

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
March 11, 2015**

Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

9:00-9:05 Welcome, Introductory Remarks

Dave Gorman – DRSCW President and Assistant Director of Public Works,
Village of Lombard

Introductions by attendees were made.

9:05-10:00 Annual Business Meeting

- **Approval of the minutes for the December 10, 2014 meeting (Attachment 1)**

Dennis Streicher made a motion to approve the December 10, 2014 meeting minutes without changes; Nick Menninga seconded; all responded in favor; none opposed.

- **Election of Officers and Members-at-Large, New Business**

- President - Dave Gorman, Village of Lombard
- Vice President - Sue Baert, Wheaton Sanitary District
- Secretary-Treasurer – Robert Swanson, DuPage County
- At Large – Nick Menninga, Downers Grove Sanitary District
- At Large – Antonio Quintanilla, MWRD-GC
- At Large – Tom Richardson, Sierra Club – River Prairie Group
- At Large - Steve Zehner, Robinson Engineering, Inc.

Both John “Ole” Oldenburg (April) and Mitch Patterson (June) are retiring this year and the board thanked them for their services and welcome their continued participation. Stephen McCracken noted that both Ole and Mitch pushed both technical and managerial envelopes during their tenures at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the Village of Addison respectively. Their agencies, their peers and the DRSCW have all benefited greatly from their talents.

John “Ole” Oldenburg made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented; Mitch Patterson seconded; all responded in favor; none opposed.

- **Adoption of FY 2015-16 Budget and Dues Schedule, New Business**

Stephen McCracken apologized for the tardiness of the draft budget to members. The board wanted the budget to reflect priorities in the coming year; however, special conditions permit language, perhaps the first of this kind in the country, are still being negotiated. Thank you to Larry Cox for giving extensively of his time and talent to develop the budget and special assessments.

Larry Cox reviewed the membership dues schedule. Included are both the regular 3% increase to annual membership dues and an additional \$75K for a staffing assessment. POTW members contribute 2/3 and MS4 members (based on acreage) contribute 1/3 of

Attachment 1

the staffing assessment. Both the annual dues increase and assessment were included in last year's budget.

We hope we are close to reaching agreement with Illinois EPA and US EPA Region 5 for special conditions language; we expect more discussion in the coming weeks. The project funding assessment and staffing assessment will not be collected until agreement is reached with Illinois EPA and US EPA Region 5 and a minimum number of DRSCW members approve the permit language and commit to funding the projects.

Three and one half years after agreeing with the Governor's office to alternative funding in lieu of pursuing SB2081 former Governor Quinn awarded \$2.7M to fund DRSCW recommended projects. These grants have since been frozen by Governor Rauner and we remain optimistic the funds will be released. The proposed budget for this fiscal year shows 1/3 of the total grant amount.

Gary Smith asked whether to expect a 26.5% total increase in payments to the DRSCW this year. Larry Cox said yes, and added that we are presenting the special assessments for planning purposes only. No formal action is required regarding the special assessments today.

All POTW members should be aware of 26.5% increase as it has been presented a number of times. The memo referenced in the agenda packet on page 38 shows dues and assessments for each POTW. The DRSCW is proposing to proceed with the increased amounts outlined in the memo at this time. The special assessments have not and will not change so members can budget without dealing with fluctuating amounts.

Larry Cox asked if anyone was not planning for the 26.5% increase and whether further discussion/comments was needed. While no agency has signaled not having planned for the increase, Gary Smith inquired about the timing to get approval for all items. The membership dues invoices will not include the special assessments, which would be sent separately after agreement with the EPAs is reached.

Stephen McCracken added that we are not voting on the special assessment today as it is considered a separate item.

Larry Cox noted a preliminary draft special assessment for each POTW member was distributed that clearly indicated each POTW's assigned share.

Nick Menninga – if the permit special conditions are not successfully negotiated, the agency members' additional 23.5% could be applied to future dues.

The alternative, which seems to be more confusing, is to invoice only the membership dues at the approved 3% annual increase and then send a second invoice if/when approval with EPAs is reached.

The first option requires the inherent trust that if DRSCW does not use the assessments for the intended purpose the DRSCW agrees to refund the monies to the paying agency.

The due date for annual membership dues is flexible, as long as payment is received within the fiscal year.

Attachment 1

Gary Smith noted that it would be difficult to get approval from alderman to pay for the special assessment if there is no agreement signed with US EPA. In essence, this is asking members to pay up front.

Jennifer Hammer recommend having 3 line items: regular annual membership dues and additional assessments (POTWs have 2 assessment line items and MS4s have 1 assessment line item).

Dennis Streicher stated that it might be helpful to show the board all figures at one time, and stating only annual membership dues are due immediately and other line items (SA) are shown but not due until a later date. Nick Menninga added that the "later date" could be contingent on permit approval. Larry Cox liked the idea of presenting the different line items at one time so members wouldn't have to go back to their board with another invoice.

Tom Minarik agreed that the 3 part invoice for POTWs showing the 3% and 23.5% increases in addition to the project assessment would be helpful.

Larry Cox noted that we already know not all POTWs will participate.

Jim Knudsen inquired about the due dates for the invoiced amounts. For example regular membership dues (line item #1) are due by June and the 2nd part (line items #2 and #3) would be due three months after approval is received. Would the schedule be the same for everyone?

Larry Cox replied yes, the 23.5% increase is applied to every agency member whether or not they are a POTW community.

Jim Knudsen asked whether a follow-up invoice would be sent after approval from IEPA was received.

Larry Cox responded that before sending a follow-up invoice, the DRSCW would need to know how many POTW agency members were committed to the special conditions. Currently we plan to have the invoice reflect all three line items and items two and three would become due with a follow-up invoice. Cox added that dues can be paid throughout the fiscal year, as late as February. We don't want to lose members over this. If members need extra time, especially if Governor Rauner's cuts for municipal budgets are realized, we are willing to discuss options to roll over the 23.5% increase; just call and ask to talk. There are however, cash flow needs.

Dave Gorman added the 23.5% can be paid later (i.e. January 1). We will make no actions to spend funds until we know everything is a go. It is challenging to keep all these options at a state of readiness while we know it is possible that we may have to reduce or eliminate portions.

Jim Knudsen asked when we anticipate knowing whether it's a go? Larry Cox replied that we think we're close and that it might be as early as a few months. If we had accepted the previous draft, which included some deal breaking points made by US EPA Region 5, things would be in process now. Agreements between IEPA and US EPA include processing permits. All our permits are currently being held, and reaching a point to release them may be an incentive to move negotiations along.

Nick Menninga asked IEPA how many iterations of the special conditions they anticipate negotiating with US EPA to which they replied it should be around two. Based on this response we anticipate agreement can be reached in a few months – possibly by this June or July.

Jim Knudsen inquired whether agency members who opt out would have a three year compliance schedule (monitor, study, design and build) to meet phosphorus limits of 1mg/L.

We do not know in detail what terms POTWs that opt out of the special conditions will receive.

Larry Cox stated that figures provided to POTW members did not include capital costs because all POTWs will have to meet P limits at a future date. Our proposal delays capital costs so the calculations are based on a median chem P O&M only, costs are too plant specific to individualize. If a POTW decides to move forward with P removal now, plant specific costs should be developed by that entity. When you add these costs to the O&M costs, the efficiencies become clear. The return of NPDES permit fees was around 20% of O&M only.

Stephen McCracken added that the DRSCW had advanced the argument to the IEPA that doing the projects after P removal was already in place broke the proposed model. In such a scenario agencies would be paying both M&O and assessment costs. The instream projects typically have no to very low O&M costs so doing them first insured a smooth cost profile for agencies.

Larry Cox reiterated that if negotiations with US EPA Region 5 are not successful or we do not have the minimum number of POTWs agree to participate then projects don't get done. Everyone gets P removal. There would no plans to get streams off the impaired list and we won't have done anything. P limits won't change IBI scores – 5 years from now, we'll be in the same place even after you've done all the capital upgrades.

Dave Gorman clarified current dues include a 3% annual increase - the 23.5% increase for staffing and the POTW project assessments are contingent upon approval.

William Blecke asked whether these itemized figures can be found online. Stephen McCracken responded that the figures are provided on the DRSCW website.

Chuck Fonte asked whether the figures had changed from previous tables. Stephen McCracken replied that no changes have ever been made to the special assessment totals. There are no plans to do so either. If changes were ever to become necessary, then all members would be asked to discuss that option.

John "Ole" Oldenburg stated that because the Forest Preserve District and other agencies do not participate in the POTW assessment it is not appropriate for them to vote on that item.

Stephen McCracken reiterated that we are not voting on the special assessment. If negotiations are successful, DRSCW would accept conditions as a group, then individual agency POTW members would decide whether to participate. The staffing assessment is

Attachment 1

paid by all agency members (not just POTW agency members) regardless of whether they participate in the special conditions.

Associate and individual membership dues also increase by 3% but do not include the staffing assessment increase of 23.5%.

Dan Bounds summarized that municipalities can budget for all increases now, though some might not need to be paid (assessments), and that there is flexibility for those who may need to push payment into next year's budget.

Larry Cox made a motion to approve the budget; Dave Gorman seconded; all responded in favor; none opposed.

Jennifer Hammer made a motion to approve the dues schedule (3 part invoice); seconded by Gary Smith; all responded in favor; none opposed.

