

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
General Membership Meeting
Village of Lombard
April 30, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Please note the meeting is in-person but will also be broadcast remotely. If you need the virtual option here is the Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gy41PF2GQtOHlptPjfHT_g

President Underwood called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 2. Approval of the February 26, 2025 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes** (Attachment 1).
S. Zehner made a motion to approve the February 26, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by M. Streicher. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation Abstract: Emerging Contaminants in Our Environment

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) are chemicals and other materials that have been found in the environment, but whose risk to both aquatic life and people is not fully understood or regulated. CECs, including substances like pharmaceuticals and personal care products, microplastics, and PFAS, are increasingly causing concern due to their presence in both municipal water supplies and natural waters. The body of knowledge regarding CECs is ever growing as we learn more about the sources, fate, impacts, and management of these chemicals. This talk will provide an update on the status of multiple noteworthy CECs.

Presenter: Sarah Zack, Great Lakes Contaminant Specialist, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERMIT ACTIVITIES

4. Special Conditions Permit Administration

- **2020/2025 Permit Negotiations** –Draft pre-public Special Condition (SC) Language specific to the NIP recommendations was received for the Wood Dale North and Elmhurst WWTP from the IEPA in early February 2025. Draft SC NIP language for Naperville’s permit will follow once these two are issued. See Section 7 NIP for more information on this language and its status.
- **Additional NIP and Permit Materials** – See items agenda 6 and 7 (Project Matrix and NIP materials)
 - PFAS Monitoring/PFAS Reduction Program Language – In addition to the NIP language, the draft Wood Dale North, Elmhurst, and Naperville permits includes requirements for quarterly monitoring of the influent and effluent, and semi-annually monitoring of biosolids for 40 PFAS compounds using draft test method 1633. The draft permits also contain language for a PFAS Reduction Program that

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requires an Inventory and a PFAS Reduction Initiative for all facilities (based on listed SIC codes) that have the potential to discharge PFAS into the sanitary sewer.

- **Annual Report** – The 2024-25 Annual Report was submitted to the IEPA on March 26, 2025 on behalf of all SC members. The report can be found at https://drscw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-25_drscw-ldwrc_annualreport_03262025_compressed.pdf.

A copy of the email sent with the submission of the report has been forwarded to all SC holders. To date, the IEPA has not provided written confirmation of the report; however, return receipts have been marked as received and read.

5. Physical Projects (Ongoing)

Fawell Dam Modification

- **MOU** – The MOU for implementing the project was signed in October 2023 by the DRSCW, FPDDC, and DC SWM.
- **Extension Letter** - A letter requesting the completion date be moved to December 31, 2025 has been sent to Permits Section. On November 18, 2024, Brant Fleming with the IEPA provided written acceptance via email of the revised interim completion date for the project to December 31, 2025. A copy of B. Fleming's email was provided to all Special Condition holders.
- **Design and Fabrication** – The design fabrication contract with BK Riverfish has been signed. Contract includes work already completed (design and permitting), development of shop drawings, oversight of fabrication, fabrication and materials, dry fitting, storage, delivery and supervision of installation of the ladder, and post project follow-up. The total not to exceed value of this contract is \$455,521. To date, one payment of \$140,353.13 has been made to BK Riverfish which covers work already completed (35 hours of Task 1 (\$7,342.13), all of Task 2 (\$93,769) and Task 3 (\$39,242)). The payment also includes \$7,240 (50% of the total costs) in upfront costs for the fabricator for preparation of shop drawings for the Fishway (Task 5). Weekly calls are being established between V3, the fabricator, BK and the DRSCW to discuss ongoing design issues. The first of these was held on March 25, 2025.
- **QA/QC on Ladder Fabrication 1** – Fehr-Graham was selected to complete a review of the shop drawings for the proposed Kynard Alternating Baffle Fish Passage to be installed at Fawell Dam. The scope of work in the contract with Fehr-Graham will include: 1) Review the fabricator's quality control plan and process and provide the DRSCW with their professional opinion on whether any Quality Assurance testing is warranted; 2) Identify any welding done during installation in the field and assist DRSCW staff in writing specifications for the upcoming construction and installation contract; and 3) Review that the prescribed field assembly generally correlates with the civil drawings by V3. Fehr-Graham has signed a contract for a not-to-exceed value of \$20,000 and review of the shop drawings has begun. A scope meeting was held with the contractor on January 31, 2025 and a project kick-off call was held on March 8th, 2025. Fehr-Graham is concerned about the gauge of the baffle in

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the fish ladder. There have been recommendations of increasing the gauge of the baffle or increasing the height of the baffle. This needs to be discussed with BK Riverfish and is on the agenda for a Friday progress call (see below for more details on the progress calls).

