

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup Members and Executive Board

Agency Members (blue)/ Associate and Individual Members (gray):

Village of Addison · AECOM · Arcadis US · Village of Arlington Heights · City of Aurora · Baxter & Woodman · Village of Bartlett · Village of Bensenville · Black & Veatch · Village of Bloomingdale · Village of Bolingbrook · CDM Smith · The Conservation Foundation · Village of Carol Stream · Carollo Engineers · Christopher B. Burke Engineering · Village of Clarendon Hills · Clark-Dietz · Donohue & Associates · Village of Downers Grove · Downers Grove Sanitary District · DuPage County · DuPage County Health Department · City of Elmhurst · Elmhurst-Chicago Stone Company · Engineering Resource Associates · Forest Preserve District of Cook County · Forest Preserve District of DuPage County · Geosyntec Consultants · Glenbard Wastewater Authority · Village of Glen Ellyn · Village of Glendale Heights · HR Green · Village of Hanover Park · Hey & Associates · Village of Hinsdale · Village of Hoffman Estates · Huff & Huff · Illinois Department of Transportation · Illinois State Toll Highway Authority · Industrial Systems · Inter-Fluve · Village of Itasca · K-Tech Specialty Coatings · Village of Lisle · Lisle Township Highway Dept. · Village of Lombard · Metro Strategies · Morris Engineering · The Morton Arboretum · City of Naperville · Naperville Park District · Naperville Township Road District · City of Northlake · Village of Oak Brook · City of Oakbrook Terrace · Village of Palatine · Prairie Rivers Network · RHMG Engineers · RJN Group · Robinson Engineering · Ruckert Mielke · Village of Roselle · Salt Creek Sanitary District · Salt Creek Watershed Network · Village of Schaumburg · Sierra Club, River Prairie Group · Strand Associates · Suburban Laboratories · Trotter & Associates · V3 Companies · Village of Villa Park · Walter E. Deuchler Associates · City of Warrenville · WellSpring Environmental · City of West Chicago · Village of Westchester · Village of Western Springs · Village of Westmont · City of Wheaton · Wheaton Sanitary District · Village of Winfield · City of Wood Dale · Village of Woodridge · York Township Highway Dept.

Executive Board

President	Dave Gorman, <i>Village of Lombard</i>
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Members At Large	Mary Beth Falsey, <i>DuPage County</i> Nick Menninga, <i>Downers Grove Sanitary District</i> Steven Zehner, <i>Robinson Engineering, Ltd.</i>

Committee Chairs

Monitoring	Jennifer Hammer, <i>The Conservation Foundation</i>
Salt Creek	Dennis Streicher, <i>Sierra Club-River Prairie Group</i>
East Branch DuPage	Larry Cox, <i>Downers Grove Sanitary District</i>
West Branch DuPage	Erik Neidy, <i>Forest Preserve District of DuPage County</i>

Staff

Watershed Coordinator	Stephen McCracken, <i>The Conservation Foundation</i>
Watershed Project Manager	Deanna Doohaluk, <i>The Conservation Foundation</i>
Watershed Communications	Tara Neff, <i>The Conservation Foundation</i>
Watershed Administration	Nancy Cinatl, <i>The Conservation Foundation</i>



DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

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DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

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Letter from the President

Dear Readers,

2017 marked the DRSCW's 11th year of assisting members to rationally and cost-effectively improve local stream resource quality. Our continued project implementation efforts with partners like DuPage County Stormwater Management, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and the Illinois Tollway brought a number of advances toward meeting NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit requirements, TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) implementation plans, and Clean Water Act goals this past year. Articles included with this issue highlight the Tollway's Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Project—Chloride Offset Program, Local NPDES MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Program Audits, and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's award-winning "The Preserve at Oak Meadows" project.

The DRSCW's activities related to salt management helped members to comply with the reissued NPDES General ILR-40 (MS4) permit's new requirements. The annual salt management workshops that we hold in collaboration with the DuPage County Division of Transportation help fulfill annual employee training requirements, and they continue to grow larger each year. Working with DuPage County Stormwater Management, the DRSCW tweaked its monitoring program to include parameters mandated by the new permit so that all member permit holders in the watersheds will continue to meet the regulatory requirements while also gaining a better understanding about how our watersheds function. The DRSCW's Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) will support the development of Illinois' first water quality trading system to help control costs while working towards nutrient reduction compliance.