- Approval of the FY 15-16 Annual Dues Schedule and Annual Dues by Agency (Attachment 3). A 3% increase in member annual dues is included in the schedule. The schedule also includes a 23.5% increase in Agency member dues to accommodate the additional workload from our pending projects, as discussed in the five year financials plans over the past two years. Voting will be required on this item.
- Discussion of Agency member project assessments, assessment methods, total Agency member dues and assessments, which are detailed in the DRSCW Memo entitled "Updates to Proposed NPDES Permit Special Condition Language and Recommended Agency Member Dues, Agency Member Assessments and Local Project Matches to Implement DRSCW Project Funding Plan", dated February 16, 2015, which is available at <http://www.drscw.org/financials.html>
- The proposed Agency member project assessments are proposed to begin this year, FY 15-16, if DRSCW members and Illinois EPA/ US EPA approve the NPDES permit special condition.
- Review and approval of the FY 2015-16 Budget (Attachment 2 - one page budget summary). Voting will be required on this item.
- The detailed Five Year Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020 available at <http://www.drscw.org/financials.html> will also be presented and discussed.
- Accounts Update (Attachment 4)
- **Appointment of Committee Chairpersons by incoming President, New Business**
 - Monitoring Committee Chairperson – Jennifer Hammer, The Conservation Foundation
 - East Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – Larry Cox, Downers Grove Sanitary District
 - West Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – Erik Neidy, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
 - Salt Creek Watershed Committee Chairperson – Dennis Streicher, Sierra Club – River Prairie Group

Dave Gorman thanked all chairpersons for their continued services. In addition, he referred members to see Nick Menninga if interested in serving on the projects

Attachment 1

committee and/or Jim Knudsen to serve on the chloride committee. Meetings for each committee are limited.

Stephen McCracken added that if the SA goes forward, meetings will only be called if and when necessary – there are no meetings for the sake of meeting.

Dave Gorman stated that adding Nick Menninga as an At Large board members is helpful for his unofficial role as the project committee chair. The DRSCW's official bylaws may need to be revisited to add an official projects committee, dependent on the outcome of the permit negotiations.

- **Other business**

Coal Tar MOU and proposed State ban update.

The Village of Downers Grove executed the MOU to not use CTS in municipal operations. At the state level Sierra Club has again pushed for a ban on CTS and is again running into stiff opposition. The CTS industry has an effective lobbying unit (at this time Illinois EPA is opposing the ban, reason unknown but last year it was because they had concerns about staff time). More groundwork seems necessary to move the issue forward. DRSCW's approach is incremental and some support for a nationwide ban has been found at the federal level.

Jim Knudsen stated the research show they are damaging. One of the reasons groups are interested in the ban is CTS impacts on biodiversity – it is toxic organisms. Additionally some public health groups have become involved.

Chloride Offset Program with Illinois Tollway

Stephen McCracken reported that Elmhurst is pre-wetting salt and Wood Dale, Itasca Bensenville and DuPage county preparing to submit proposals to the Tollway.

East Branch DuPage River Resiliency and Watershed Plan (DuPage County SWM)

Millions of dollars are available for a number of eligible communities to apply through the National Disaster Resiliency Competition, the Department of Storm water Management is actively pursuing it. The DRSCW is fully supporting this application and has contributed time and reports to the effort that is being executed on a very tight time schedule. If DuPage County is selected to receive funding there could be synergies with the DRSCW's proposed assessments.

John "Ole" Oldenburg noted the DRSCW letter of support was included in the public hearing. The board will review the pro forma letter then submit it – the project meets a lot of our goals as well.

Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan

Last year the DRSCW submitted an alternative plan that was not approved by IEPA. IEPA is offering a substantial amount of grant funding to produce an approvable plan for the Lower Salt Creek watershed, with the stipulation that it must be received by a specific contractor – CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning). Stephen said that CMAP has a successful track record of getting watershed plans approved.

DuPage County is creating a watershed plan for Spring Brook #3 on Salt Creek and that will have to be coordinated with this possible plan. Under current policy, 319 funding is

Attachment 1

only available for nonpoint-source pollution projects in communities with approved watershed plans. The plan is not yet signed off on, but looks promising.

If the agreement with CMAP and IEPA is approved we encourage Bensenville, Northlake and Villa Park all have to submit projects to integrate into the watershed plan. Dennis Streicher clarified the watershed plan areas is from Busse Woods to the confluence.

Larry Cox inquired whether the projects included in the plan have to meet the DRSCW's prioritized project criteria. Stephen McCracken stated that the projects proposed by certain municipalities may be tweaked to meet the DRSCW's overall watershed goals, but will be included principally so as to not prohibit a municipality from applying for 319 funding. However most of the projects recommended by the plan will not be the on DRSCWs list of priority projects and many of these activities will not be considered 319 eligible. The DRSCW should consider the watershed plan to be value added in the sense that it may help parallel water quality projects to be executed.

Abel Haile provided a TMDL update. Within the next two weeks, selected contractors will sign their agreements. Phase III (2008 TMDL): DO, Chloride, fecal coliform, copper, nickel and Phosphorus load reduction strategies.

IGIG Funding Update

\$2.7 M grant was awarded then frozen for review. There may be some reason for optimism based on comments by the Governor's staff. Our strategy includes getting special conditions approved in addition to the IGIG grant which means we can accomplish more. DRSCW can cover if 65% of money is available (if most POTWs participate).

• DRSCW Calendar

WEFTEC 2015– Submitted a proposal for track on “Stream Geomorphology and Restoration 101” in collaboration with Seth Brown, WEFTEC, Bob Hawley, Sustainable Streams and Jonathan Koepke, ENCAP.

Last year DRSCW presented at the conference along with FPDDC (Ole) and Inter-Fluve Beth Wentzel). This was the first of its kind and was well received. If it is accepted, we will look for speakers in the coming months.

• Workgroup meeting schedule (9:00 AM start time)

All meetings are scheduled to occur at Lombard Village Hall beginning at 9:00 AM.

- March 11, 2015 (Annual Meeting)
- April 29, 2015
- June 24, 2015
- August 26, 2015
- October 28, 2015
- December 9, 2015

Meeting Presentations

1. **DRSCW NPDES Special Conditions.** Illinois EPA and US EPA proposed special conditions for POTW NPDES permits in the DRSCW program area. While the permits place a numeric limit of 1 mg/l total phosphorous, it also grants an 11 year implementation period. The DRSCW responded with reworded conditions. Under the

Attachment 1

proposed conditions DRSCW member POTWs would finance implementation of priority projects identified by the Identification and Prioritization System, the DO Improvement study and partner priorities. All projects have been selected to maximize positive responses in target basins ecology. Under the plan a review of nutrients from non-point sources, nutrient trading and updated QUAL 2K models for Salt Creek and the East Branch would be produced, along with some limited optimization of area POTWs.

Presenters: Stephen McCracken, TCF/DRSCW
Nick Menninga, Downers Grove Sanitary District

Mike Ott asked how receptive Illinois EPA was to the concept of trading. Nick Menninga responded that we left trading language in each iteration we've had. We need to know the end point and how to define that. POTWs will be required to look at what it will take at each plant and hire an engineer to study and cost it out. At this point construct improvements to meet P limits. Put off for awhile to do more cost effective projects in streams.

Optimize operations to remove P – every plant is different. Identify what can be done with existing tanks to reduce (modify operations)

Chuck Fonte – we are already taking measures to reduce P. We installed six filters 6 years ago. Can we use the filters or do we need to do something new? Reduced P to about 1mg/L. Nick Menninga responded that the filters count. While they're already built it depends on whether you use them or not.

Mike Ott asked if it has to be documented. Nick Menninga stated that POTWs can use the feasibility study to get to specific P levels; then plan for optimization measures, and extract language to create a scope for use in RFP to select consultant(s).

Jim Knudsen asked about the cost to conduct a study and create an optimization plan. Nick Menninga replied DGSD did a study and generated a report (which doesn't have all the components). The plant is 11 MGD and the cost was \$30-40K, for another \$10K all the components would be complete.

Sue Baert stated the WSD cost for all the components was quoted at \$40-50K.

No other questions.

Other news: The Conservation Foundation recognized Larry Cox as their volunteer of year.

**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

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
June 24, 2015
9:00 – 11:00 AM**

1. Approval of April 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Nick Menninga made a motion to approve the April 29, 2015 meeting minutes as presented; motion seconded by Larry Cox; motion carried unanimously.

2. DuPage County Wetland Map Update

In 2012, DuPage County Stormwater Management received an \$118,369 Wetland Program Development grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to update the County's wetland map. The Wetland Map Initiative has been a three-year effort with a goal to provide residents, developers, and businesses with updated wetland information throughout the County. The map is a valuable planning tool for local government, developers, property owners and residents.

Presenter: Mary Beth Falsey, PWS, CPESC, CFM, Wetland Specialist, DuPage County Stormwater Management

Karen Daulton-Lange inquired about typical costs for a landowner to have property determined as a wetland. Mary Beth Falsey replied that a \$150.00 fees is typical and clarified that the fees is applicable for a determination - not to delineate a wetland.

Jim Knudsen asked whether DuPage County used GIS files for their investigation. Falsey responded affirmatively. They found evidence of ponds that were previously wetlands and some constructed wetlands. The process to determine whether they are wetlands is time intensive and includes studying plants and various aerial images.

Dave Gorman inquired whether the USGS hydraulic atlas should be submitted to demonstrate that a wetland had been constructed in a historically upland area and, thus, should not be considered regulatory. Falsey replied that it would be helpful to have all documentation submitted. There is much more involved work to be completed, which is why the project will not be completed by July 31st.

Larry Cox wanted to know how the use of infrared cameras worked out. Falsey stated that after a little time to get used to the cameras, some areas popped out. The infrared cameras made some wetland signatures easier to see later in the season. They used regular aerial imagery in spring and the infrared cameras later in the season.

Karen Daulton-Lange asked whether the presentation would be available on the website, highlighting the fact that the request for information was informational, not regulatory. Falsey responded that it is not but could be posted. She mentioned further that one public meeting regarding the project was held yesterday, and another is scheduled for tomorrow at 6:00PM.

Dan Lobbes inquired whether DuPage County had determined if the survey had increased or reduced the number of recognized wetlands. Falsey replied that they have not yet determined that but it may be informative to investigate. Some older maps show many were eliminated but that with development in the area, some were added.

Jessi DeMartini asked if the wetland image on the informational flyer was Churchill Woods. Falsey confirmed it was a Forest Preserve District property but could not confirm if it was Churchill or Spring Brook.