- **QA/QC on Ladder Fabrication 2** – The designer (BK Riverfish) noted that one part of the draft shop drawings did not adhere to their original drawings. The designer then issued a more detailed plan to the fabricator for that segment. This triggered a wider review of the fit between the shop drawings and the dam along with its updated features (such as the ramp, debris protection etc.). *A group consisting of V3, the fabricator (Triangle Metal Fab), BK Riverfish and DRSCW (Greg and staff) meets every Friday (starting on March 21, 2025) and to date has discussed joins between segments, attachments to dam floor and protective wall, verification of the placement of the key removable section and how it joins to the upstream section.* The group will continue to meet each Friday through to the start of fabrication.
- **Pre-implementation survey** – The FPD carried out a survey of a 300 ft section downstream of the dam (riffle area). The survey found 14 Total Species, made up of 102 total individuals.
- **Project Permits**
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACOE) Nationwide Permit (LRC-2024-169) – The application was submittal in March 2024 and the permit was received on September 25, 2024.
 - SHPO Review– SHPO have issued a signoff letter stating that the project does not rise to the level of an adverse impact on either the dam or the adjacent Preserve.
 - ◆ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation – No Effect Determination received January 16, 2024
 - ◆ KDSCWD – Signoff on the SESC plan by the KDSWCD is a requirement of the US ACOE Nationwide Permit. A permit application and fee covering the SESC review was submitted to the KDSWCD by V3 in mid-September 2024. Signoff on the ESC Plans from KDSWCD was received on October 9, 2024.
 - DuPage County Stormwater Management Certification and Building Permit – The permit application was submitted in December 2024. The DC submittal will combine the components of the Corps submittal and IDNR-OWR dam modifications submittal. It also incorporated the MOU with DuPage County.
 - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 - ◆ EcoCAT Request – Signoff received January 16, 2024
 - ◆ Major Modification of Existing Dam Permit – Application pending submission (Based on past discussions and the revised design, this permit may be combined with the Floodway Construction Permit). Plans were submitted to IDNR in December 2024 but confirmation has been received that they view the project as a Dam Modification as opposed to a Floodway Construction project
 - ◆ Floodway Construction Permit – A separate Floodway Construction Permit is not anticipated to be required based on IDNR feedback.

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- IEPA - As the project is under one acre of disturbance an IEPA ILR10 this item is not required.
- **Next Steps**
 - Finalize IDNR permit
 - Review of Shop Drawings
 - Authorize material purchase and fabrication
 - DC issues bid for ladder placement contract
 - Review needs for V3 contract covering installation assistance/oversight.
 - Fabrication of ladder is completed; sections are dry fitted and delivered onsite
 - Installation supervised by County with assistance from BK Riverfish
- **Post Project Monitoring** – On September 23, 2024, DRSCW Staff and FPDDC staff (Urban Resource Center and Nature Resources) met via conference call to discuss options for monitoring at the project site once the fish passage system is installed. Three potential monitoring locations were identified: 1) use of the capture net on a schedule yet to be defined with BK Riverfish. Once the ladder is installed this would be pressed into action as soon as is feasible. 2) At least one upstream fish sampling station (sampled via fish shocking), outside the limits of the impoundment, will be identified and a schedule put in place; and 3) A new downstream sample site (to be sampled via fish shocking) has been identified. The site is located at the foot of the dam and is meant to catalog fish species present at the ladder’s first stage entrance/staging area below the dam.
- **Parallel Work** – DuPage County may need to conduct maintenance and repairs on the Fawell Dam wingwalls. If such work is necessary, it will be coordinated with the fishway installation (included in MOU). V3 staff is investigating the feasibility of this work for the County.
- **Presentation to the FPDDC Board** – The FPDDC has requested a presentation to update the Board on the status of the project. E. Neidy recommended the presentation be added to a Fall 2025 FPPDC Board meeting agenda.

Graue Mill Dam

- **Project Schedule**
 - Final Engineering and Preparation of Contract Bid Documents – Completed September 2023. Final payment on the design/permitting contract has been made to Hey and Associates.
 - Construction – Substantial completion was met in December 2025. Vegetation and M&M ongoing.
 - Punch List – V3 and their subconsultants are working through punch list items. The waterwheel and pump system for the raceway have been de-winterized and opened for the season on April 8, 2025. Tweaks were made to increase the speed of the waterwheel as controls indicated that the motor was being shutoff due to resistance against the wheel. The designer of the waterwheel motor believes these tweaks

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should resolve the issue of the wheel shutting down each day in the late afternoon. V3 is drafting as-builts for the project and needs to complete additional field survey work before the as-builts can be completed.