The DRSCW is looking forward to another productive year of providing excellent services to our members and working towards achieving water quality standards and the Clean Water Act's designated uses in the West Branch DuPage River, East Branch DuPage River, and Salt Creek watersheds. We are fortunate to have many members participating on our committees concentrating on each of the three watersheds, monitoring, chlorides and projects. Please contact me at gorman@villageoflombard.org if you would like to get more involved by joining one of these committees. Also, please plan to attend our annual meeting on February 28, 2018 to learn more about our accomplishments and our plans. We have important work to do!

Dave Gorman, President

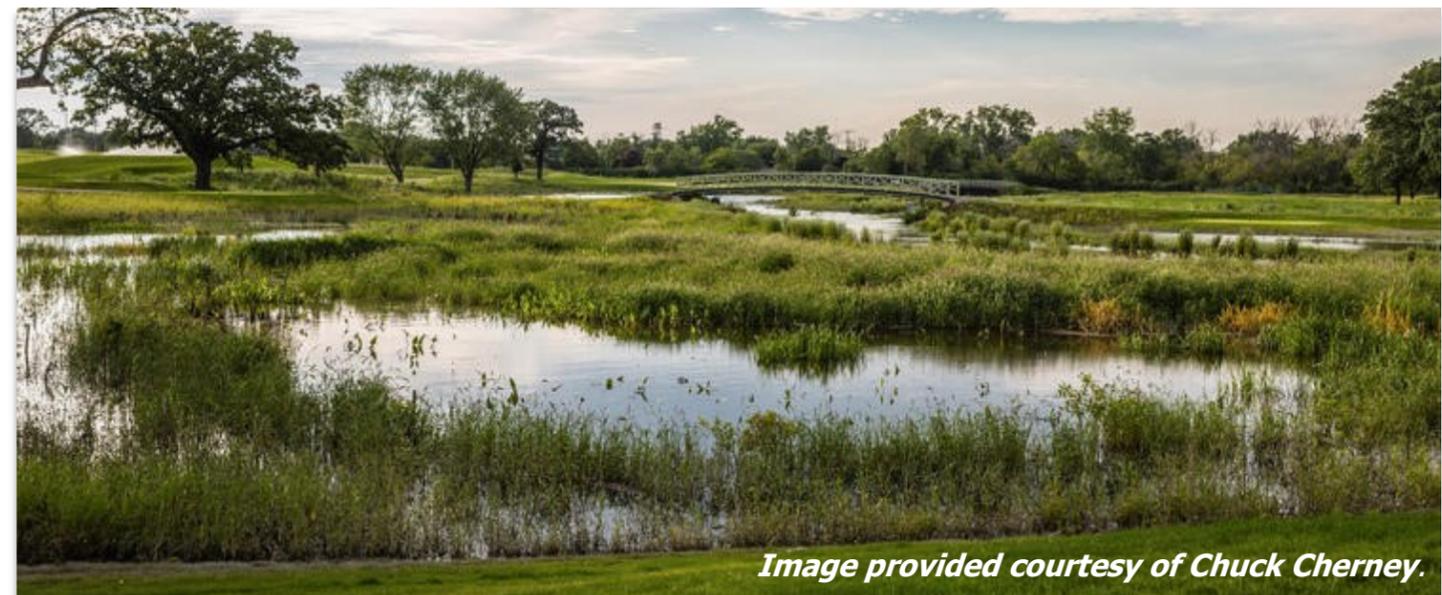


Image provided courtesy of Chuck Cherney.

Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Project— Chloride Offset Program

The Tollway awarded its first Chloride Offset Program grants to the Villages of Bensenville and Wood Dale to purchase liquid tanks for vehicles, temperature sensing equipment, and vehicle tracking technology. Additionally, staff of both villages received training and both communities aim to reduce their salt application rates by at least 17%.

When fully operational, the EOWA Project will add 17 miles of new roads with 15 new or improved interchanges and is predicted to introduce approximately 4000 tons of additional deicing compounds into the Salt Creek watershed annually. Since 2004, Salt Creek has been under a state Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for chloride/conductivity. The Salt Creek TMDL subdivided the watershed between Addison Creek and Salt Creek, which were targeted for 41% and 8% reductions, respectively (IEPA, 2004, Salt Creek TMDL). The Addison Creek and Salt Creek watersheds, collectively, called for an overall Salt Creek reduction of 14% to meet state water quality goals. Later DRSCW analysis suggested a 55% reduction would actually be necessary.