Stephen McCracken inquired whether the final map would be available in a shape file. Falsey confirmed the final map will be shared as part of their current file sharing agreements and would also be available in their web viewer, which is a separate application.

3. Oak Meadows Golf Course Rebuild and Ecological Restoration

Construction is due to start in July on the Oak Meadows Golf Course Rebuild and Ecological Restoration. Presentation will review the motivations behind the project and the work done by the diverse team of contractors who collaborated on a design to integrate the new course and river system. Project has both habitat and DO objectives for the DRSCW and would be the first recipient of funds from the DRSCW's draft permit condition.

Presenter: Erin Pande, PWS, CFM Ecological Services Director, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc.

Beth Wentzel of Inter-Fluve was in attendance to co-present on this project.

Larry Cox inquired about the map that indicates the current flooding and wanted to know how much reduction was necessary for playing area. Erin Pande responded that the future 10 year was obviously expanded in some (non-golf course) areas and reduced in others. It would be interesting to compare playability stats. Pande mentioned that all greens, tees, paths and bridges are elevated above the 10 year storm.

Dan Lobbes asked about downstream benefits for communities. Pande responded the project would not provide downstream benefits for 10 year or 100 year events but upstream elevations would fall about 5 inches during a 10 year event. There will be water quality improvements for downstream communities.

Larry Cox questioned when the A-Jacks and sheet pile were installed. Pande replied installation would have been around 2003; the sheet piles were already been in place and they may have been added as part of that update.

Larry Cox asked anticipated maintenance requirements to keep river the way we want it to be, noting we are already replacing technology that was installed less than 10 years ago. Beth Wentzel replied that the banks have a lot of clay and after they are vegetated expects it be stable; they do not anticipate much long term maintenance. The historical aerial photos indicate that river has not moved much through this reach. Also, due to the low gradient,

lower floodplain areas, low energy nature of this system the stream should be able to maintain itself.

Larry Cox asked when the woody debris would need to be replaced. Wentzel replied that wood installed under water takes a long time to break down. They plan to use material removed from the golf course. Erin Pande added that trees are still being pulled from the bottom of Lake Michigan. Wentzel continued that some elements (pool elements) may accumulate some debris and may require need periodic maintenance. While some debris provides great habitat, it is not appreciated by paddlers. The project was designed so paddlers could move over the debris; areas with woody debris closer to surface are not installed in primary flow areas.

Dave Gorman mentioned that all the bridges currently appeared high enough for paddlers to clear and asked whether that would still be possible after construction. Pande replied that the current plan is to raise all bridges except one.

Dennis Streicher questioned whether the tributary that is being moved is source or drainage. Pande replied drainage.

Holly Hudson asked what would happen if the IGIG grant is not released. Stephen McCracken replied that the grant was to provide \$2.25M. Should it not be released the DRSCW will proceed with funding the Oak Meadows project through its special assessment for the same amount. Should the grant funds be released later, it will be used to augment other projects identified in the special permit conditions.

Jim Knudsen inquired whether IGIG allows reimbursement for prior expenditures. Pande stated that typically, your agreement must be in place prior to making expenditures for which you seek reimbursement.

Karen Daulton-Lange asked about maintaining natural areas in out-of-bounds areas. Pande noted some natural areas will be in the playable course and general use areas and that tags will help delineate where the golf course ends and the natural areas begin.

Larry Cox asked how much the river restoration costs added to the overall costs. There was some discussion about this but it was generally concurred that the amount was in the range of \$4-6 M.

Larry Cox questioned current IBI scores and what we predict after the project is complete. Stephen McCracken responded that the original version of special conditions included these scores as objectives. Fish IBIs are not predicted to increase significantly because the major constraints on fish biodiversity are the Old Oak Brook and Fullersburg Woods dams. Neither of which will be improved by this project. However, we are predicting an improvement in gravel loving macro species at the site, but not enough to reach the state MIBI standard. For example there are 14 species of coarse substrate loving insects present in better quality areas of Salt Creek, of which only 6 were found at Oak Meadows. Post project we hope all 14 will be present at Oak Meadows. The restoration work includes improvements to pools,

riffles, banks, substrate, etc. The IPS analysis showed that the site was “impaired” in all habitat categories.

Rick Federighi asked if they planned to implement BMPs beyond regular stormwater requirements. Pande stated that sheet pile will be installed across the northern ends and they will use a bypass channel during construction, in addition to sediment and erosion control measures. They hope there are no big storm events during construction.

Matt York asked at what water levels would they become concerned. For example if the creek gets to 675 or 676 at Irving Park Road, would pumps be big enough to get that much water moving? Pande stated they are using an open system and are not concerned with that particular space. There is also a big corridor of wetlands to dig down so the river uses gravity flow there; it is 1/2 foot lower at Elizabeth.

Larry Cox asked about the bids for this project. Pande responded that RTM was awarded the contract after receiving only two estimates. The prequalification made it unusual and it is a big project.

Larry Cox thanked the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for bringing this project forward and allowing the DRSCW input – they have been more than cooperative partners.

Stephen McCracken added that Jessi DeMartini, John “Ole” Oldenburg and Ed Stevenson had all been very influential in making this project happen. When asked if the river restoration had made the project more difficult to complete McCracken said it was his observation that it had actually been a selling point with the FPDDC. He asked Jessi DeMartini if this was an accurate assessment.

Jessi DeMartini explained that golf courses alone don’t seem to go with the FPDDC mission. The manager knew changes were needed to alleviate the golf course flooding damages and to keep the course open for recreation. DeMartini continued that combining recreation with preserving and protecting natural resources offered a new mission-driven focus. The Commissioners understood the concern was not about income from the golf course (it’s under water 3/4 of year due to flooding and maintenance) but about the potential for recreation and to preserve and protect. Now it becomes a preserve with trails, restored uplands, river, wetlands – all FPD priorities. The Commission was easily willing to give \$10M to do this project. It is unusual to mesh golf and natural area restoration.

Stephen McCracken noted that there are lots of golf courses in this area and now other golf courses (private) may start thinking about this. This is a great opportunity for the FPDDC to make a big splash. Also, thank Ed Stevenson, golf manager, and Martin Design.

Larry Cox asked whether monitoring will be conducted to determine nutrient reductions associated with the BMPs. Pande stated the monitoring plan does not include upstream or downstream. They could sample entry/exit but sheet flow is a large contributor. FPDDC already does an excellent job of analyzing needs before making any applications

(fungicide/herbicide/etc.) not just nutrients. Their management plan is included in the permit.

Holly Hudson asked whether the course is pursuing the Audubon certification. Pande replied that there are a number of certification levels for which the maintenance areas meet, but the fees are cost prohibitive. Hudson asked if the fees were more than \$10K and Pande replied that it was more like \$100K.

4. Assessments for NPDES Permit Special Conditions (New Business)

- Special Conditions Permit Language Update- as of the date of the
- Project and Staffing Assessments
- Dues Invoicing schedule

Stephen McCracken noted that several individual plants had revisited and validated the cost savings associated with the special conditions. These projects will have better biodiversity impacts on local streams.

Larry Cox said that of the eligible 19 POTW agencies, 14 have signed on. This is remarkable especially during a year of tight budgets, including potential cuts to state funding. The DRSCW is short of commitments of only 2 agencies to make this work with the minimum contributions to pay for conditions in the permit language. Thank you to all the agencies for stepping up to say “yes” to funding these projects. Hopefully, the last two commitments will be approved in the next couple of weeks, which will follow with executed agreements and (of course) invoices. This is an incredible approach that has not been seen anywhere else in the country.

Nick Menninga noted that the Downers Grove Sanitary District’s permit is supposed to go to public notice today. Other Agency members can view their permit on Illinois EPA’s website. It should be up today or tomorrow.

Shirley Burger of Bloomingdale stated they received their internal review copy on Monday and the listed deadline for comments is tomorrow. Burger stated they are concerned about the amount of monitoring that appears in the copy. There is no end date to the monitoring and Burger inquired whether they were expected to monitor for the duration of the permit. Phosphorus is to be monitored 1X/week and they thought it was 2X/month. The permit was also addressed incorrectly to a different agency.

Nick Menninga offered to revisit the notes from the conversation he had with Al Keller in late May and review them with Burger – some parameters were for a specific duration (3yr data for a study).

Abel Haile stated that comments on their permit can be sent via mail or email.

Burger stated that the public notice draft also listed them as domestic/industrial and wanted to know if that was common language. Nick Menninga suggested Burger talk to Al Keller, noting that there are a number of new permit writers. They are relying on

agencies to catch errors. Abel Haile noted that the domestic/industrial is just included in process and asked if Bloomingdale's comments were to be submitted to the permit writer or Amy Walkenbach herself.

Larry Cox stated that if Bloomingdale is uncomfortable with "industrial" to comment that they have no pretreatment program.

Stephen noted that other agencies have noted "errors" in the pre draft copy. Jim Knudsen stated that Carol Stream can share their comments with other agencies. The monitoring language was statewide.

Nick Menninga stated that Illinois EPA realizes the 10 day comment period is quick and that agencies can usually get extension, especially because the writers are busy drafting. DGSG had about a month.

Abel Haile stated that if Illinois EPA does not hear from you, they assume you're good, and encouraged Burger to call to ask for more time to review and comment on their draft.

Stephen McCracken noted that he and Nick Menninga asked for the chloride monitoring to be removed. Nick Menninga stated that the chloride TMDL is in progress and helps make our case to show point source control is not the issue.

Stephen McCracken stated the two outstanding agencies both expressed positive expectations for approval of the special conditions by mid July. There are definite short and mid term savings associated with accepting the special conditions. This will help free up capital flow to help finance projects like Oak Meadows. He also reminded MS4 communities about their portion of the staffing assessment which will be included in their dues.