- Plantings – Perennial plant installation is scheduled to start the week of May 26, 2025.
- Permit Related Activities—The final dam safety inspection was completed by the FPDDC on April 8, 2025 and accepted by IDNR-OWR Dam Safety on April 9, 2025. As-built plans for the site in the vicinity for the former dam will need to be submitted to IDNR once they are completed by V3 to close out the IDNR OWR dam removal permit.
- Related FPDDC at the site – The Nature Center Parking lot, trails and entrance road are scheduled to be re-paved on May 12, 2025 with a weather delay date of May 19, 2025.
- Grand Opening – A grand opening ceremony is being coordinated with MWRDGC, FPDDC, and V3. It is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 11:00am. More details will be provided closer to the event.
- MWRD/DRSCW Agreement – The DRSCW and MWRD Agreement that outlines MWRD’s commitment to bid and manage the construction of the Master Plan for Salt Creek.
- Payments – Total Paid by MWRDGC to date (01/08/2025): \$7,858,690.75 which includes
 - Pay Estimate 1 (11/08/2023): \$464,224.75
 - Pay Estimate 2 (12/04/2023): \$263,500.00
 - Pay Estimate 3 (01/09/2024): \$633,495.35
 - Pay Estimate 4 (02/09/2024): \$226,000.00
 - Pay Estimate 5 (03/08/2024): \$542,470.67
 - Pay Estimate 6 (04/10/2024): \$647,003.15
 - Pay Estimate 7 (05/09/2024): \$288,884.25
 - Pay Estimate 8 (06/10/2024): \$246,724.55
 - Pay Estimate 9 (07/09/2024): \$1,022,570.72
 - Pay Estimate 10 (08/08/2024): \$1,140,281.39
 - Pay Estimate 11 (09/10/2024): \$1,738,065.01
 - Pay Estimate 12 (10/10/2024): \$355,431.19
 - Pay Estimate 13 (11/05/2024): \$144,775.00
 - Pay Estimate 14 (12/03/2024): \$145,264.72
 - Pay Estimate 15 (01/08/2025): \$0.00
- Project Cost Summary (as of 02/07/2025)

Original Construction Budget:	\$ 9,375,745.00
Original Contingency	\$ 468,797.25
Approved Construction Budget Changes:	\$ 431,893.65
Approved Contingency Changes	\$ (314,878.30)

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Current Approved Budget	\$ 9,807,638.65
Current Contingency	\$ 153,908.95
Pending Change Orders	\$ 0.00

◆ Potential Future Change Orders

- Stream Restoration and Rock Quantity Balancing Changes – A number of pools were deleted from the contract due to the observed stream configuration (specifically pools 2, 3, and 5). Native plugs in the contract were increased from 50,000 to 65,600. Additionally, due to field changes, quantities of the unit price rock were adjusted to reflect what was installed. It is estimated that the change order will result in a credit to the contract of \$112,620,93.
- Weir downstream of the Waterwheel – The contract originally included a masonry weir downstream of the waterwheel to form a pool in which the waterwheel sits. However, this was unable to be installed per plan due to the configuration of the raceway. The final installation design was delayed until the waterwheel motor and raceway pump were installed and tested. Additionally, due to site configurations post-dam removal, it was decided that the rock stream access proposed near Flat Bridge was not needed as the current bank configuration provided good access. The rock purchased for this access was used to construct a smaller overlook on the east/south bank of Salt Creek near the mill and riffle 1. It was estimated that the change order would result in a credit to the contract of \$28,683.95.
- **National Register of Historic Places Nomination** – A contract with McGuire Iglecki and Associates (MIA), for a not-to-exceed cost of \$13,400, was signed on December 3, 2023. Field work for the nomination was conducted by MIA on December 11, 2023.
- **Chicago Wilderness Force of Nature Award** – TCF will be leading the effort to nominate the DRSCW and the Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project for the CW Force of Nature Award. The FPDDC and MWRDGC will be recognized as project partners. TCF will coordinate with the FPDDC on the nomination process.
- **Post-Project Monitoring**
 - **2025 Post-Post Project Monitoring** – Year 1 of Post-Project Monitoring will be coordinated with the Salt Creek Bioassessment. This item will be voted on in the bioassessment section.
 - **Flow Sampling of Riffles and Pools** – Staff collected transects (flow and depth) of the completed riffles. In addition, transects of the proposed pool locations have also been collected. The transects of the proposed pool locations have shown that pools already exist at Pools 3, 4, and 8.
 - **Aileron** – At the prompting of the Board, Staff will reach out to Aileron to seek input on the options and timing for Post-Project survey options to see if public opinion on the project has changed now that the project has been constructed. Proposed timeline for this survey work is late 2025.

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- **RestoreSaltCreek.org** – As substantial completion has been met, the DRSCW maintained project website at RestoreSaltCreek.org has been removed and archived.

