

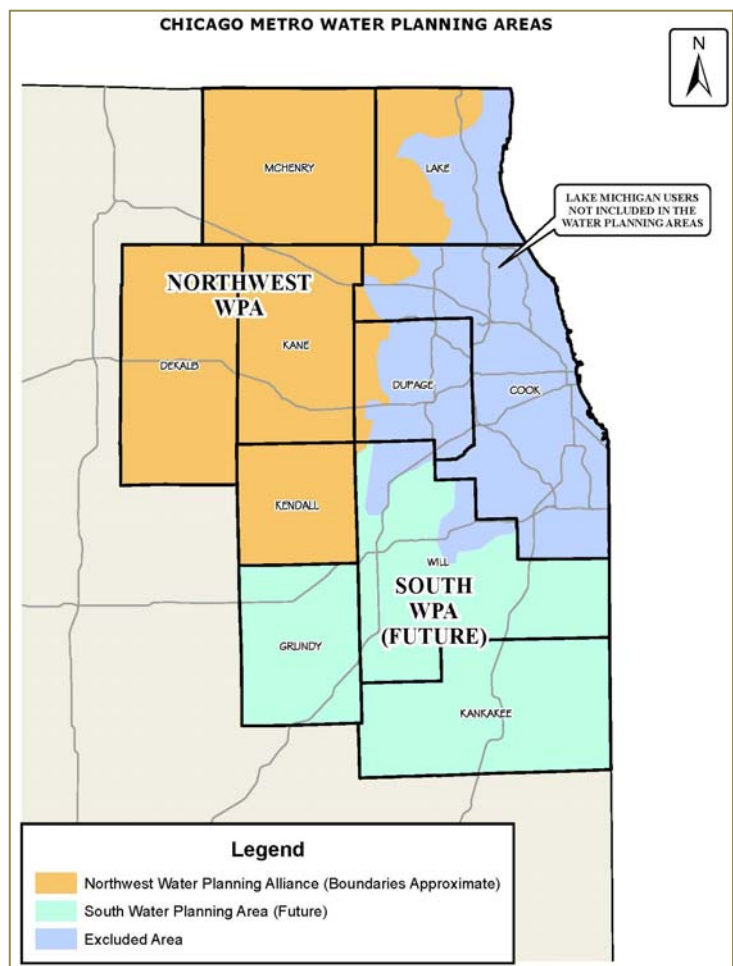


2012 DROUGHT SUMMARY REPORT

NORTHWEST WATER PLANNING ALLIANCE

The Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPWA) is a coalition of five counties (Lake, McHenry, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb) and five COGs (Lake County Municipal League, McHenry County Council of Governments, Northwest Municipal Conference, Barrington Area Council of Governments and Metro West Council of Government) representing approximately 80 communities and 1.3 million people.

The NWPWA consists of groundwater and surface water (Fox River) dependent communities in northeastern Illinois. Currently NWPWA is managed under the direction of an Executive Committee consisting of 14 elected public officials and chaired by Aurora Mayor Thomas Weisner. NWPWA is also supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which provides technical support. The TAC is chaired by Mr. Peter Wallers and is comprised of members appointed by the NWPWA: local water professionals, Public Works Directors, County and Municipal Representatives and various consulting members including Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS), Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), et al.



All those involved in the organization serve as volunteers; NWPWA does not have any paid positions.

At the request of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Mayor Weisner and Mr. Wallers served as Technical Advisors to the Governor's Drought Management Task Force. They have participated in most of the bi-weekly Task Force meetings.

NWPA Area Activities Related to the Drought

- At the monthly TAC meetings, the TAC reviewed the current condition of the drought in northeastern Illinois and discussed issues related to water suppliers. Suppliers reported the status of their systems, peak water use and any conditions or concerns related to the drought. Summary information was relayed to the Drought Task Force as part of the Task Force meetings.
- In specific response to the 2012 drought and consistent with the on-going concern for a sustainable water supply throughout the NWPA region, the TAC developed a Model Lawn Watering Conservation Ordinance.

The ordinance, which was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee in November of 2012, is being distributed for implementation in our region. A copy is attached for reference.

Additionally, NWPA has partnered with CMAP to prepare an "Outdoor Water Conservation Manual". This manual was adapted for the NWPA region by Margaret Schneemann with CMAP and will help all of our residents more effectively utilize discretionary water resources for lawn care now and in the future. This publication will be available early in 2013.

NWPA Water Supply

- During the drought of 2012 both Elgin and Aurora continued to withdraw water from the Fox River. Both communities indicated that the Fox River had adequate hydraulic capacity to meet their needs; however, both communities commented that the water quality was poor for most of the summer and fall resulting in increased costs of treatment. City of Aurora did utilize a higher blending rate with their deep aquifer resources during most of the drought period to mitigate the reduced water quality in the Fox River.

Groundwater dependent communities were able to provide adequate supplies to their users. The communities supplied by the deep aquifers reported no significant problems with supply; however various communities did adopt water restrictions to help manage peak demand.

Communities utilizing shallow groundwater resources monitored water levels and managed accordingly. In some cases this required the enactment of more stringent outdoor water use restrictions.

In general, NWPA water suppliers were able to effectively manage their supplies throughout the drought.

Next Steps

NWPA has partnered with CMAP and MPC for a Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Grant to prepare a Drought Management Plan for the NWPA region. This effort has been initiated and will continue through 2013.