

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup**  
**Via Zoom Webinar**  
**August 26, 2020**  
**9:00-11:00 AM**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**

Attachment 1

**Please register in advance for this webinar at**  
**[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SDt12-0XTQ-H1VDPPrDXKNA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SDt12-0XTQ-H1VDPPrDXKNA)**

*D. Gorman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.*

**1. Approval of June 24, 2020 meeting minutes** (Attachment 1). *S. Zehner made a motion to accept the June 24, 2020 meeting minutes. D. Streicher seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.*

**2. Presentation: Changes in the Fish Assemblage of Chicago’s Working Waterways over 3 Decades**

Cities, including Chicago, were often built near rivers, leveraging them for transportation and water management, often to the detriment of aquatic communities. Since the passage of The Clean Water Act in the mid-1970s, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Great Chicago has monitored and sampled fishes in Chicago’s waterways to assess how various policies and actions have enhanced our waterways. We illustrate how fish species richness, abundances, and assemblages have changed over the years since MWRDGC’s expanded annual sampling program began in 1985.

**Presenter: Dr. Austin Happel, Ph.D. Research Biologist, John G. Shedd Aquarium & Dustin Gallagher, Aquatic Biologist, MWRDGC.**

**3. Presentation: Restore Salt Creek**

The Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods Virtual Open Houses were held in July 2020 and the public comment period has closed. This presentation will summarize the public outreach process and the results of our public comment period. Next steps including our “ask” of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County will also be discussed.

**Presenter: Peter Gray, Aileron Communications**

**4. NPDES Permit Special Conditions**

- **NPDES Permits and Reporting** -No update at this time.
  
- **2020 Permit Negotiations** – Draft permit language and a proposed future project list has been developed from the updated IPS outputs and have been shared with the DRSCW/LDWRC Negotiations Team. The draft language includes an extension of the implementation of TP limits of 1 mg/L monthly average to 2028 with three additional years of project funding. This draft language and project list have also been shared with our EAG partners. A dialogue on the proposal is on-going. IEPA has agreed to withhold issuing the permits while the conversation is on-going. Once the Negotiations Team and EAG’s have agreed to the draft language, a Special Condition Permit Holders meeting will be scheduled to discuss the details of the proposed permit condition language.

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**5. Physical Project Update (ongoing)**

- **Oak Meadows** – Post project biological sampling for 2019 is complete. Project area will be sampled in 2021 as part of the Salt Creek bioassessment.
  
- **Fawell Dam Modification**
  - A draft plan has been prepared and was submitted to DuPage County Stormwater for review 8/17/2020. If approved, it will go into final modeling and permitting (IDNR-OWR, USACE, and DuPage County). Two proposals were submitted: 1) with the fish capture system, and 2) without the fish capture system. The fish capture system assists with monitoring of fish passage through the dam but does add some potential maintenance issues.
  - An MOU for the maintenance/ownership of the ladder will need to be drafted by the DRSCW and DC.
  - Schedule is to get the ladder in place in January/February 2021 or at the latest July.
  
- **Graue Mill Dam**
  - **Project Schedule** – The Master Plan is scheduled for completion in September 2020.
  - **Survey/WOTUS** – All fieldwork is completed (bathymetric and topographic survey, sediment sampling, and wetland delineation). DC SWM Wetland Boundary Assessment was held on June 3, 2020. The final JD was received from the US ACOE in August 13, 2020. AECOM has also submitted a proposed plan for additional sediment sampling to define the extent of the contamination. This request is under staff review.
  - **Master Plan** – Updated rendering based on comments from staff, the FPDDC and DRSCW Project Committee has been provided by AECOM.
    - **Wheel** – Staff is working with the FPDDC, Aquascapes and AECOM to develop a scope of work to conduct an experiment to determine the required flows in the raceway to turn the wheel and mechanical options (motor, pump system, etc.) for turning the wheel. The Board has authorized staff to access up to \$10,000 of Special Condition project funds to fund the experiment to determine required flows in the raceway to turn the wheel on a consistent basis.
  - **Master Plan Final Report**– The Master Plan final report will be completed no later than September 11, 2020. It will be posted to RestoreSaltCreek.org on or after September 18, 2020 to coordinate with the public posting of the FPDDC Board agenda.
  - **Open Houses** – Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Open Houses were moved to a virtual format and held via Zoom on July 7, 2020 at 7pm and July 9, 2020 at 11am. Aileron facilitated the virtual open houses. Registration and attendance numbers for the Open Houses: June 7, 2020: Registrations-120/Attendees-74; June 9, 2020: Registrations-95/Attendees-57.