Spring Brook Phase II

- **2024 Post-Project Monitoring** – 2024 post-project sampling is complete and a summary of the results was included in the 2024-25 Annual Report. Additionally, staff have run three expanded DO data collections and installed sondes to evaluate the benthic algae development at the site.
- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** -- 2025 will be Year 5 of the Post-Project monitoring for Spring Brook Phase 2. Staff is working with MBI to draft a contract for the post-project monitoring which will include a detailed analysis of the 5-years post-project biological and habitat sampling at the site.
 - ✓ *S. Zehner made a motion to authorize staff to sign a contract with MBI not to exceed \$14,280 for the post-project monitoring and production of a post-project monitoring report for Springbrook Phase II. The motion was seconded by D. Streicher. The motion passed unanimously.*
- **Springbrook Phase 3 (FPDDC)** – The FPDDC has received the ACOE 404 permit for the Phase 3 of the Springbrook Restoration (from the downstream end of Phase II to the confluence of the West Branch of the DuPage River). The DC SWM permit has also been submitted. The project includes the replacement of the bridge and riparian, instream and streambank enhancement. The DRSCW will remain in communication with the FPDDC about the project progress with regard to pre/post project monitoring and potential cost share opportunities.

Lower East Branch Stream Enhancement Project

- **Conceptual Design Report** - The Final Conceptual Design Report, for the Lower East Branch DuPage River Stream Restoration Project, has been delivered by Interfluve. The report has been forwarded to the stakeholder group and the Projects Committee.
 - ComEd – Staff and Interfluve presented the Conceptual Design virtually to Com-Ed’s Realty Department on September 26, 2023. Feedback from the Realty Department was positive but additional input was required from other ComEd departments before they could commit to the project. Staff provided additional materials to ComEd following the meeting. Staff will follow-up with ComEd to keep the conversations moving forward.
 - ComEd Environmental Due Diligence Form – In October 2023 ComEd requested additional information on the project via their Environmental Due Diligence Form which staff provided in November. It was supplied again in mid-January, following a request from our ComEd contact. It has now been sent to additional staff at ComEd for their feedback and input on the project. Staff have continued to follow up.
- **Funding under ACOE Section 206** – The Lower East Branch Stream Restoration Project was submitted to the ACOE for consideration for funding under the Section 206 Aquatic Restoration Program. Per email communications with Frank Veraldi of the ACOE, Reaches

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2-4 of the project have been included in the list of projects to be funded. The 206 program provides the following funding: up to \$10,000 for the preparation of a Federal Interest Determination Document, up to \$400,000 for a Project Feasibility Study, and up to \$15 million for Design and Implementation. All monies require a 35% match; cash, land costs, and in-kind services can be used as match. It is not expected that any Federal monies for the project will be available in the next few years so staff will proceed with project design using the existing DRSCW budget.

- **Letters of Support** – In 2004, at the suggestion of staff at the ACOE, a letter of support for funding the project by Section 206 has been obtained from US Representative Bill Foster and forwarded to the ACOE. A second letter from Representative Foster has also been forwarded to David Bucaro, Chief of the Planning Branch at the Chicago District ACOE supporting the funding of the project (sent along with conceptual plan at beginning of this week). Thanks to FPDDC President Dan Hebreard for assisting with this item.
- **Schedule Update** – Staff met with Interfluve in February 2025 to discuss the next steps for the project and reactive the design work.
- **2024 and 2025 Pre-Project Monitoring** – No pre-project monitoring at the Lower East Branch Stream Enhancement Project was conducted in 2024 nor is scheduled for 2025.

Klein Creek Streambank Stabilization Project (Southern West Branch in permit)

- **Construction Progress Update** – Construction of the DRSCW section is complete. Weed control/vegetation management is ongoing.
 - **Payment** – Payments totaling \$1,100,000 have been made to Carol Stream for the Project (Total of Grant).
- **2024 Post-Project Monitoring** – 2024 post-project sampling is complete and a summary of the results will be included in the 2024-25 Annual Report.
- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** – Year 2 of post-project monitoring at Klein Creek is scheduled for 2025. Post project monitoring will include the collection of macroinvertebrate, fish, and habitat data.
 - ✓ *J. Hammer made a motion to authorize staff to sign a contract with MBI not to exceed \$14,270 for the post-project sampling at the Klein Creek Streambank Stabilization Project. The motion was seconded by D. Gorman. The motion passed unanimously.*

6. Physical Project Update (Not Yet Started)

- **West Branch Floating Project** – West Branch Restoration Project completion date in the permit is December 31, 2028. Short term objective is to improve aquatic habitat (QHEI) and reduce inputs of nutrients and sediment. Long term objective is to raise mIBI and fIBI.
- **Project Matrix** – This matrix has been developed for ranking future projects for possible funding via the Special Condition or NIP funds. The draft Matrix was presented to the