5. Funding update (SB2081) (Old Business)

- IGIG grant program – update

6. Projects Committee (New Business)

- Fawell Dam Update- A new scope of work is being developed. Project is listed in the member agency Special Conditions.
DRSCW will develop new scopes for V3 Companies and Inter-Fluve as it appears that the special conditions will proceed. The proposal allows 3 years for the Fawell project to be completed so we need to set about design, engineering and permitting now.
- Oak Meadows Update- Project is due to start construction in July
Plans include a meeting at the site.
- PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS) Update none
- Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan – Detention basin survey for plan area communities.

DuPage County has been working with Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to secure grant monies to help create an approved watershed plan.

Holly Hudson, CMAP, stated they have a long history of creating approvable watershed plans. The existing implementation plan is not US and Illinois approved. CMAP has agreed to work with DuPage County and DRSCW to incorporate the 9 required elements into the Lower Salt Creek watershed plan. Certain criteria have already been completed, some beyond the requirements (i.e. water quality and habitat). Local field work is necessary (i.e. detention basin inventory) and Hudson will need assistance as their funding is less than typical for a basin of this size. Hudson must assess the types of basins in the watershed (wet/ wetland/dry) and look for retrofit opportunities (i.e. concrete to vegetated swale).

Stephen McCracken will schedule a meeting with agencies in plan area to review this item. Holly Hudson created a "rapid assessment form" which is easy to use and collects essential information. The original plan the DRSCW developed, which focused on aquatic life, is different and did not make projects eligible for 319 funds.

Holly Hudson asked for other information agencies think might prove useful. Each basin will take about 20 minutes to document.

Stephen McCracken mentioned that Illinois EPA may have implemented the idea for basin assessments after a (small) community included it in their plan, and questioned the usefulness.

Larry Cox stated that the DRSCW has discussed detention/retention basin assessments and that it would be helpful to understand what each community wants to learn from the assessment and how that relates to the minimum requirements of the watershed plan.

Holly Hudson stated that a user guide will be sent to agencies to explain the rapid assessment form (acronyms/color codes).

Holly Hudson agreed that the watershed plan will be useful for communities, especially when implementing watershed wide BMPs (i.e. this neighborhood can implement XX raingardens and estimates show it would reduce Phosphorus loads by XX amount). By pointing out BMPs like the ones identified in the plan, projects become eligible for 319 applications.

Stephen McCracken mentioned there was initially some concern at Illinois EPA that there was a conflict with TMDL development and the watershed plan.

Abel Haile provided an update that the stage 3TMDL contract was signed May 15 with Tetrattech out of Cleveland, with a project manager in the St. Paul area. The timeline for completion is 18 months. The first 9 months to create a draft for review, which will be shared with DRSCW. At 12 months the public meeting will be held. In the meantime

contractors will share information with DRSCW. Concerns from the last process included that there was not enough time to comment and that local participation was lacking. There will be increased communication and between Illinois EPA and the contractor to help ensure the project is approvable by US EPA. If you have other comments, please forward them to Abel or Stephen McCracken to be addressed.

Larry Cox inquired to the parameters. Stephen McCracken noted they include DO, fecal, chloride, copper and others.

Abel Haile stated the process started in 2009 and now we must use updated water quality data from the 2014 Integrated Report. Tetrattech asked if they could use the draft stage 3 report from the previous contractor. Haile asked if the DRSCW had any comments about this, as using it may shorten the TMDL development timeline. Stephen McCracken will circulate the stage 1 draft for comments.

7. Monitoring Committee (Old Business)

- The contracts have been signed for West Branch Bioassessment (MBI) and chemical (SLI) basin surveys.
- The contract for the chemical survey at three reference sites from SLI has been signed. Reference sites are on Ferson and Otter Creeks.
- The East Branch POTW chloride monitoring will probably begin in late-summer. The need for this contract will be reviewed as new permits are likely to require chloride sampling at POTWs.
- Geodatabase Update
- Resource Managers Guide to Aquatic Bioassessment Update (being finalized this week)

8. Chloride Reduction Committee (New Business)

- Public roads workshop date 9/23/15, parking lots & sidewalks date 10/8/2015
- Chloride Offset Program with the Illinois Tollway -

9. Watershed Permitting Update (Old Business)

10. TMDL Development for the DuPage River/Salt Creek (Old Business)

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

- East Branch Resiliency Competition and Watershed Plan - update

12. Business Items (New Business)

- Membership Dues
- Accounts Update – (Attachment 2)
- Website Updates- the website was redesigned
- A draft of the Audit for FYE2015 is under review
- Agreement with The Conservation Foundation (Attachment 3)
Agreement with The Conservation Foundation for the provision of staffing services to the Workgroup will expire on June 30. The attached renewal agreement for the period from 07/01/15 through 06/30/16 has been approved by the Executive Board and is

recommended for approval by the Workgroup. The Workgroup is currently paying \$10,893.07 to TCF at the beginning of each month in personnel and overhead costs. The amount in the new contract will be \$11,210.82 per month, based on a 3% increase in personnel and a 2% in overhead costs.

The new agreement with TCF was included in the 2015 budget and is attached at predicted increases. Larry Cox added that the new contract does not include increase in staffing, as we have not received the minimum level of participation to finalize the special conditions. The agreement will be amended when and as necessary.

Larry Cox mad a motion to authorize president to execute the contract with TCF as presented, motion seconded by Dennis Streicher. All voted in favor, none opposed, one abstained (Dan Lobbes with TCF).

The new permit special conditions mention work on chlorides. This is to help determine whether our chloride reduction program will have a watershed wide influence on the amount of chlorides entering the waterways.

Dan Bounds stated that a model facilities BMP plan has been developed with policies for facilities (20 page plan) and hopes by the next meeting we'll have received comments and can make it available.

- Other Business

DRSCW was invited to participate in the Tollway's committee for their I290 project.

Stephen McCracken stated that contracts have been signed for the 2015 West Branch DuPage River assessment and reference sites. The Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition is using the same reference reaches and will paying half of the costs. Stephen McCracken asked for approval to use the savings from this line item and give the Board authority to contract for assistance with the chloride offset program with the Tollway. We hope to have these costs reimbursed by the Tollway.

Nick Menninga made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Karen Daulton-Lange; motion carried unanimously.

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

- Presentation requested on September 3, 2015 in Addison at the IWEA NRR Annual Workshop on the DRSCW's watershed approach. Presenter - Nick Menninga (DGSD).
- Scheduled to co-present with ERA on June 18, 2015 in Aurora at the Central States Water Environment Association - Illinois Section Collections Systems Seminar on the Oak Meadows Project. Presenters – Stephen McCracken (DRSCW) and Erin Pande (ERA)
- WEFTEC 2015–application for track on “Stream Geomorphology and Restoration 101” Update

14. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- August 26, 2015
- October 28, 2015
- December 9, 2015
- February 24, 2016 (Annual Meeting)
- April 27, 2016
- June 29, 2016

Meeting adjourned.

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
August 26, 2015
9:00 – 11:00 AM

1. Approval of June 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Motion to approve June 26, 2015 meeting minutes as presented made by Tom Richardson, seconded by Nick Menninga; motion carried unanimously.

2. Proposed MS4 Permit

Illinois EPA has been working on language for an updated MS4 permit. Since 1990 the NPDES Storm Water program has required medium and large municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) to obtain NPDES coverage. Since then the program has expanded and now requires small MS4s in urbanized (a residential population of at least 50,000 people and an overall population density of at least 500 people per square miles areas) to obtain NPDES permits and implement six minimum control measures. The proposed language on the updated permit has additional requirements for monitoring of post storm flows, management of chloride stock piles and green infrastructure.

Presenter: Jeff Hutton, Environmental Protection Specialist, Illinois EPA
(Attachment 2, DRSCW comments on draft permit language)

Jim Huff inquired whether Illinois EPA is currently issuing new MS4 permits using the current language. Jeff Hutton responded no, the new permit was to be implemented in January but they have no idea of the timing now. It is their hope that US EPA will approve the monitoring component as set out by IEPA (flexible and watershed based). After approval, it will go out as a final document and they hope this will occur before the end of December 2015.

Jim Knudsen asked if US EPA planned to incorporate the previously proposed stormwater rule that had regulations for retrofits into the MS4 permits. Hutton replied that if there were any US EPA initiatives for retrofit regulations they would be included in the MS4 permit. When US EPA places it in theirs, Illinois EPA will follow. The post construction stormwater controls retrofit was a big issue and outside the scope of what they were looking at and they plan to reconvene and address this at a later date. An issue in older areas with urban flooding awareness actions (basement backups, flooding) led to Chicago being sued by insurance companies, which seems very appropriate here. Illinois EPA is not going to make it happen in response to legal action.

Jim Knudsen asked if US EPA planned to put a new stormwater rule for retrofits in the MS4 permits. Hutton replied that any initiatives for a retrofits rule would be included in the MS4 permit. When US EPA places it in theirs Illinois EPA will follow. The post construction stormwater controls retrofit was a big issue and outside the scope of what they were looking at and they plan to reconvene and address this at a later date. An issue in older areas with urban flooding awareness actions (basement backups, flooding) led to Chicago being sued

by insurance companies, which seems very appropriate here. Illinois EPA is not going to make it happen in response to legal action.

Sue Baert inquired whether their “no exposure” exemption was going to stay in place; Wheaton Sanitary District has an industrial stormwater permit. Hutton responded that any treatment plant over 1MGD has to have industrial stormwater permit. The no exposure, where all maintenance activities are indoors and not exposed – will stay in effect. Permit renewal for current no exposure would continue every 5 years.

Shirley Burger asked about monitoring. For example, working together one takes upstream and the next monitors downstream and splitting the costs. Hutton replied that they would like to see groups work collaboratively (with regulatory discretion). For example, if Glendale Heights and Glen Ellyn want to split sampling, Illinois EPA would say ok and to report data in both reports.

Dennis Streicher asked if BMPs will have to be monitored one time, continuously or some other frequency (they fail all the time) and incorporate seasonal differences. Hutton responded that communities would provide the plan for what they’ll do. At this point these schemes are all very tentative and they are looking for direction from US EPA about what is acceptable and not.