To proceed with the permitting process for this vital infrastructure the Tollway and the DRSCW proposed implementation of the Chloride Offset Program. Under the program, the Tollway will provide financial assistance to public agencies situated in the EOWA project's impact area to rationalize their application of winter deicing compounds. These offsets, along with a 20% application rate reduction committed to by the Tollway, aim to eliminate post project chloride loading increases in the Salt Creek watershed.



Local MS4 (Stormwater) Program Audits

Several local Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) programs were audited by Illinois EPA staff this year. While all permit requirements were addressed at some level, the focus of audits for which I assisted municipalities was on the following program areas:

- Reporting and website content
- Stormwater management plan content
- Public education and outreach
- Construction site inspection
- Stormwater outfall inspection
- Housekeeping practices
- Training

Most audits began with a review of the required IEPA submittals and items that should already be posted on a municipality's website: Notice of Intent (NOI) document, stormwater management program plan, and the last five years of annual reports are all required. Some stormwater management program plan documents were noted as insufficient or "carbon copies" of the NOI. The plan should contain how each program element is implemented, which department or staff position is responsible for implementation, and how municipal departments work together, or with other outside agencies, to implement the program.

Some audits spent considerable time on public education materials and how the information is made available to the public. In some cases, the materials did not address all required topics, like climate change, and contact information to report local water quality concerns. Emphasis was placed

on how easily a resident could find information on waste collection and recycling events in their area, and who residents contact in case of a water quality issue or emergency.

Each municipality's process for conducting construction site inspections and how findings were documented and tracked was reviewed. How follow-up was performed on noted construction site issues was a focus. Records of annual stormwater outfall inspections were reviewed in each community, with a focus on how any illicit discharges or other noted issues were investigated and addressed. Some local ordinances were reviewed to determine the ability of a community to investigate and enforce illicit discharges as required.

Most audits included a walk-through of public works facilities, with some including a visit to an active construction site. Best management practices implementation and housekeeping practices were observed at maintenance yards. Erosion and sediment controls were observed in disturbed areas of construction sites. The control measures identified in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) were compared to the measures actually being implemented on site.

Staff training was also a focus, including the documentation of all internal and external training. Municipalities were reminded that staff and contractors employed by the municipality require annual training.

According to Illinois EPA staff, another round of local audits is planned for 2018. [Dan Bounds, PE – Baxter and Woodman](#)

The Preserve at Oak Meadows—Improving Local Waterways to Offset Future Costs



Members of the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) are improving local streams while saving wastewater utility payers money. Under an innovative deal, the DRSCW is working with 17 communities and sanitary districts responsible for wastewater treatment in the area to fund a series of waterway improvement projects throughout DuPage County, and potentially portions of Cook County, as a cost-effective supplement to additional wastewater infrastructure upgrades.

The first of these waterway improvement projects, "The Preserve at Oak Meadows," was a collaborative project that involved the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, DuPage County Stormwater Management and the DRSCW. The project, situated in Addison and Wood Dale, completely rebuilt one and a quarter miles of Salt Creek's mainstem channel during the reconstruction of the adjacent flood prone golf course. The new river system was

designed to support more species of fish and insects as a cost effective means to meet state laws. In short, the project provided multiple environmental improvements at a lower cost than the state's traditional one-size-fits-all approach.

In total, the DRSCW will provide \$2.25M to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for construction costs related to dam removals and stream enhancements. Two dams and over 7000 linear feet of bank armoring were removed, 7 pool and riffle sequences were created and habitat was restored on 103 acres of upland area. All non-native tree species removed during the golf course construction process were integrated into the final design (see image) improving nearly 4000 feet of stream bank. The County of DuPage also contributed \$2.65M of wetland mitigation funds to the project.

Studies of local waterways have suggested that these improvements will lower regulatory burdens of wastewater and stormwater utilities in

the future, as well as improve water quality and provide habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species. A post-project survey of both fish and insects was carried out in August (results pending).

The Preserve at Oak Meadows received the 2017 Green Star environmental award from Golf Digest. "We are thrilled to receive this award and to provide a premier 18-hole golf destination and nature preserve for the public," said Forest Preserve District of DuPage County President Joe Cantore. "We believe The Preserve at Oak Meadows is a model for how conservation agencies can blend ecological initiatives with golf and recreation."

The golf course was opened to the public this past summer with great reviews! While the course was reduced from 27 holes to 18, the course provides golfers with a unique and challenging opportunity, all while providing stormwater management and ecological benefits of naturalized areas and restored river corridor.

Pre-project: Muddy bottoms, mowed grass, armored banks, lack of flow.



Post-project: Guarded banks, stony bottoms, natural armoring, restored natural flow.