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Projects Committee for their review at a 2021 meeting. Staff and the Projects Committee Chair have updated the matrix with priority projects that potentially could be included in the NIP Implementation Plan needed for negotiation of the next Special Condition (See Section 10). It is expected that a minimum of four projects will be needed (two on West Branch, one each in the other two basins). The updated matrix has been shared with each of the Watershed Chairs and the Projects Committee Chair. The Committee Chairs met on November 7, 2024 with staff to discuss the information and its origins. The Committee Chairs have made recommendation on how to refine materials assembled by staff. Staff has made these updates and is in the process of presenting these changes to the Committee Chairs for sign-off. Once those updates are made and Committee Chairs agree that the materials can be released, they will be shared with the Projects Committee via email. A virtual meeting will be then scheduled with the Projects Committee to review the emailed materials. After a review period post-call, an in-person Projects Committee meeting will be scheduled to select projects to be included in the NIP Implementation Plan.

- Monies for studies – In addition to the funding of the physical projects, monies generated from the Special Conditions assessments will also be allocated to fund future studies. Potential future studies may include: a fish propagation feasibility analysis, water quality standards review/TALU for aquatic life, additional modeling runs to help with TP effluent limit implementation at the WWTPs (“trading”), and a NIP update.
 - ◆ **Tiered Aquatic Life Uses (TALU)** – In recommendation D of the DRSCW/LDRWC NIP, the workgroups propose to explore the refinement of biological endpoints (mIBIs and fIBIs) for Illinois urban areas. It further states that the DRSCW and LDRWC would work with IEPA and stakeholders to review if the current General Use standards are suitable for use in urban watersheds. Staff will begin drafting a scope of work for this study one permit negotiations are complete and the NIP recommendations are included WWTP permits.

Other projects – The Illinois Tollway and Brookfield Zoo has contacted staff for data on potential projects. Contacts are ongoing.

7. Nutrient Implementation Plan

- **NIP** – The NIP was submitted to the IEPA on December 29, 2023 and has been posted to the DRSCW website at <https://drscw.org/activities/project-identification-and-prioritization-system/> and the LDRWC at <https://ldpwatersheds.org/about-us/lower-dupage-river-watershed-coalition/our-work/narp/>

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- **Ongoing Discussions on the NIP**

- IEPA have released pre-public permits for four NARPS, including the DRSCW and LDRWC NIP.
- To date the Sierra Club (SC), Prairie Rivers Network (PRN), Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), and Mississippi River Collaborative (MRC) have issued three sets of comments on the NIP. The first were general comments on the NARPs, the second were NIP specific (ostensibly a reply to our repose to their general letter) and the last specific to our proposed NIP permit language (see bullet below). A response to their general comments has been submitted.
- NIP Permit specific comments - the DRSCW has obtained comments submitted by the SC, PRN, ELPC, and MRC to the IEPA dated April 4, 2025. Once obtained both documents were forwarded to the DRSCW/LDRWC Negotiations Team. These comments were contained into two documents (back ground and comments). In these comments, the EAGs are advocating for the IEPA to issue Time Limited water quality standard (aka a variance) for dissolved oxygen (DO) and that each workgroup be given additional time to identify a TP limit will prevent TP from causing violations of the DO standard and limit nuisance algae growth. The EAGs comments have been provided to the Negotiations Team for review and MWRD has provided a response. Staff is drafting comments to both the December 2024 and April 2025 EAG comment letters and told the IEPA that they should expect these responses.

- **Acknowledgment of NIP Submittal by DRSCW Members** – All DRSCW agencies signed onto the NIP and were included in the submittal to the IEPA on December 29, 2023.

- **QUAL Model Update** – This item has been incorporated into the NIP.

- **Final Reports** – The final reports including the watershed specific model setup/calibration/validation reports and the scenario report have been provided to staff for final review.
- **Contract Extension** – *This extension of the contract will cover finalization of the modeling and scenario reports for the QUAL (left open while we got feedback on the NIP) and (this is where the urgency comes in) assist staff on responding to comments on the NIP received byfrom the IEPA from the Sierra Club and ELPC.*

The total of this contract increase would be \$10,760 for 70 hours work. This total would be 40 hours for junior staff finishing the four reports (integrating our comments and adding the sample total tables) and 30 hours for Project Lead (Hillary Yonce) to supervise the report additions and assist DRSCW staff on the letter responses.