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- Advertising for the Open Houses began the week of June 8, 2020 and all materials including Open House registration were posted on RestoreSaltCreek.org. Advertising included email communications with DRSCW members and friends, and all stakeholder contacts received during and since the initial survey process; a Press Release was coordinated through Aileron and a public notice placed in the Daily Herald.
- Following the Virtual Open Houses, a comment period on the project opened for approximately 30-days through August 7, 2020. Comments were submitted electronically through a survey/google form accessed via RestoreSaltCreek.org. A summary of the comments received were provided at the Executive Board Meeting.
- Deliverables from the Open Houses will include 1) the comment log; 2) FAQ/C and response to questions and comments; and 3) a document describing how comments will be incorporated into the final Master Plan.
- The current Aileron contract is complete. Staff would like to extend the existing Aileron contract to provide the following services: 1) preparation of the final report for the public comment solicitation; 2) presentations on the public comment solicitation to the FPDDC Board of Commissions at the September 22, 2020 Planning Meeting and October 6, 2020 Board Meeting; 3) partner coordination and Letters to the Editor in preparation for the FPDDC Commissioner meetings; and 4) press follow-up following the FPPDDC Commissioner meetings.
  - ✓ The Board has authorized access up to \$7,000 under its approval authority in order to start on this additional work scope. The total contract value for all tasks is \$12,000. *S. Baert made a motion to approve funds not to exceed \$12,000 to fund the entirety of the additional work scope by Aileron Communications. L. Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed with three abstentions.*
- **Final Report on Public Comment** – The final report on the public comment solicitation will be completed no later than September 11, 2020. It will be posted to RestoreSaltCreek.org on or after September 18, 2020 to coordinate with the public posting of the FPDDC Board agenda.
  - 174 comments were received, 90% support of the Master Plan.
- **Presentations to the FPDDC Board of Commissioners**
  - Schedule- Staff is proposing to present the findings of the Master Plan and the Public Comment Solicitation for consideration and discussion at the September 22, 2020 Planning Meeting. All materials for this meeting are due to the FPDDC by September 15, 2020. The official vote on the project will occur at the October 6, 2020 Board Meeting.
- **Partner Outreach**
  - Press communication both prior to, during, and after the Open Houses was coordinated through Aileron.

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- Staff produced outreach materials including fliers, fact sheets, eblasts, and a project website.
- S. McCracken and D. Streicher met with the City of Elmhurst Public Works Committee on July 27, 2020 to discuss the project.
- Staff and Executive Board members have been reaching out to POTW Special Condition Holders and DRSCW members to obtain letters of support on the Project. These letters are being submitted to the FPDDC Board of Commissioners. To date, 13 letters from the POTW members have been submitted to the FPDDC Board of Commissioners.
- **News Articles** – Articles on the project and encouraging individuals to attend the virtual Open Houses were published in the Daily Herald on June 25, 2021, the Doings on June 28, 2020 and Chicago Magazine on August 14, 2020. The articles can be found at [RestoreSaltCreek.org](http://RestoreSaltCreek.org).
- **Pre-project Monitoring** - MBI completed pre-project biological and physical habitat sampling in September 2019. A second round of pre-project biological and physical habitat sampling is scheduled for Summer 2020.
- **Spring Brook Phase II** – The MOU between the DRSCW and FPDDC has been signed by both parties and the funds have been transferred to the FPDDC. *The construction is nearing completion.*

**6. Physical Project Update (not yet started)**

- **Lower West Branch** – Staff is identifying potential project locations and will present to the Project Committee at an upcoming meeting.
- **Lower East Branch** – Project scoping will begin in late-2020.

**7. Nutrient Implantation Plan (NIP)**

- **NSAC Update** – No update.
- **Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS)** – No update at this time.
- **Trading Analysis**  
Point Source (PS) to PS Trading – No update at this time.

Stream Crediting Trading – The next step needed is to host a meeting between the Trading Consultant Team, MBI staff (Yoder and Rankin), and DRSCW staff. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the team is strategizing the best way to host this meeting. The Trading Consultant Team and staff have a call scheduled for August 21, 2020 to begin drafting the agenda for this meeting. It is expected that the meeting between the Trading Consultant Team, MBI staff (Yoder and Rankin), and DRSCW staff will be held in October 2020.