How will watershed specific monitoring requirements be different than monitoring for TMDL parameters? Hutton said he did not know the answer at this time. IEPA was working to create a provision where watershed groups to create a monitoring plan to submit to the State for approval.

Stephen McCracken noted the usefulness of data resulting from a comprehensive monitoring program was much greater than that of data collected in a cookie cutter program.

Hutton stated that Illinois EPA doesn’t have the manpower to determine monitoring schemes/sampling programs. There is a high probability that a comprehensive plan will be approved, but without having looked at it, he couldn’t say. It would depend on where the issues are and what and where there was monitoring. Ultimately the concept will have to be approved by Region 5.

Ed Young asked if the need for MS4 monitoring could be eliminated if a community is participating in the workgroup. Obviously, communities can’t skate and not pay. They would need to sign off as a participant of the workgroup’s plan to avoid separate individual sampling. If they don’t want to participate, they would need to complete their own MS4 monitoring.

Tony Charlton inquired whether a county-wide regional stormwater program would be sufficient or if Illinois EPA needed individual MS4 permits. Hutton responded that he would need to see the proposed idea and that they were open to that concept.

Tom Minarik asked what the Green Infrastructure requirements, if any, looked like. Haile stated that the permit itself does not require GI but that they are considered and made part of BMPs. Some communities may wish to use such BMPs others may not, IEPA has sought to make it flexible for communities. Aurora, for example, is very involved with GI and they are waiting to see data effectiveness. It may offer an innovative alternative. With all the new technologies; some are effective and others not. GI is the same. Additionally maintenance can be intensive – rain gardens have to be weeded and the right kind of plants must be used etc.

Jennifer Hammer asked about chlorides which can appear in any number of these permits. Haile stated he would have to use the WQS 500 mg/l.

Contact Jeff Hutton with technical questions 217-782-0610 or Cally Demeroukas/ Melissa Parrott.

3. Navigating Winter with the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway maintains and operates 2,172 lane miles. This vast system of ramps and high speed roadways requires careful consideration of materials, staff training and management and specialized policies to effectively navigate the winter. Over the last few years, the Tollway reviewed their chloride management policies and made strides to implement practices that will improve their efficiency with regard to the use of chlorides, potentially making huge positive impacts for area waterways.

**Presenter: Scott Kapton, General Manager of Maintenance and Traffic,
Illinois Tollway**

Larry Cox asked whether we could get chlorides loadings lower than the threshold at which it is harmful to aquatic life. Concentrations effect aquatic life at 140 mg/l and the WQS is 500 mg/l but we have no idea how either of these relate to spread rate. With the amount of pavement in an urban area, even with BMPs is it possible to get to a level of 140 mg/l in the stream? Kapton responded that they have the opportunity to look at this and just started collecting data in 2014. The Tollway has some information for some sections (I90 corridor) based on seasonal or storm numbers from how much salt was on the work order. A challenge arises if it (main line storm route) passes over a creek/river there are a number of considerations: depends on traffic, geography, weather, etc. – we need long term averages (no garbage in/out). Stephen added that meting even the 500 mg/l in winter was probably impossible. However he felt that there may be some justification for suggesting winter concentrations were less harmful to aquatic life than summer ones. Could a higher winter standard and lower summer one meet both the needs of transport departments and the Clean Water Act?

Dennis Streicher inquired whether spreaders use only 100 lb increments. Kapton replied the application rates can be set to any level they want. The last few years have been almost counterintuitive (took away 500 lb spread rate) now it's encouraging to see operators take up the challenge to make further reductions.

Larry Cox asked why Illinois DOT has limited liability while the Tollway does not. Reed Panther noted that it was a factor for tolling agencies as part of the Highway Act.

Dave Gorman thanked both Reed Panther and Bryan Wagner with the Tollway for their involvement with chloride management in the area.

Stephen McCracken informed everyone that Scott Kapton spoke at the public roads deicing workshop last year and his presentation was very well received – on BMPs he added that a change in driver mentality is the best BMP we can hope to achieve. There is a balance; more salt doesn't always mean safer roads and at certain temperatures, it doesn't even melt ice.

4. Assessments for NPDES Permit Special Conditions (New Business)

- Special Conditions Permit Language update.
- Expanding coverage of the special conditions.
- Project and Staffing Assessments.
- Dues invoicing schedule.

Stephen McCracken summarized the philosophy behind the new special conditions, rather than a primary focus on nutrient removal, the alternate special conditions allow monies (approximately 1/2 cost of chemical removal) to implement IPS projects and TMDL projects. Of the 19 eligible agencies, 16 have currently accepted. The DRSCW Agreement/letters of intent were signed and returned to the DRSCW. Each POTW will go through their permit's public notice individually. P removal has been moved back from 10 years for chemical or 11 years for BPR. The project assessments will generate a fund of over \$10.5M to implement IPS projects focused on moving aquatic life scores. The Oak Meadows project implementation has already started and will be completed in 2016. If we have a relatively dry September, we plan to visit the site for our next meeting to see the project's progress. This is a really big deliverable for workgroup. Thanks to all who worked on this. We need all the permits to go through without obstacles – Downers Grove Sanitary District's permit will be the first, issued at the end of September, with others issued throughout the year end. Two permits will not expire until early next year and will be issued next spring.

McCracken continued that Itasca and Bensenville (implementing P removal) have both submitted language to Illinois EPA to pay into the special assessment in return for a guaranteed 1mg/l over the course of their participation. This option was discussed with POTW members. If Illinois EPA accepts their proposed language it will strengthen the overall program.

Dennis Streicher asked for clarification that 18 of 19 eligible agencies are on board with the special conditions. McCracken responded affirmatively and reiterated that we are still in need of Illinois EPA approval of the additional 2, who have a modified version of the permit language.

Agency membership dues, including all applicable project and/or staffing assessments were mailed with POTW agencies receiving a copy of their executed agreement.

5. Funding update (SB2081) (Old Business)

- IGIG Program.

We are not actively pursuing at this time – there is a large budget negotiation at the State level. If/when we receive the IGIG funds, we are well set up to integrate these funds immediately, but can also make it work with our current funding level.

6. Projects Committee (New Business)

- Fawell Dam Update- Project has restarted and new scopes of work are being developed. *This is the second project in the special conditions language (list of projects Oak Meadows/Fawell) \$40K in budget to keep pushing this project forward. DuPage County Stormwater Management is providing modeling staff to the team. Scopes of work for V3 and Inter-flue will go to the projects committee for review this week. Two team meetings have been held and a more in depth look at the modeling will occur before the start.*

- Oak Meadows Update- Project is underway. Possible site visit in October. *We hope to keep everyone abreast of the project progress. A site visit will depend largely on the weather as to if the work is sufficiently far enough along – instream BMPs will be executed in September. Stephen made a visit to the site and was pleased with progress.*

- PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS) Update.
- Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan – a workshop to collect detention basin location and meta data for the plan was held on the 7.23. 2015.

Mary Beth Falsey provided an update. A brief meeting about the watershed plan, and specifically a required detention basin assessment was held. The detention basin assessment can be used to help document ways to improve water quality. The County will hold a training on September 18th at the County office in Wheaton for municipal/public works staff to review the assessment form and learn how to consistently complete form. We hope they will also reach out to others responsible for basin maintenance within their boundaries such as Schaumburg.

DuPage County is very gracious to help organize this data collection (one consistent form) which will be useful for all parties involved in the Lower Salt Creek. CMAP would not be able to assess all the basins without this additional support, which includes all government units for all basins. More information will be sent in next few days.

- Ammonia – N standards development (update)

Jim Huff stated there is work at the state to implement new ammonia standards. New toxicity data is being produced around fresh water mussels – more sensitive than fish/benthic organisms. Bob Mosher, Illinois EPA is leading group of volunteers to revise ammonia WQS. In a nutshell, effluent limits would be cut in half (acute chronic). US EPA has a higher bar than Illinois EPA. If your receiving stream ever had mussels – it probably applies.

How would a stream be shown to have had mussels? Historical records or the presence of shells would do it.

Illinois EPA field monitoring has shown an increase in ambient pH. This is important because the toxicity of ammonia-N increases with pH. Big plants can meet this new standard with no problem but it may be an issue for smaller plants. 7Q10 flow is used to set effluent limits for the entire period. Illinois EPA talked with EAGs who are ok with this approach. This is an opportunity to be more sophisticated on how we derive effluent limits. Now have continuous monitoring 24 hour swing in pH instead of just grab samples. US EPA alt water effects ratio – use stream water if there's lower toxicity. The question remains will lower ammonia-N concentrations alone allow mussels to return? What about other factors such as dams and siltation? Just be aware of this and monitor especially when it goes to the PCB.

Dennis Streicher asked about an exemption if the stream dried up. More historical records of 15-20 years on Salt Creek show it has no natural flow. Huff stated that toxicity is based on whether they are currently or were historically present. The species they're using are chronic – fingernail clam other species.

7. Monitoring Committee (Old Business)

- Both the biological/habitat and the chemical surveys are underway for the 2015 West Branch survey.
- Both the biological/habitat and the chemical survey are underway at the three reference sites selected for 2015. Reference sites are located on Ferson and Otter Creeks.
- The East Branch POTW chloride monitoring will probably begin in late-summer. The need for this contract will be reviewed as new permits are likely to require chloride sampling at POTWs.
- Geodatabase Update.
- Resource Managers Guide to Aquatic Bioassessment Update.

8. Chloride Reduction Committee (New Business)

- Public roads deicing workshop on 9/24/15, parking lots & sidewalks on 10/8/2015. (Attachment 3)

Jim Knudsen asked members to send these flyers to as many groups as possible, especially for the parking lots and sidewalks workshop. We really need to address the private side – developers, contractors, public management operations.