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<i>Staff</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Dollar</i>
<i>Ellie Kremer/Leon Horne</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>4400</i>
<i>Hillary Yonce</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>6360</i>
<i>Total</i>			<i>\$10760</i>

The funding for this expansion comes from the \$68,960 in the NIP line item of the NPDES Permit Special Condition Project Fund approved in February 2025.

✓ *L. Cox made a motion to approve a not-to-exceed \$10,760 contract extension with TetraTech ~~for to~~ cover finalization of the modeling and scenario reports for the QUAL2Kw and ~~to~~ assist staff on responding to comments on the NIP from received by the IEPA from the Sierra Club and ELPC. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed unanimously.*

- **Non-Point Source Phosphorus Feasibility Analysis** – This item has been incorporated into the NIP. See discussion above on the NIP.
- **IPS Tool Update**
 - Final Report – The final report is complete and has been posted on the website at: <https://drscw.org/activities/stressors-analysis/>
 - The updated IPS methodology and Peer Review was presented to the Projects Committee on May 15, 2020. A recording on the presentation is available on the DRSCW YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ueg38jsi-gE&feature=youtu.be>
 - Power BI Training – Staff is currently re-negotiating this with MBI. Lake County will also be participating. Training was postponed due to the principle trainer being ill.
 - Level of Rigor Analysis – No update at this time.
- **Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS)** – The 2025 NLRS Conference is scheduled for November 5, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois
 - The DRSCW is drafting their update for the IL NLRS Biennial Report.
- **Other NARPs (NIPS)** – The Fox River Study Group submitted the Fox River Implementation Plan (FRIP) to the IEPA in December 2022. Numerous NARPs, including those of the DRWW, NBWW, CAWCW, etc., were submitted to the IEPA on December 31, 2023. Per the IEPA, 25 NARPs were submitted by 12/31/2023 representing 20 individual facilities and 5 watershed groups. Seven (7) facilities failed

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to submit their NARPs by their required deadline (12/31/2023). An additional 40 NARPs were to be submitted by the end of 2024.

- **IEPA NIP Website** – All of the submitted NARPs including FRIPs, NIPs, and PARPs have been placed by the IEPA on the following website: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/narps.html>

8. Springfield Regulatory and Legislative Updates – No update. Meetings with the IEPA and other parties will be scheduled as needed as permit negotiations (See Section 7.0) progress.

NON-SPECIAL CONDITION PERMIT ACTIVITIES

- **East Branch Bioassessment**
 - 2019 Bioassessment – Report is finalized.
 - 2023 Bioassessment – All field data for the 2023 bioassessment has been completed. MBI is working on preparing the necessary data for the 2023 East Branch bioassessment that is included in the DRSCW’s 2023-24 MS4 Activities report. Requests for discharge data from 2020-2023 have been sent to all East Branch DuPage River POTWs. Thank you to all who have submitted data.
- **West Branch 2020 Bioassessment** – Report is finalized.
- **Salt Creek Bioassessment** – 2021 Draft report is under development (data on principal outputs has already been supplied).
 - 2025 Bioassessment – Planning for the 2025 Salt Creek bioassessment is ongoing. Full cost quoted for the MBI contract (habitat, biology and report writing) is \$202,164.78. The study will be paid from the Workgroup Activities Fund (approximately \$191,235) and the Special Conditions Fund (\$10,930 covering the additional sites for Fullersburg Woods Post Project monitoring).
 - ✓ *J. Hammer made a motion to authorize staff to sign a contract with MBI not to exceed \$203,000 for the 2025 Salt Creek bioassessment. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - ✓ *J. Hammer made a motion to authorize staff to enter into a Work Order Agreement with First Environmental for a not-to-exceed value of \$124,678 for the water chemistry collection and analysis and the expanded DO and sediment chemistry analysis. The motion was seconded by D. Streicher. The motion passed unanimously.*
- **Other Monitoring**
 - **Mixing Zones/Mussel Surveys** – If a POTW is utilizing a mixing zone, they will likely be asked to conduct a mussel survey at the time of their next permit renewal. This is because the IEPA is re-evaluating all mixing zones under the 302.102 (a) and 302.102 (b) 1-12 criteria. Criteria 302.102 (b) 4 states “Mixing is not allowed in waters

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containing mussel beds; endangered species habitat; fish spawning areas; areas of important aquatic life habitat; or any other natural features vital to the well-being of aquatic life in a manner that maintaining aquatic life in the body of water as a whole would be adversely affected.” The IEPA does not currently have a definition for mussel beds but S. Twait noted that the US FWS does. He did state that the IEPA will decide on a case-by-case basis once a survey is conducted and the presence of mussels alone does not mean that a mixing zone will not be allowed.

