

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
April 29, 2015
10:00 – 11:00 AM

1. Approval of March 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Jessi DeMartini pointed out that March 11th meeting minutes should be changed to add the “#3” to the sentence, “DuPage County is creating a watershed plan for Spring Brook on Salt Creek.” This was agreed. Mitch Patterson made a motion to approve the minutes with the change as indicated by DeMartini, seconded by Nick Menninga. Motion carried unanimously. New sentence will read “DuPage County is creating a watershed plan for Spring Brook #3 on Salt Creek.”

2. 2012 West Branch Basin Assessment

The 2012 biological and water quality assessment is the third such assessment on the basin since the initial survey and is in keeping with the rotating basin approach that was initiated for the DuPage and Salt Creek watersheds in 2006. Biological, habitat, and water quality results from 2012 will be compared to the previous two surveys in 2006 and 2009 to reveal any changes or patterns over that time period. Major causes and sources of biological and water quality impairments will be discussed.

Presenter: Chris Yoder, Research Director, Midwest Biodiversity Institute

Rob Flatter inquired when the next WBDR assessment would occur. Stephen McCracken replied that the WB basin assessment will be completed this year (2015), and it would start in June.

Jessi DeMartini asked whether the PowerPoint presentation would be available on the website. Stephen McCracken answered affirmatively.

3. Final Draft of Special Conditions for POTW members’ NDPES Permits

- Special Conditions Permit Language Update

A final draft of the special conditions was received from Illinois EPA after review with EPA Region 5. Both agencies are supportive of the DRSCW’s approach to funding projects. The special conditions are funded through a special assessment that runs for 8 years (one full 5-year permit cycle, then extending into the first 3-years of a second permit cycle). After funding project assessments for 8-years total, participating POTW agency members would have 2-3-years to achieve 1.0 mg/L monthly average for phosphorus (depending on whether a biological or chemical system is used).

Dave Gorman noted that this has been a lengthy process and that the negotiation team was very happy with the results. Dave Gorman noted that the impact for other agency members is the additional staffing component to help project implementation efforts. This item would be applied only after we have commitments from the minimum number of POTW agency members to fund the projects.

4. Funding update (SB2081) (Old Business)

- IGIG grant program – update – no news

5. Projects Committee (New Business)

- Fawell Dam Update

Stephen McCracken requested authorization to release \$48K to the executive board for the projects committee. This line item appears in the budget that was approved in March. These funds will be used to move forward design work to modify Fawell Dam.

Thanks to DuPage County Stormwater Management, 319 funds (matched by DRSCW funds) were used to investigate initial modification designs for the dam. A large amount of field work was completed under that agreement. The models need to be refined to reflect different wetted perimeters inside the culverts, the resulting velocities along with the predicted impacts on fish passage. New scopes will be developed to extend contracts with the contractors (V3 Companies and Inter-Fluve) and DuPage County Stormwater Management will be approached to restart modeling scenarios.

Larry Cox made a motion to release \$48K to the projects committee; Steve Zehner and Gary Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed.

- Oak Meadows Update

Stephen McCracken stated that if the minimum level of participation in the special conditions permit language is reached (\$2.25M), the first project to be funded is the Oak Meadows Golf Preserve Improvement project, which will address habitat and DO. Construction is scheduled to start in July.

- PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS) update - none

- Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan Update

Rob Swanson, Sarah Hunn and Stephen McCracken met with CMAP staff approximately six weeks ago to discuss funds made available by Illinois EPA to complete the plan. However, since that time, some Illinois EPA staff expressed that the TMDLs and the plan were duplicative efforts. Rob Swanson added that there were additional requirements from USEPA about detention/retention pond assessments.

Stephen McCracken stated that there has been ongoing discussion with USEPA for how to complete detention pond assessments. A proposed strategy to get this off CMAP's plate is to determine if the information already exists. Questionnaires would be distributed to determine whether a community already has this information or what would it take to get the information. Kelsey Musich asked for clarification that US EPA, not Illinois EPA, requested this information. Stephen McCracken replied, yes, that was his recollection.

Stephen McCracken added that Sarah, Rob and he do not view the TMDLs and the plan as a duplication of efforts. The watershed plan covers a wider geographic area and range of stressors than the TMDLs will.