Jim Huff gave a brief history of the variance actions in the CAWS. With chloride standards being placed on the CAWs chloride limits again to appear in permits, a variance was suggested by IEPA in order to gain time to meet the chloride WQS. Originally 10 years sought that is now changed to five years. The Board adopted Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal winter/acute/chronic 620/910. Sanjay is promoting the variance in the CAWS (MWRD-GC) and the Lower Des Plaines. It is evident that staying beneath 500 mg/l in the worst storm event will be impossible. The need for the variance is driven by fear of numeric standards in MS4 and POTW permits. How to write a variance to meet compliance is not

well thought out, it is data intensive and it is unlikely the goal will be met. Perhaps fresh thinking on biological outcomes and site specific chloride standards are needed.

Nick Menninga stated that we are all getting NPDES permits with chloride monitoring requirements, so we will be set for the next 5 years. Next MS4 permits will be statewide/general probably asking for watershed permits that will ask for monitoring (avoid limit). Looks like 5 years, expect 5 years.

Stephen McCracken stated a construction permit was held up because of the CAWS chlorides issue. May have to look at other facilities to offset. McCracken agrees with Menninga but also believes the issue may pop up in other permits (401 WQ certification) for roads and parking lots. Alert to potentially huge item. What else would we be expected to do? Need folks to attend workshops. Big driver in chloride program – private contractors/ schools/ libraries/ colleges/ more builds up credibility we're serious and doing something. Also need a private program.

Nick Menninga stated that some plants have over 500mg/l due to water softeners (i.e. Frankfort (INI); Romeoville averages 400 and during winter is over 900 in POTW discharge. Jim Knudsen added that water softening is used for radium or calcium. Menninga continued that they can't not violate in the winter – but need lower numbers in the summer to hit the goal. Stephen repeated that he suspected the two were not mutually exclusive. Meacham Creek is meeting aquatic life but is also almost certainly impacted by chloride (small tributary with roads). This indicates you can meet aquatic life use and break the chloride WQ standard. Winter violations is not a barrier to meeting biological goals. State WQS doesn't change by season but evidence should be considered that it maybe should.

Jim Huff suggested seeking our own chloride standard. Larry Cox stated that it is frustrating that we haven't even gotten to where we're going with P and already face another economic barrier and new obligations, especially with the TMDL even more ludicrous with fecal expectations with all the other stuff coming down.

Stephen McCracken noted that the board needs to discuss this. We are not deluded to think we can hit the WQS in winter. Nick Menninga added that's what we're set up to do. Cox interjected not for another 10-15 years.

Stephen McCracken asked whether we plan to piggyback or not – there is a sense of urgency. The chloride committee and board will discuss further.

Able Haile – Stephen McCracken sent comments regarding the draft TMDL which were shared with the consultants and they are still looking for other comments. At this time the 2007/2008 data was updated with new water quality data Stephen sent and also with follow up data requested. Consultant included data which are applicable to impairment. In 3-4 months we expect to receive the revised updated report. Any new information can be communicated with Stephen, including information or requests with the consultant pH/chloride/fecal requirements. Also the 2007/2008 MS4 data was updated with newer MS4 data.

- Chloride Offset Program with the Illinois Tollway update.
- CAWS and Des Plaines River Chloride Initiatives update.

9. Watershed Permitting Update (Old Business)

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

- Comments on DO have been supplied to Illinois EPA and Tetrattech.

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

- East Branch Resiliency Competition and Watershed Plan update.

12. Business Items (New Business)

- Membership dues update.
POTW and MS4 Agency Membership dues invoices have been mailed. Associate and Individual Membership dues will follow this week.
Welcome our newest member, Lisle Township Highway Department.
- Accounts Update (Attachment 4).
- Website Updates- the website was redesigned.
- Audit for FYE2015 is complete.
- Other Business.

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

- Presentation requested on September 3, 2015 in Addison at the IWEA NRR Annual Workshop on the DRSCW's watershed approach. Presenter - Nick Menninga (DGSD).
- WEFTEC 2015–application for track on “Stream Geomorphology and Restoration 101” Update.

14. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- October 28, 2015 – possible visit to Oak Meadows dam removal and stream restoration
- December 9, 2015 – speaker “Sam,” Sherri A. Mason, Ph. D., The State University of New York at Fredonia, plastic filaments and debris in wastewater.
- February 24, 2016 (Annual Meeting)
- April 27, 2016
- June 29, 2016

Nick Menninga made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jennifer Hammer; motion carried unanimously.

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Agenda
Maple Meadows Golf Course
October 28, 2015
9:00 – 11:00 AM

1. **Approval of August 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes** (Attachment 1) *Motion made by Nick Menninga, seconded by Sue Baert, motion carried unanimously. Item 2 on the agenda moved to the end of the meeting to allow the other items to be dealt with prior to visiting the site.*

2. **Oak Meadows Dam Removal and Stream Restoration. Special Conditions Project #1.**
In 2008 the Dam at Oak Meadows was flagged as the second largest warm weather DO sag on Salt Creek after the Fullersburg Woods Dam. The IPS analysis also found the site wanting on all priority habitat areas: riffles, riparian conditions, substrate, channel and pool. However there was neither the desire on the part of the owner, or funding available to the surface water community to act on any of the recommendations. In 2011 new management at the site opened up the possibility of having the dam removed and the discussion morphed into the Oak Meadows Golf Course Redesign Project which included removal of the dam and extensive enhancement of the stream corridor. The design team worked for two years to integrate to golf course redesign with optimization of the physical condition of the waterway. The presentation will include a visit to the diversion channel and portions of the restored river channel. **Beth Wentzel, PE, Interfluve, Ed Stevenson, PGA, Forest Preserve District of DuPage, Manager of Golf Operations.** *Stephen talked for a few minutes about how the DRSCW selected the site for support (TMDL analysis showing the dam as the source of a DO sag and stressor analysis showing the site fell short on all physical proximate stressors). He introduced Ed Stevenson and Greg Martin, the site manager and golf course designer, respectively. He thanked both men for their support of the water resources side of the project and thanked them for embracing rather than dismissing the restored waterway concept. Stephen also introduced Marty Melchior of Interfluve who worked on the project, (Beth Wentzel was unavailable due to work commitments) and several others who had been key to getting the project underway. Ed then took the group through the history of the site and the development of the plan. The course had suffered flooding at regular intervals and the new design will drastically reduce the frequency, and hence cost, of such events. Rather than being a problem for the golf course redesign, the environmental aspects of the plan had helped seal the deal for the Forest Preserve District. Following Ed's presentation, Marty Melchior led a visit to the site that included the bypass channel, the restored channel and the diversion site. After the tour, the meeting ended.*

3. **Assessments for NPDES Permit Special Conditions (New Business)**
 - **Special Conditions Permit Language Update.** *Stephen went through the modified condition that was put together with for Bensenville and Itasca.*

- Dues invoicing schedule. Member dues invoices have been mailed.

4. Funding update (SB2081) (Old Business)

- IGIG grant program *No new information*

5. Projects Committee (New Business)

- Fawell Dam Update- Project has restarted and new scopes of work have been submitted by contractors.
- PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS) Update – USGS Researcher was in town presenting her research. Her visit was sponsored by the Sierra Club and the DRSCW.
- Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan – DuPage County Stormwater Management held a second workshop on the collection of stormwater basin location on the September 18th. A MOU between CMAP and the DRSCW to produce certain deliverables has been submitted to the Board for review.
- Ammonia – N standards development (update)

6. Monitoring Committee (Old Business)

- The 2015 biological/habitat and chemical surveys have been completed on the West Branch DuPage River.
- The biological/habitat and chemical survey at the three reference sites selected for 2015 have been completed. Reference sites are on the Ferson Otter Creek system.
- The East Branch POTW chloride monitoring will be starting this week. *Will be later*
- Resource Managers Guide to Aquatic Bioassessment Update (update)

7. Chloride Reduction Committee (New Business) *Dan Bounds did a short presentation*

- Our Public roads workshop was held on the 9/24/15 and had 173 attendees.
- Our parking lots & sidewalks on the 10/8/2015 had 98 attendees
- Thanks to the following sponsors – DuDOT (facilities and staff), Munroe Truck (financial sponsor) and K-Tech Coatings (financial sponsor). Also Bass Pro (three winter jackets for lottery).
- Facility Plan update
- Chloride Offset Program with the Illinois Tollway (update)
- CAWS and Des Plaines River Chloride Variance (update)

Dennis Streicher asked Dan about the response rates to questionnaires. He said that responses were good, typically about two thirds responded, but staff did have to chase some of them up with telephone calls. Responses show an uptake trend in BMPs, weather variability however make it hard to identify trends in ambient quality. Jennifer Hammer said she wanted to thank Stephen McCracken and Tara Neff for assisting at the Lower DuPage's Chloride workshop. The workshop was well attended and feedback was positive. Karen Daulton Lange asked if Downers Grove had been represented at the DRSCW workshop, she had sent out several letters to property owners and private operators in Downers Grove about the workshops. Stephen thanked her for that, noting that turn out at both workshops had been the highest ever. Stephen also noted that MWRD was hosting their workshop the next day. Tony gave the place and time of the workshop.

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 Competition and Watershed Plan - update

Mary Beth Falsey updated those present that the materials had been submitted and they were awaiting the evaluation.

11. Business Items (New Business)

- Membership Dues Update
- Accounts Update – (Attachment 2)
- Other Business

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

- At the request of Representatives Fine's office and the Sierra Club a presentation of PAH concentrations in the Upper DuPage and Salt Creek was made in Wilmette on 10/15/2015. Presentation was as part of a panel on Coal Tar based sealants and PAHs.
- The DRSCW continued to be represented as part of the environmental team for the Central Tri-State Environmental Working Group at the invitation of the Tollway.
- The DRSCW was invited to be part of Chicago Wilderness's strategy group on water management. Included a presentation on the special conditions on the October 14th (Jennifer Hammer)
- The DRSCW participated in the Lower DuPage Coalitions winter management workshop

13. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- December 9, 2015 –speaker "Sam" Sherri A. Mason, Ph. D., The State University of New York at Fredonia, plastic filaments and debris in waste water.
- February 24, 2016 (Annual Meeting)
- April 27, 2016
- June 29, 2016

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
Lombard Village Hall
December 9th, 2015
9:00 – 11:00 AM

1. Approval of October 28th 2015 Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)

Nick Menninga made motion to approve the October meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Steve Zehner – motion carried unanimously.