- **Mixing Zone Survey** – A. Underwood had a discussion with S. Twait (IEPA Standards) about how prevalent the mussel survey requirement will be during permit renewals and he indicated that it may not be needed for many permit renewals. In order to get a better idea on how many DRSCW permittees need to conduct a mussel survey, staff will be working to verify ammonia permit limits in all Member permits to determine if any members do not have a 1.0/4.0 mg/L Ammonia limit. Additionally, staff will ask the IEPA for the ammonia water quality at each of the IEPA monitoring stations within DRSCW/LDRWC stations. With these two pieces of information, staff will be able to generate a list of permittees that may need to conduct a mussel survey at the time of their permit renewal. Staff will also investigate the feasibility of conducting a watershed-wide mussel survey. Both site specific compliance surveys for mixing zones and a more comprehensive watershed survey (similar to our bioassessment for macros and fish) will be considered.
- **New Sonde Purchase** - A team made up of County Stormwater, MWRD, MBI and DRSCW staff have had presentations from Hydromet, Eureka and YSI. The team is currently reviewing the specifications of each sonde and the pricing provided. A meeting will be set up to discuss the final proposals presented by each manufacturer and make its final selection on which sonde to purchase.

9. Chlorides

- **Workshops** – A planning meetings for the 2025 deicing workshops were held with The Conservation Foundation and Lake County staff on February 27 and April 16, 2025 to discuss potential dates and plans. The meetings also included offering calibration workshops.
- **Tech Workshop** – A innovative friction mapping technology has come to staff’s notice. A workshop is planned for May 29, 9-11 AM. Thanks to ADCD in Addison for hosting.
- **Salt Management Questionnaire** – The questionnaire has been updated and out this week.
- **BMP and Loading analysis** – The final report is under review.
- **SB2138 (liability for contractors)** – No update.
- **Salt Smart Collaborative**– TCF received a 319 grant to develop an Illinois based training and certification program for Parking Lots & Sidewalks with guidance from a steering committee. A new manual and training program rolled out in Spring 2023. This project has been nominated for the Chloride Reduction Leadership Award for the 2023 Salt Symposium.

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J. Hammer and S. McCracken are members of the Salt Smart Collaborative Steering Committee.

- FY24 319 Grant – The Salt Smart Collaborative/TCF applied for a Section 319 Grant to expand training, technical and education/outreach resources for communities, agencies and private contractors to further chloride reduction efforts across NE Illinois.
- **Winter Chloride Watchers** – Through the RiverWatch, SaltSmart Collaborative, CAWS, McHenry County, and DC SWM, TCF is coordinating the Winter Chloride Watchers which is a volunteer monitoring effort for chloride monitoring.
- **Time Limited Water Quality Standard (TLWQS) for Chlorides for the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) and portion of the Lower Des Plaines** – Chloride TLWQS Communities are currently preparing their annual reports.
- **Street Sweeping data** – Data has been collected at Itasca, Wood Dale and Carol Stream. The data suggests that these villages are capturing 126 – 720 lbs per year of road salt. Analysis will have to be done to discern if this is significant or not in terms of season (spring/summer) and annual mass.

10. Other Activities

- **MS4 Permit Update** –. The release of the new permit is believed to be imminent (per IEPA contacts).
- **DRSCW MS4 Activities Report** – A new DRSCW MS4 Activities report will be as emailed to all DRSCW members who hold a MS4 permit on May 8, 2024. Staff is working on the 2025 Summary of MS4 Related-Activities Report and will distribute it to all MS4 permit holders when complete.
- **Upper Salt Creek 319 Watershed Plan** – The final plan has been moved to the DRSCW website and can be found at <https://drscw.org/watershed-descriptions/salt-creek-watershed/>
- **Coal-Tar Sealants Update** – No updates.
- **Newsletter** – Based on progress on the NIPs the new newsletter will be available summer 2025 and will report on the NIP permits and implementation.
- **Utility Management** – No update.
- **Bacteria on Salt Creek** – No update.
- **Hydrilla on Ginger Creek (Salt Creek watersheds)** – Staff has been assisting IDNR with field investigation to track the growth of hydrilla in Ginger Creek in Spring 2025. IDNR is planning to conduct a comprehensive treatment of Ginger Creek in 2025 (and future years) to contain and eradicate the hydrilla. Treatment occurred on April 23, 2025 using the chemical, Sonar One. The Hydrilla Task Force has requested that the DRSCW use their funds to cover the fasTEST testing that will document the levels of Sonar in the water after application as the chemical needs to be maintained at its pre-determined level throughout the summer months to ensure eradication of the hydrilla. The sampling plan will include 4 sampling events (May 6, June 3, July 1, and August 5) at 5

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locations (2 composite samples at Ginger and Briarwood Lakes and 3 grab samples). Sonar One will be purchased by IDNR using funds from the Hydrilla Task Force and applied by IDNR, IEPA, and FPDDC staff.