Current (MWRD) Nutrient Trading Effort (INTI) – Current has suspended their trading initiative.

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USEPA National Water Quality Trading Policy – No update at this time.

- **IWEA NARP Workshop** – As the IWPC conference was canceled due to the COVID-19 shelter in place order, the next NARP workshop will be rescheduled.
- **Related to Nutrient Trading** – As they are completed, please submit PDOPs and FSs to DRSCW staff. The Village of Wood Dale submitted their FS in July 2020.
- **QUAL Model Update**
  - Data Collection is ongoing. Focus is now on obtaining remaining watershed specific information for Salt Creek, West Branch and Lower DuPage (FEQ model, HEC-RAS models, water quality data, etc.).
  - Model calibration is ongoing for the East Branch DuPage River.
  - Model set-up is ongoing for Salt Creek, West Branch DuPage River and Lower DuPage River.
  - Preliminary scenarios were discussed with the Project Committee at their August 6, 2020 meeting.
- **Non-Point Source Washoff Model**
  - **Leaf litter Study** – Staff is developing a work proposal for this project and hopes to present it to the Project Committee in September 2020. This will include review of the leaf litter questionnaire sent out by County Stormwater.
    - V3 has offered pro-bono GIS services to support the leaf litter study. Staff are working with them to adapt data in the IPS data base to this purpose. Thanks to V3.
  - **Other Related Work** – Staff is investigating the use of the IPS for determining NPS impacts to headwater and non-effluent dominated streams.
- **Expanded DO Monitoring Program** – Expanded DO monitoring has begun in the West Branch DuPage River. The sampling plan includes samples collected below each discharger (major, minor, and industrial), the headwaters of each stream where a POTW is located (West Branch, Spring Brook #1, and Klein Creek), and immediately upstream of the confluence of the West and East Branches. If time allows, sites on major tributaries (Kress Creek and Winfield Creek) as well as 2 sites along the lower portion of the West Branch will also be sampled. To date sampling has been completed upstream and downstream of WSD, Carol Stream, and DC Cascade.
  - Two interns have been hired to assist Staff with this sampling effort: Noah Andexler and Joshua Rae. Both are existing TCF interns and we were able to expand their contract to include this work.

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- **IPS Model Update**

- The update IPS methodology and Peer Review was presented to the Project Committee on May 15, 2020. A recording on the presentation is available on the DRSCW YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ueg38jsj-gE&feature=youtu.be>
  - *MBI has submitted the draft IPS to staff for review. It will be shared with the Project Committee after the Committee has completed its review of the documents associated with Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods. Written materials for the Peer Review are still in development and will be shared with the Project Committee when complete.*
- A summary of the IPS Tool was prepared for our EAG partners. This includes a list of next generation priority projects (see discussion on 2020 Negotiations in Item 3 of this agenda for more information).

**8. Springfield Regulatory and Legislative Updates** – Stephen and Deanna will schedule a visit to the IEPA for Fall 2020 once the COVID-19 situation stabilizes. If an in-person meeting cannot be held, a virtual meeting will be held.

**Non-Permit Activities**

**9. Bioassessment Plan**

- Salt Creek Bioassessment – Staff has received the Final Salt Creek 2013/2016 report.
- East Branch Bioassessment – MBI is working on completing the 2019 DRAFT Bioassessment report.
- West Branch bioassessment – Is on-going.
  - Chemical sampling began around May 15, 2020.

**10. Upper Salt Creek 319 Watershed Plan** – No update at this time.

**11. Monitoring**

- Fecal coliform sampling will be conducted on the West Branch DuPage River in 2020 (MS4 program support).
- Conductivity monitoring began in early December 2019 and is complete.
- Continuous DO monitoring was started in mid-May 2020. Thank you to DC SWM and PWS for your support on this effort.
- The plastics samples will be collected in summer 2020.

**12. Chlorides**

- **Chloride Workshops--** Staff proposes combining efforts with the Lower DuPage River Coalition, Lower Des Plaines Watershed Workgroup, and TCF to host one set of virtual workshops. Fortin Consultants will host one Parking Lots and Sidewalks workshop (October 8, 2020) and two Municipal Roads workshops (October 1, 2020 and October 14,

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2020). Cost for Fortin will be \$2,000 per workshop (\$6,000 total for the three workshops). Cost of attendance is still being decided. A fourth virtual workshop aimed at Street Superintendents will also be hosted by the DRSCW (tentatively scheduled for October 15, 2020). The agenda for this fourth workshop is still being developed.