2. Beads of Destruction: A Survey of Great Lakes Plastic Pollution

The study of plastic pollution started in the worlds' oceans, most famously focused on what has been called the 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch.' Despite a United Nations' report suggesting that 80% of this oceanic debris came from land and, thus, was likely transported through a freshwater system, very little research with regard to marine debris has focused upon these freshwater systems. Given the size and importance of the Great Lakes, they provide a significant representative model for other freshwater ecosystems throughout the world. During the summers of 2012 and 2013, we conducted the first-ever survey for plastic pollution within the open-waters of the Great Lakes. We present here our results from these initial open-water surveys, as well as additional investigations that were engaged upon as a result of these studies. Also covered will be the findings of the analysis of microplastics within wastewater treatment plant effluent.

Presenter: "Sam" Sherri A. Mason, Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry, Environmental Sciences Program Coordinator, the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Karen Daulton-Lange asked which personal care products contained microbeads. Mason replied Crest Pro Line, men's body wash, certain facial scrubs and various cosmetics (i.e. foundations) that are marketed to reduce wrinkles and lines on the face. In essence, you are depositing the plastic beads into said wrinkles.

Larry Cox inquired as to what percent of total plastics found in study were from microbeads. Mason responded about 15-20 %; it varied by lake. The results for Lake Michigan included around 4% microbeads, 16% fibers and 75% fragments. Lake Michigan had less microbeads than fibers, which is the reverse of the other Lakes.

Dan Bounds asked whether this difference could be explained because the fibers stayed suspended longer. Mason replied that in a study of 29 tributaries that empty into the Lakes, the samples had much higher fibers than the Lakes. Microfibers, like nylon, are dense, which should sink, but the turbulence kept them afloat. As rivers empty into the Lake and turbulence decreases, the fibers settle out. Not sure why Lake Michigan is different.

Ed Young stated as MWRD-GC doesn't discharge into Lake Michigan, he wondered about the inputs from other dischargers.

Dave Gorman inquired whether they found any evidence of fibers in the guts of animal life. Mason responded that yes, fibers were included in counts of plastic in fish they've seen. They are excreted after time, then a steady state of plastic within the organism occurs. The majority

of findings in fish are fibers because they become enmeshed in the gastrointestinal tract. Mason examined the GI tract under a microscope and saw fibers woven into GI tract unlike fragments and pellets.

Dennis Streicher noted that about 50% sink and get into sediment and asked what happens at that point. Mason replied that they don't really know. These studies all started with floating plastics. There are not many studies examining the sediments in oceans. Moving into lake and river systems, Patricia Corcoran was the first to look at plastics in lake sediments. The plastics that are deposited into the sediment and buried (potentially out of the food chain) doesn't mean bottom feeders and mussels couldn't move the plastics back into the food web. We don't really have an answer for that question at this time.

Larry Cox asked whether these fine particles are found in our drinking water or if the treatment removes them. Mason responded that she can't say we know for sure. She does not expect the particles to be present in drinking water because of the filtration. However, the closest study Mason is aware of for drinking water was a "German Beer" study conducted in September 2014. Twelve (12) different brands of beer off the store shelf were examined and plastic was found in the beer. The source(s) of the plastics may have been from air (deposited as brewed), microfibers shed from people's clothing, or drinking water. Still, Mason suspects the plastics would not be found in drinking water and noted it would be interesting to do a study on filtered tap water; it hasn't been done.

Stephen McCracken asked Mason about the European study on removal rates at POTWs which tested the difference in concentrations and loads between influent and effluent. Mason replied that there was a Swedish government association doing work for that which would not be published in peer review articles. They shared data (limited sampling) with Mason on influent versus effluent efficiency. Removal was 90-95 % for larger particles but fell as particle size decreased. The concentrations of plastic released in effluent is similar to the numbers Mason is seeing. Keeping in mind that even at 90% removal, you still see millions of particles released. Mason is interested in knowing how much is found in the sludge and where that goes. Sludge is a nutrient rich source and if it is applied to farmland (versus landfilled), those plastics will be released back into the environment through runoff.

Stephen McCracken thanked Mason for taking time off from writing up their research to provide the presentation.

Karen Daulton-Lange asked for clarification on the State of Illinois' ban on microbeads. McCracken replied that he would need to look more closely, but he believed the ban was on the sale of products containing microbeads. Deanna Doohaluk added that the ban does not go into effect until 2018/19/20 giving the product manufacturers a grace period. Doohaluk also stated that it appears only the Crest Pro Line contains microbeads (not the regular \$1.99 product) and that an oral surgery cited damage from microbeads that had become embedding in the patient's gums.

PCBs and PAHs absorb into food supply. Deanna Doohaluk also noted that plastics can contain BPAs which are endocrine disrupters. Stephen McCracken added that his wife, who studies

packaging, does not allow the use of some types plastic bottles in the home. Larry Cox stated that the ban on microbeads is interesting but noted that passing a bill to ban PAHs has not met with success. McCracken noted that any proposed ban on coal tar sealcoat was met with furious opposition and that there may be something to be learned from their approach. Doohaluk stated that there might not have been much resistance to the ban on microbeads in the personal care industry as they are always reformulating products to market them as “new and improved.” The coal tar industry has no such luxury.

Stephen McCracken will ask Sam Mason for permission to post her presentation on the website.

3. Assessments for NPDES Permit Special Conditions (New Business)

- **Special Conditions Permit Issuance Update (Attachment 2)**
Progress of permits issued: 4 currently on pre-notice (Addison both) MWRD-GC still pre-public. 3 not yet issued because they have not yet expired (Elmhurst, Wood Dale, Wheaton Sanitary District). The Sierra Club issued a letter during the public comment period which covered water quality based effluent limits; they issued a second letter clarifying that the first in no way lessened their support for the special conditions permit. Overall, the negotiation team and Board are happy with how the permits are proceeding.
- **MWRD-GC Permit Condition**
MWRD-GC opted out of part of the DRSCW special condition but gained an extended compliance period by virtue of making large total reductions at their larger plants. The DRSCW Board meet with MWRD-GC executive director, David St. Pierre, and made a presentation to the MWRD-GC Board about how to proceed. MWRD-GC will be participating in the “study” parts of the condition and will be adopting the financial contribution formula used with Bensenville and Itasca. MWRD-GC has also placed funds of up to \$2M on the table to be used to implement selected projects. These funds will be accessed ad hoc following authorization and approval by the MWRD-GC Board.

We would like to thank MWRD-GC’s Board for supporting these initiatives. Obviously, this is a huge boost to improving aquatic life scores. With MWRD-GC on board, this means that every member is participating. Larry Cox added that we now have participation from all 19 agencies.

DuPage County, and its associated watersheds, is being carved out in the country as an example for how EPA is looking at a different approach. This is a unique experiment. Larry Cox clarified that participation is from both DuPage and Cook Counties.

Dave Gorman thanked all the POTW members for getting approval from their boards. Stephen McCracken noted that we are receiving calls from other parts of country inquiring about the methodology and how plans were implemented. David St. Pierre stated this is an example for how 303(d) compliance gets done.

- A workshop covering parts of the special condition is planned for January 28th 2016. The workshop will cover pretreatment for phosphorous, optimization and trading models and will include time set aside for discussion amongst members.

The workshop is designed for POTW wastewater operators. Nick Menninga stated there are opportunities to work together to implement new aspects of the permit conditions. All are looking at the same requirements. Our members offer various expertise on such issues as Phosphorus and pretreatment for P. For example, Addison has a very advanced industrial pre-treatment program as they have lots of industry. We can examine how they evaluate and make reductions, and perhaps ride their coat tails.

Chuck Fonte of Glendale Heights inquired about whether the group would collaborate on an RFQ for a single engineer to do work on top of the CMOM. This, and other potential opportunities will be discussed in further detail at the workshop on January 28th. If others have ideas to pool resources, please send them to Stephen. Regular meetings with the group to share resources and possibly hire a consultant to do prep for CMOM might be too specific a task, but for optimization, a more generic plan may be called for in order to get things going in the right direction.

The wet weather issue leads to potential ammonia DO limits on wet weather. While our groups' permits have identical special conditions, there are many other new permit requirements. A question as to whether Menninga could speak to Bob Mosher about deadlines was raised. Menninga replied that the permits people are open to talking; however, at this point their hands are tied if you already have a deadline - they may not have the flexibility to change the date. Stephen McCracken talked to Mosher about a collaboration for the mixing study. Mosher indicated that he would be open to this and that he didn't like the time limit, and was open to getting such a study at a later time. These are the kinds of things we need to talk about and Illinois EPA is definitely open to additional conversations.

The workshop is on 1/28/15 from 9:00AM – 12:00PM at Lombard Village Hall. Michael Marchi asked if this was the same date as the transportation meeting. Dave Gorman will check on this.

The agenda includes:

- Nutrient trading
- Village of Addison (Industrial Pretreatment)
- Downers Grove Sanitary District (Optimization, what you need to evaluate the study)
- Group versus individual obligations in the permit

Please let Stephen McCracken know if you have another topic for which a technical resource should be located. Individually, members might want to invite their consultants.

4. Funding update (SB2081) (Old Business)

- IGIG grant program

Larry Cox asked whether now is a good time to send a message inquiring about releasing separate funds. The State is facing much bigger negotiations and we are not hopeful these funds will be released. Stephen McCracken responded that he sent a message to Alec Messina. No response as of yet.

5. Projects Committee (New Business)

- Fawell Dam Update - The Projects Committee will meet in December to review work completed to date and plan for new scopes. Looking for authorization to access up to \$14,000 from staffing assessment FYE 2016.

