are many areas that they are implementing, but there are a few that align with NWPA. Those are as follows:

Subsection B1 – Raise public awareness; a robust well abandonment program; work with the local SWCD and Health Department to comply with the revisions to the Water Use Act of 1983 and employ a cross connection control ordinance.

Subsection B2 – consider alternatives for Class V injection wells; retrofit existing Class V wells with treatment trains and other BMP’s; create a sensitive aquifer recharge areas map; employ stormwater BMP’s that promote infiltration of quality water; minimize intensive development activities; employ conservation design techniques and revise ordinances and promote natural landscaping.

Subsection B3 – Revise stormwater ordinances to require more infiltration; retrofit existing stormwater structures to encourage infiltration of quality water; limit impervious items.

Subsection B6 – require permitting of all salt storage facilities (Algonquin is currently doing this); require all operators to become trained and certified every three years and require all snow and ice operations to have an approved storage and handling plan.

Winter Snow and Ice Operations – Training and Certification; Medication Disposal Programs – there are costs associated with starting this program; Additional Programs Available to Public – Partners in Paint Recycling Programs, Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program; Electronic Waste Disposal Program; School “Water” lessons – K-12 on their website; Program in Development – Hobby Farms – Nutrient management; pasture management; grassed; Turf Management and Certification – public and private sector – soil testing, phosphorous fertilizer education, application rates and timing, irrigation and water conservation; more information on their website – www.mchenryh2o.com

Peter inquired how McHenry County implemented the school program. Cassandra replied that they were grant funded. Peter stated that would be a great thing to expand on. Paul Schuch mentioned that Kane County used River Boat money to educate the kids on recycling solid waste, etc. Cassandra stated that Sue Burke is the head of the McHenry County School Environmental and Education Program (MCSEEP) – lesson plans, lesson library; contact information is all on their website. (<http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/mcseep/Pages/index.aspx>)

Kyla Jacobson also stated that ISAWWA is developing an outreach program and there is also a ton of information on their website as well (<http://www.isawwa-portal.com/OutreachProgram.aspx>) She



stated that it's important to get kids interested in water now as they will be our future water people. They learn how to conserve it, how to be good stewards of the environment.

Draft State Drought Preparedness and Response Plan – Al Wehrmann, ISWS gave a brief overview of the draft plan. The State water plan task force is an ad-hoc committee and is chaired by the Office of Water Resources (OWR) at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). It's been in existence for over 20 years and has published a number of reports and white papers. As it stands it was more of a drought response plan, what are the state agency roles once we are in a drought. It didn't really discuss any preparedness about what to do beforehand. Al, Vern Knapp, Jim Angel sat down updated the plan with as much as they could summarize with what's been going on in Illinois since 1983. Trying to lay the groundwork for communities; the communities are responsible for preparing their own plan. The updated plan was approved at the meeting last week. It will be uploaded to their website soon. Comments or suggestions should be submitted to Arlan Juhl and they will be considered.

Peter inquired if the State can officially declare a drought? Al replied with he didn't think they could, but there are some things that they can set into motion, but it's up to the Governor when it is all said and done. Paul Schuch, Kane County commented that the Governor can declare a drought county by county, but there's no enforcement policy. Larry Thomas, Baxter and Woodman stated that there are only four counties that the Governor has control over. In 2005, they were asking for voluntary action by the citizens. Lake County had public wells that were running dry. Peter commented that's why we need to talk about a five county drought management plan to address the situation so there's uniformity in how we respond. He also commented on the color coding system the Village of Barrington uses and maybe that's something that could be integrated in the communities in the five county area. Paul Schuch commented that Kane County is going to addressing this topic in their 2040 plan regarding drought management. They are also looking at being able to predict the severity of droughts by installing shallow aquifer monitoring in critical locations similar to McHenry County. He noted that water conservation policymakers look at it as a drop in revenue, but they should look at it instead as being water efficient and being a good steward of the resource. Peter stated that Paul would be a good person to lead this sub-committee since he is currently working on this topic at Kane County. He also commented that the Executive Committee wants to adopt common policies that will move us towards a more sustainable region.

Education – Municipal Ordinance Review ~ Peter stated that Josh Ellis could not make it to the meeting today, but they are ready to start the ordinance review at MPC and they are in need of some help reviewing the criteria that they are going to use to rate them. Peter will send a reminder out that they need a couple of volunteers after he gets more information from him as far as timeframe, etc.

CMAP Bill Inserts and Newsletters Inserts ~ Peter commented on the bill inserts and newsletter inserts that were presented at the last meeting. After much discussion on sizing and text, it was decided that



CMAP will design the ad at a ¼ page size. Peter and Tim Loftus will follow-up with each other after the meeting to discuss.

NWPA Executive Committee Update – *Water Sense Partners* ~ Peter stated that the next meeting is in November. They will be discussing passing the WaterSense for all 80 communities in NWPA. The recommendation will then go to the COG's and Counties with the hopes of having this adopted in March 2012.

Prairie Institute Funding – Al Whermann, ISWS gave a brief overview of their budget being left out of the fiscal year budget. It sounds like it's not going to happen in the veto session. Peter stated that he will take this to the Executive Committee meeting for discussion.

Goals and Strategies – Peter stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Other Business – *Follow-Up on Water Level Measurement* ~ Al replied that it was moderately successful he has received responses from 41 communities. He's contemplating sending out another e-mail and seeing if more would be willing to do it. ISAWWA had a nice little survey monkey website that they could enter their data in. Peter commented that there was good press on this activity. John Dillon, City of Batavia was quoted in the Beacon and there was a radio interview that is linked on the NWPA website as well. It's brought some awareness to the area on water levels. Al will be working on getting the data entered and plotting those that have responded and then we'll know where the gaps are. John Dillon commented that he likes to have the history of the wells in the communities. Al stated the ISWS has the history of every well that has been drilled in their office. Al suggested that if the communities are interested in that information they should contact the ISWS directly.

USDA Regional Grant ~ Al stated the update that was received was that it was not funded. However, they received some very good reviews. They intend to re-submit next year and address the comments that they received. One of the comments was that we didn't include Indiana in the proposal, but they can easily fix that or include them. Peter asked that before they re-submit to let him know the date so that letters of support can be obtained. Al responded with he believes it will be around July 1st, 2012.

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

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 22nd.

Submitted by _____

Angie Ford, Recorder