6. Monitoring Committee (Old Business)

- The East Branch POTW chloride monitoring will probably begin in May. *Monitoring will include samples that were not completed last year. Need concentrations of chloride outputs from all East Branch plants and Devlin and Eagan plants in 2015.*
- DO probe maintenance and calibration workshop was held on April 21st. *Thank you to Mary Dressel and Micaela McGrath at DuPage County Public Works for all of their assistance executing the workshop at their facility and ongoing support and expertise to the DO program.*
- Contract status for West Branch bioassessment and chemical basin surveys *Stephen McCracken asked for the release funds to the executive board for the monitoring committee to sign contracts with Suburban Laboratories, Inc. (SLI) and Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) to complete the 2015 West Branch assessment.*

Steve Zehner made a motion to approve the release of funds to the Executive Board, seconded by Sue Baert.

Rob Flatter inquired whether these contracts were for multiple or single years. Stephen McCracken replied that the first few years they had were open and that SLI and MBI had proven considerably cheaper than other options at that time. In MBI's case, the work is highly specialized and they were possibly the only company qualified and equipped to do it. It is likely that multiple bids will be reviewed for future chemical sampling.

Kelsey Musich asked about timeliness of work and the ability to stay on budget. Stephen McCracken responded that generally both contractors complete work under budget. With chemistry this was usually because all the samples budgeted were not collected due to sites being inaccessible due to flooding/drought or construction. Chemistry was above budget last year due to an unforeseen quality control item. MBI is behind on their reports, partially due to their work on the IPS tool in 2012-13. MBI was over budget in 2012 due to additional analysis that needed to be carried out following the discovery of high N concentrations in a number of samples. Under the executed contract, the DRSCW was not under any obligation to pay for either overage. We anticipate that being back on reporting schedule by the end of the year.

Larry Cox made the motion to approve the release funds in the amounts quoted by the contractors for the biological and chemical monitoring. All voted in favor.

Reference site chemistry: Last year was first year chemical data was collected at reference sites. Stephen McCracken requested the release of \$9100.00 from the budget line item that was approved in March. Tom Richardson seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Dave Gorman noted that the Bylaws authorize the executive board to make expenditures of less than \$10K prior to a vote at a Workgroup meeting, if necessary, for expediency.

Jennifer Hammer added that the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition (LDRWC) budgeted for monitoring at reference sites and could share the costs or add additional sites. Stephen McCracken stated that 3 reference sites would provide data where it is most needed i.e. out of area high quality sites.

POTW chloride and conductivity monitoring. Stephen McCracken requested the release of funds to contract SLI to process 15 grab samples for each POTW on the EBDR and 2 POTWs on the WBDR (MWRD Eagan/ ROSELLE, Devlin).

Larry Cox made a motion to authorize up to the budgeted amount. Jennifer Hammer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chloride committee – CDM Smith's proposal for chloride reduction efforts is budgeted at \$10,500. The chloride committee scope will be presented to the executive board. Nick Menninga made a motion to release these funds at the contract amount; Gary Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Dave Gorman reminded members that further participation can be made with all committees. Meetings are held as needed – none have regular meeting schedules.

- Geodatabase Update
- Bioassessment Users Guide update

7. Chloride Reduction Committee (New Business)

- Date for the 2015 public roads workshop has been set for 23rd of September
- Chloride Committee Update
- Chloride Offset Program with the Illinois Tollway – Update

Dan Bounds reported that the public roads deicing workshop is scheduled for September 23, 2015. The agenda will focus of pilot testing and case study results. We will include vendors and, of course, a hot buffet breakfast. A date for the parking lots & sidewalks deicing workshop has not yet been set; a company breakfast for private contractors is under consideration. CDM Smith completed slip and fall research and prepared a draft model facilities plan.

Dave Gorman added that NPDES POTW reports on chlorides has been included in the special conditions. No numeric decreases were included in this language. The EPAs want to see if we are making an impact so they can look at replicating it elsewhere.

Dave Gorman reminded attendees to sign in to receive PDHs (1 hour per bimonthly meeting) issued at the end of October. Attendees are invited to head to The Patio on Highland Avenue for their lunch breaks.

Matt York asked for more information regarding the chloride offset program with the Tollway. Stephen McCracken said he would talk to him after the meeting.

8. Watershed Permitting Update (Old Business)

9. TMDL Development for the DuPage River/Salt Creek (New Business)

10. Watershed Committee Updates – West Branch, East Branch and Salt Creek

- East Branch Resiliency and Watershed Plan - update

11. Business Items (New Business)

- Membership Dues
- Accounts Update – (Attachment 2)
- Website Updates- the website has been updated
- Other Business

12. DRSCW Calendar, Presentations and Press Coverage (Old Business)

Update on WEFTEC 2015–application for track on “Stream Geomorphology and Restoration 101.”

13. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- June 24, 2015
- August 26, 2015
- October 28, 2015
- December 9, 2015
- February 24, 2016
- April 27, 2016