V3 Companies and Inter-Fluve submitted new scopes. Oak Meadows is ongoing but work to moving the Fawell project along must continue. DuPage County Stormwater Management is providing modeling and hydraulics analysis and DRSCW is providing analysis on flow and fish. There is currently \$30K in the budget and the scopes come to about \$44K. Stephen asked members for approval to take \$14K from the staffing assessment to put toward the Fawell project. We are collecting around \$75K for staffing and not immediately using. Nick Menninga and the projects committee will go back through and review the scopes and make changes before the money is authorized. Larry Cox made a motion to release \$14K from the staffing assessment to the Fawell project after review and approval of scopes from the project committee. Steve Zehner seconded; all voted in favor.

- PAHs & Coal Tar Sealants (CTS) Update
- Oak Meadows Update.

Erik Neidy stated that about 100ft are complete on the north end. They will pull sheet pile then conduct wetland restoration then move to the golf course. The project is slightly behind schedule due to the weather. We are working on an agreement with MWRD-GC to determine the best method to transfer funds to FPDDC. Dennis Streicher asked about the dollar amounts. Stephen McCracken replied that the DRSCW agreed to contribute \$2.25M to the project over a three year period and MWRD-GC agreed to pay some portion of that, which needs to be worked out. We don't want to get ahead of David St. Pierre by providing a figure. The funds DRSCW budgeted can be used for other projects.

Erik provided a marketing/publicity video clip on their spring brook #1 project. The FPDDC Executive Director and Joe Cantore wanted to highlight this project. The clip shows the old channel and the new channel. This project is P2 in our permits. A project partner is the Illinois Tollway as part of their Elgin-O'Hare Western Access project. Ed Stevensen, golf superintendent, provided the drone footage. Thanks to the FPDDC for supplying the video.

- Lower Salt Creek Watershed Plan – DRSCW and DuPage County Stormwater Management have signed a MOU with CMAP under which the DRSCW will collect, digitize and submit physical data on the waterway for the 319 watershed plan. The County will be conducting wash off modeling, stormwater BMP recommendations and coordinating stormwater basin assessments.

Funds from Illinois EPA were approved to fund the creation a 319 watershed plan for the lower salt creek watershed, making those within the watershed eligible to apply for 319 funding. These funds must be allocated to the Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning (CMAP). A three-way agreement with DuPage County Stormwater Management, DRSCW and CMAP is in the process of being executed. DuPage County will provide wash-off modeling, and coordinate the stormwater basin assessment; DRSCW will provide enhanced QHEI analysis for streambank erosion; CMAP will create the watershed plan. Salt Creek assessment is next in the three year rotating assessment schedule, during which time we will conduct enhanced data collection. The board commented that the agreement was good. DRSCW and DuPage County Stormwater Management signed the agreement and returned it to CMAP. We have the data, largely, and the stormwater basin assessment has started as well.

Karen Daulton-Lange inquired if the basin assessment mentioned is the same assessment Mary Beth Falsey is conducting. Yes, they are the same and will be included in the watershed plan with the water resources inventory.

Stephen McCracken noted that requirements for watershed plans frequently change and CMAP has a reputation for completing plans and having them approved.

- Ammonia – N standards development (update)

6. Monitoring Committee (Old Business)

- The 2015 biological/habitat and chemical surveys on the West Branch DuPage River and three reference sites in the Fox River basin are completed.
- The East Branch POTW chloride monitoring update
- The 2012 Technical Support Document for the West Branch DuPage River is being revised based on comments received from a final review. Special thanks to Jennifer Boyer and Robert Swanson (both of DuPage County Stormwater Management), Jessi DeMartini (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County) and Thomas Minarik (MWRDGC).

MBI fell behind in producing watershed TSDs with the development of the IPS tool for both the DRSCW area and the much larger analysis in Cincinnati. MBI hired new staff and is catching up on deliverables.

- Resource Managers Guide to Aquatic Bioassessment (update)
This is being edited.

7. Chloride Reduction Committee (Old Business)

- Model Facility Plan is on the website
- Chloride Offset Program with the Illinois Tollway (update)
- CAWS and Des Plaines River Chloride Variance (update)

Dan Bounds provided a recap of the DRSCW's work on chlorides thus far: outreach materials developed, workshops executed, training provided. Now, it's time for implementation. In the graphs Bounds presented, chloride is noted as "estimated" as it is

calculated with the r-squared correlation with conductivity. Comparing data from surveys year to year is difficult; last years' winter was not typical. Bounds mentioned he would see if a quick/cheap trend analysis can be completed with the existing data.

Larry Cox asked whether we have enough data for more complex analysis. Bounds replied that it is difficult to normalize salt use. For example, as much or more salt may be used for one freeze event than a 14" snow event. Cox added that chloride is rising in importance in the constellation of pollutants and asked if any additional monitoring was needed, as both EPAs are paying attention. Stephen McCracken agreed that if there are gaps in gathering data, we need to rectify that now. Chloride is creeping into permits and there may be additional requirements.

Dave Gorman suggested examining tons of chloride loading per snow event. Bounds noted there are differences in winter and summer months which relates to the load of chloride coming in. Gorman asked whether trends could be compared to other watersheds. Stephen McCracken replied that for summer trends, we have "only" 3 years of data per watershed, which is not sufficient to define a trend.

Karen Daulton-Lange stated if reducing chlorides is a source reduction issue, for municipalities changes start at the top. When residents call for bare pavement, it is difficult for municipal officials to explain all this. Does the DRSCW have plans to conduct outreach/marketing efforts for this population? Dan Bounds noted that some trends have changed that you can see. For example changes to plowing and application after incorporating pavement temperature sensors.

Jennifer Hammer stated that she has been in touch with Bluestem Communications. While many agencies have information that can be used to reach residents, it is not in a format that works. We are investigating the use of focus groups to create more applicable messaging. These messages would not encourage residents to use less salt, but rather what they accept for levels of service. Frequently asked questions and complaints can be useful tools to craft these kinds of messages. Bluestem Communications noted that for the people answering phoned in complaint,s and for elected officials, simply having information/talking points is helpful in addressing complaints and communicating changes.

Hammer also noted that as we review data, it presents a good opportunity to look at the deicing survey to ensure we are asking questions the right questions.

Larry Cox suggested the DRSCW support the development of a video like FPDDC used with their spring brook #1 project to communicate issues other than road safety. DuPage County Stormwater Management has a video targeting residents about sensible salting.

Ron Hursh added that LaGrange Park is addressing chlorides with the public. Dave Gorman will talk to Mary Mitros about possible collaboration. There might also be opportunities to develop PSAs for local cable channels.

Andrea Cline stated that in the past, Lake County has held a deicing workshop breakfast for elected officials to give them tools to talk to residents about salt reduction and policies. People attended but they did not continue the workshop. They did note that the workshops should coordinate with the election schedule.

Andrea also provided an update on the chloride variance process, as Illinois EPA reached out to the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW), for which she is the technical advisor. US EPA clarified their rule making process for variances and encouraged states to apply.

Stephen McCracken noted that he asked how a variance would impact areas that already have TMDLs in place and has not yet received a response. He continued that a water quality certificate for a parking lot project was held up due to the increase in post project chloride loading. He is also worried about POTWs being flagged for chlorides during winter storm events.

The new draft MS4 Permit includes language that states that if a variance process is occurring, agencies must participate in order to avail themselves of the variance. The Tollway has questions about the variance process as well.

Andrea Cline said that she asked Illinois EPA whether agencies should be applying for variances for other water quality standards they are not meeting met. Their response was, “no.”

We will discuss this process with member agencies at the annual meeting in February.

Data shows we are not exceeding the chloride water quality standard very often. Industrial discharges, Citgo and Exxon Mobile, have high TDS.

Jennifer Hammer stated that the CAWS initiative was the precipitating factor; the discussion has grown from there.

8. Watershed Permitting Update (Old Business)

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

Abel not able to be here – will ask for annual meeting

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

- East Branch Resiliency Competition and Watershed Plan – update

Mary Beth Falsey reported that the Phase 2 application has been submitted.

Marilyn Sucoe expressed concern for how the tight timeline for the resiliency planning process impacted the community outreach component of the watershed planning process. She noted that Lisle residents have put out a petition against the plan. Sucoe added that this lack of community involvement has hurt her agency's credibility with the public. Sucoe proposed

that East Branch communities ask the County for assistance to complete a watershed planning process that helps build community support for projects.

Larry Cox inquired about the watershed plan in this context, and asked whether there are other ramifications for what DRSCW is trying to do for stream restoration.

Deanna Doohaluk, Hey and Associates, stated that they were asked to complete the watershed plan in 3 months, to fit within the resiliency plan timeline. While required components of the watershed plan can be found in the resiliency plan, an outline for other components is included as well, though not as detailed as a subwatershed plan. For additional guidance and to get residents engaged at the next level, Hey and Associates submitted an RFP to the County. They have not yet heard back.

Marilyn Sucoe noted that the HUD application schedule was insane; she understands why the process lacked components and wanted to know whether there were plans to circle back.

Mary Beth Falsey stated that the County is still dedicated to watershed planning and that they are working on a water quality focused plan for St. Joseph's Creek. Residents in the St. Joseph's Creek area can be sent meeting/workshop dates.

11. Business Items (New Business)

- Membership Dues Update (Attachment 3)
- Accounts Update – (Attachment 4)
- Other Business

We would like to thank Tom Richardson, Sierra Club, for his service on the DRSCW board. Richardson moved out of the area and Rick Federighi, Village of Addison, has agreed to fill this vacancy. Federighi will be included in the slate of officers which will be voted on at the annual meeting.

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

- November 10th – Stephen McCracken presented on the IPS methodology and outcomes to a Chicago Wilderness technical group looking at water resources.
- October 19th – Stephen McCracken presented on the IPS methodology and outcomes, “Data Driven Solution to Aquatic Life Impairments” to the MWRDGC Board at a District study meeting.
- A new newsletter (winter 2015) is being produced.

13. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- February 24, 2016 (Annual Meeting)
- April 27, 2016
- June 29, 2016
- August 31, 2016
- October 26, 2016
- December 7, 2016