✓ *S. Baert made a motion to allow staff to access the budgeted amount of \$6,100 to host the virtual workshops. J. Hammer seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.*

○ *The Professional Snow Fighters Association will be hosting a workshop this fall and details on the workshop will be shared once it is available. Street superintendents will be the targeted audience for this workshop.*

- Tollway Offset – Reports on the grants to Bensenville and Wood Dale have been sent to the Tollway. A final draft of the Elmhurst application has been submitted to the Tollway.
- SB2138 (liability for contractors) – No update at this time.
- Sensible Salting Committee – No update at this time.
- TLWQS for Chlorides – No update at this time.
- ILR00 and Chlorides – No update at this time.
- BMP and Loading Study – The draft report on area application rates has been delivered and is being reviewed.
- Street sweeping data – This study was halted due to shelter-in-place and will be moved to next spring.
- Staff has been asked by USEPA to talk about chlorides at their Chloride Working Group on October 1, 2020.
- Staff has been asked about the results of our stressor analysis for chlorides by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). They are doing a review of chloride toxicity analysis results. A short write up of our methods and results has been supplied to them.

### **13. Other Activities**

- Website – We are updating the website and database portal.
- Coal Tar Sealants Update – No update at this time.
- ACOE DuPage River Feasibility Study – No update at this time.
- Newsletter—The Summer 2020 issue was distributed in July 2020.
- Utility Management – No update at this time.

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**14. Business Items (new business)**

- **Invoice Summary– June 12 – Aug. 14, 2020**

<b>Vendor/Project</b>	<b>Invoice Number</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Status</b>
AECOM - Fullersburg Woods Dam	2000370299	2,637.16	Paid
AECOM - Fullersburg Woods Dam	2000372743	5,707.03	Paid
Aileron - Fullersburg Woods Public Outreach	1962	3,099.00	Paid
Andrew Ragas - RestoreSaltCreek website	Jun-20	350.00	Paid
Baxter & Woodman - CL Reduction Program	215223	7,139.25	Pending
Hartford Insurance - Add'l coverage	N/A	76.00	Paid
IL Charity Bureau Fund - IL AG990 Tax Return	N/A	15.00	Paid
Lauterbach&Amen - Final Pmt: Audit & Tax Rtrn	47498	2,000.00	Paid
MBI - Pre-monitoring at Fullersburg Woods	1773	1,563.67	Paid
MBI - 2019 Oak Meadows Bioassessment	1774	6,727.92	Paid
MBI – 2019 EB DuPage River Bioassessment	1789	29,267.55	Paid
MBI - IPS Update - Add'l Work	1779	7,794.86	Paid
MBI - 2016 Bioassessment report	1590	6,943.92	Paid
Sikich, LLP - Videos for RestoreSaltCreek website	451168	4,900.00	Paid
Stephen McCracken - NIP probes	N/A	12,190.00	Paid
Tetra Tech - QUAL2kw	51600546	12,581.25	Paid
Tetra Tech - QUAL2kw	51614008	15,457.50	Paid
V3 - Fawell	520395	1,016.16	Pending
V3 - Fawell	620426	1,524.24	Pending

- **Financial reports through July 31, 2020** (Attachment 2).
- **Membership Dues Payments Update (through August 18, 2020)** (Attachment 3).
  - All Membership dues and Special Condition assessment invoices have been sent.
  - Staff will prepare a 5-minute video highlighting the mission and work of the DRSCW that could be shared with Member Agency elected officials. The purpose of this video will be to educate elected officials on the benefits of DRSCW membership.
- **Tax Return Update** – Tax return is complete. N. Cinatl will coordinate signatures with D. Gorman and R. Federighi. Tax return will be submitted in advance of the January 2021 extended deadline.

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**15. DRSCW Calendar, Presentations and Press Coverage**

- Virtual Open Houses for the Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods, July 7, 2020 and July 9, 2020 (S. McCracken)

**16. Workgroup Meeting Schedules**

October 28, 2020 from 9AM-11AM

December 9, 2020 from 9AM-11AM

February 24, 2021 from 9AM-11AM

April 28, 2021 from 9AM-11AM

June 30, 2021 from 9AM-11AM

August 25, 2021 from 9AM-11AM

*S. Baert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:44am. S. Zehner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*