A virtual community meeting to discuss the herbicide treatment plan was held on April 2, 2025. A link to the webinar is available on the DRSCW website as well as a flyer the DRSCW prepared for residents on the upcoming hydrilla treatment activities.

<https://drscw.org/watershed-descriptions/salt-creek-watershed/>

- ✓ *S. Zehner made a motion to authorize the expenditure of not-to-exceed \$10,000 for fasTest (SePRO Corporation), genetic testing of hydrilla (University of Wisconsin), herbicide application (McCloud Aquatics) on Oak Brook Park District property and other measures to support the Hydrilla Task Force in conjunction with the hydrilla treatment in the Ginger Creek watershed. The motion was seconded by D. Gorman. The motion passed unanimously.*

11. Appointment of At-Large Executive Board Members to Vacant Positions (2) – The Executive Board has appointed Brett Garelli- Assistant Director of Public Works - Environmental Services, City of Wood Dale, and Sean Reese – Deputy Director of Public Works, DuPage County, to the two vacant At-Large positions on the DRSCW Executive Board.

12. Business Items (new business)

- **Invoice Summary for Review – February 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025**

Vendor/Project	Invoice Number	Amount (\$)	Status
Andrew Ragas - Website	N/A	315.00	Paid
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	270018	950.00	Pending
MBI - NIP	2252	3,458.84	Paid
MBI - 2023 EBDR Bioassessment	2285	11,381.54	Paid
MBI - 2023 EBDR Bioassessment	2320	19,290.58	Pending
MBI - 2021 Salt Creek Bioassessment	2296	4,360.53	Paid
MBI - Klein Creek Post-Proj. Bioassessment	2294	5,911.21	Paid
MBI - Spring Brook Post-Proj. Bioassessment	2295	4,443.86	Paid
MBI - 2023 WBDR Bioassessment	2317	6,361.11	Pending
Murray and Trettel - Weather Data	0125-631	900.00	Paid
Murray and Trettel - Weather Data	0125-827	1400.00	Paid
The Conservation Fdn - Oct -Dec Exps	13475	2650.31	Paid

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V3 Companies - Fawell Dam Project	10125343	2463.21	Pending
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- **YTD Financial Reports (through March 31, 2025)** (Attachment 2)
 - **Audit** – Lauterbach & Amen began their audit on March 31, 2025.
 - **Insurance** – Payments have been made for General Liability \$400, Crime \$582, Exec. Package (Directors & Officers), \$1,031 for a total amount of \$2,013 which is under the budgeted amount of \$2200.
- **Membership Dues Payment Update (through April 22, 2025)** (Attachment 3).
- FY2025-26 agency dues invoices have been emailed to members. It is expected the associate dues invoices will be sent out in late April 2025.

13. Presentation and Workshops

- January 23, 2025 – “Balancing Environmental and Historic Preservation Goals at Fullersburg Forest Preserve”, Illinois Association of Parks Departments/Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Soaring to New Heights Conference. Deanna Doohaluk, The Conservation Foundation and Tim Pollowy, Hey and Associates.
- March 11, 2025 – Site Tour at Fullersburg Woods, Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Management Conference. Deanna Doohaluk and Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation, Tim Pollowy, Hey and Associates, and Erik Neidy, FPDDC
- June 3, 2025– Tour of Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project, La Grange League of Women Voters and Salt Creek Watershed Network.
- June 13, 2025 – Tour of Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project, The Conservation Foundation Staff and Board Retreat. September 14, 2025 – Tour of Naperville’s Springbrook Water Reclamation Center.
- Date Pending – Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal, presentation to the Village of Burr Ridge Board, Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation.

14. Other Business

- ***Get a Grip – How to Measure Friction Without Any Sensors – May 29, 2025 from 9-11 AM at the Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center. This will be an interactive, hands-on session focused on using this data to improve KPIs, safety, and service delivery. Attendees will learn how to utilize real-time friction data from connected motorist vehicles to track treatment effectiveness, reduce public complaints, and make smarter operational decisions. The session includes live tool demonstrations as well as offering practical insights for optimizing your winter road maintenance. If you have any questions or to register, please contact Hanna Miller (hmiller@theconservationfoundation.org) or Stephen McCracken (smccracken@theconservationfoundation.org).***

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15. Future Meeting Schedule (location to be determined)

April 30, 2025 from 9AM-11AM
June 25, 2025 from 9AM-11AM
August 27, 2025 from 9AM-11AM
October 29, 2025 from 9AM-11AM
December 3, 2025 from 9AM-12PM
February 25, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
April 29, 2026 from 9AM-11AM

D. Gorman made a motion to adjourn at 11:06 am. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner.