

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
General Membership Meeting
Village of Lombard
June 25, 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_xk1Js7mnQg-S6g4Z0LqHJA

President A. Underwood called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 2. Approval of the April 30, 2025 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1).** *S. Zehner made a motion to approve the April 30, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by D. Gorman. The motion passed unanimously.*

3. Presentation Abstract: 2021 Salt Creek Bioassessment

Study will review the results of the 2021 Biological and Water Quality study of the Salt Creek basin in DuPage and Cook Counties. The assessment included surveys of the basin's fish and macroinvertebrate assemblages, physical habitat, water column and sediment chemistry, and a review of the long-term dissolved oxygen and treatment plant discharge data. The presentation will look at long-term trends in chemistry, habitat and biology, how results compare to prior surveys in 2007, 2013, and 2016; it represents the final survey of the basin before the Graue Mill Dam was removed.

Presenter: Ed Rankin, Senior Research Associate, Midwest Biodiversity Institute

This presentation has been approved by the IEPA as CEUs for the Wastewater Operator and Drinking Water Operator Certifications. The IEPA course number will be provided to all attendees via email following the meeting.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERMIT ACTIVITIES

4. Special Conditions Permit Administration

- **2020/2025 Permit Negotiations** –Draft Special Condition (SC) Language that incorporated the NIP recommendations for the Wood Dale North and Elmhurst WWTP was received from the IEPA in early February 2025. The draft Naperville permit will follow once these are issued. The all the permits for the DRSCW and LDRWC will be amended. See Section 10 NIP for more information on this language and its status. MWRD plants (Egan and Hanover Park) would then be the only member permits to still have the original special conditions language (their current permits expire in 2026).
- **Additional NIP and Permit Materials** – See items in agenda 9 and 10 (Project Matrix and NIP materials)
 - PFAS Monitoring/PFAS Reduction Program Language – The draft Wood Dale North, Elmhurst, and Naperville permits include quarterly monitoring of the influent and

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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 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.

- **Additional Permit Items**

- MWRD – Under DRSCW/ MWRD’s current Agreement, MWRD is (as well as bidding and managing the construction of the Master Plan for Salt Creek) providing \$6,010,012 in funding for the project. DRSCW is committed to reimburse MWRD for construction costs above MWRD’s funding total.

- **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** – IEPA has authorized movement of the completion to December 31, 2025.
- **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 (contract value \$20,000). The scope of work in the contract with Fehr-Graham includes: 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

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3) Confirm that the prescribed field assembly generally correlates with the civil drawings by V3. Fehr-Graham has issued several recommendations which have resulted in the increase in gauge of materials used in construction, use of sheer studs instead of tabs, a review of the top grate connection and design. Other recommendations including materials (Stainless Steel V hot dipped galvanized and replacing the steel “box” with concrete) were not adopted.

- **QA/QC on Ladder Fabrication 2** – An ongoing Friday call (starting on March 21, 2025) between V3, the fabricator (Triangle Metal Fab), BK Riverfish and DRSCW (Greg and staff) has been set up to finalize details. The designer (BK Riverfish) is now recommending that the upstream removable section (and wing wall section) be removed. V3 and DRSCW are collecting data (flow and depth at the culvert upstream lip) and more closely examining the gate operation to verify if this is viable. One visit has been completed and a second is to be done at higher flows if possible.
- **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.
 - IEPA - As the project is under one acre of disturbance an IEPA ILR10 this item is not required.

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- **Next Steps**
 - Update design of upstream portion
 - Update Shop drawings to reflect change
 - Finalize IDNR permit
 - Approval of Shop Drawings
 - Projects Committee authorizes 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
- **Project Monitoring – 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. This is meant to catalog fish species present at the ladder's first stage entrance/staging area below the dam.
- **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 motor on the waterwheel is being replaced by V3/FM due to the constant noise that the motor makes while running. 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 started the week of May 26, 2025. Approximately 22,500 plants were installed as of June 11, 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 were re-paved on May 12, 2025.
- Grand Opening – A grand opening ceremony is being coordinated with MWRDGC, FPDDC, and V3. It is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 11:00 am. The Executive Board

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selected D. Streicher to speak on behalf of the DRSCW at the grand opening. Staff has added representatives from the IEPA, Sierra Club, Village of Oak Brook, and DuPage County to the invite list for the grand opening ceremony. Other names to be included should be emailed to D. Doohaluk.

- 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

Payments are expected to resume in June/July 2025 as planting/M&M activities have started on site.

▪ Project Cost Summary (as of 06/07/2025)

Original Construction Budget:	\$ 9,375,745.00
Original Contingency	\$ 468,797.25
Approved Construction Budget Changes:	\$ 101,101.72
Approved Contingency Changes	\$ (314,878.30)
Current Approved Budget	\$ 9,476,846.72
Current Contingency	\$ 153,908.95
Pending Change Orders	\$ 0.00

♦ Potential Future Change Orders

- COR-7/RFP-4: Due to field conditions, certain pools were eliminated, quantities estimated in the Cost Proposal for Unit Price items required updating, and additional plant plugs were added to the project. COR-7/RFP-4 includes the following items:
 - Reduce the quantity of Cost Proposal H (Installation of additional CA-1 Aggregate) by 267 tons (\$130/ton).

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- Reduce the quantity of Cost Proposal I (Installation of additional FA-2 Aggregate) by 133 tons (\$130/ton).
- Increase the quantity of Cost Proposal J (Installation of additional 6"-8" cobble) by 355 tons (\$230/ton).
- Increase the quantity of Cost Proposal K (Installation of additional 8" - 16" Boulders) by 355 tons (\$230/ton).
- Reduce the quantity of Cost Proposal L (Installation of additional 24" - 36" Boulders) by 400 tons (\$280/ton).
- Eliminate Pools #2, #3, and #5. Deleted scope includes soil erosion and sediment control during pool excavation, excavation, hauling, and offsite disposal.
- Increase the quantity of Cost Proposal F (Installation of plant plugs for riparian wetland conversion and riparian wetland enhancement) by 15,600 plant plugs (\$8.40/plug).

It is estimated that the change order will result in a credit to the contract of \$156,995.93. This COR/RFP is still in the MWRD review process and should be completed soon.

- **National Register of Historic Places Nomination** – A contract with McGuire Igleski 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.
 - **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.
 - **RestoreSaltCreek.org** – As substantial completion has been met, the DRSCW maintained project website at RestoreSaltCreek.org has been removed and archived.

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Spring Brook Phase II

- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** -- 2025 will be Year 5 of the Post-Project monitoring for Spring Brook Phase 2. A contract with MBI not to exceed \$14,280 for the post-project monitoring has been signed.
- **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 received and bids have been received with a contract award expected soon. 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 virtually presented the Conceptual Design 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 made additional contacts with ComEd staff at the WWM conference in May 2025 and will follow up with them to see if they can help facilitate communications on the project. Several workgroup members are also working to move the project forward.
 - ComEd Environmental Due Diligence Form – In October 2023 an Environmental Due Diligence Form was submitted to ComEd at their request. It was resupplied mid-January. It has now been sent to additional staff at ComEd for their feedback and input on the project.
- **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 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. Since it is uncertain that any Federal monies for the project will be available in the next few years staff will proceed with project design using the existing DRSCW budget.
 - **Letters of Support** – 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

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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. A vegetation management site walkthrough was conducted on June 20, 2025 and it was determined that a small amount of supplement plugs will be planted in 2025.
 - **Payment** – Payments totaling \$1,100,000 have been made to Carol Stream for the Project (Total of Grant).
- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** – A contract for \$14,270 for the 2025 post-project biological and habitat sampling at the Klein Creek Streambank Stabilization Project has been signed.

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 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 need to be identified (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

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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 when 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/>
- **Ongoing Discussions on the NIP**
 - IEPA has 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 response to their general letter) and the last were 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 in two documents (background and comments). In these comments, the EAGs advocate for IEPA to issue a 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 that 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 has drafted comments to both the December 2024 and April 2025 EAG comment letters and submitted the response via email to the IEPA on June 10, 2025. *On June 23, 2025, staff submitted a response letter to the third set of*

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comments (dated April 4, 2025) submitted by the EAGs to the IEPA which focused on the draft permit language.

The IEPA has a meeting planned with A. Ettinger on 06/24/2025 to discuss a path forward with the DRSCW permits (along with the other 3 draft permits). Staff has reiterated with the IEPA that the DRSCW does not want to negotiate on the language included in the draft permit.

Staff is working on a non-technical article on additional costs of NIP implementation such those associated with chemical treatment (mining, transportation, sludge disposal, energy costs, etc.). This article will be shared with the Sierra Club.

- **F. Andes** – The DRSCW had a \$3,000 contract with F. Andes in 2024 that was paid out in November 2024 at \$3,757.50. F. Andes continued to work on DRSCW work including reviewing the EAG response letter. The Executive Board has approved a contract extension not to exceed \$6,000 to cover the additional review work preformed by F. Andes.
- **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.
 - LDRWC has agreed to reimburse the DRSCW for ¼ of the most recent contract extension (\$2,690) with TetraTech as the scope of services (completion of the modeling reports and assistance with the NIP response letters) are beneficial to LDRWC special condition permit holders and related to the LDRWC work.
- **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.

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- 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 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>
 - **Other Permits with NARP Language** – IAWA has received the IEPA draft NARP/NIP permit language for the DRSCW, Fox River Study Group and two individual WWTPs – Kishwaukee and Kankakee. Based on discussions at IAWA, Kankakee will be asking the IEPA for the NARP language to be removed from their future permits because the downstream instream TP concentration is already below the recommended NSAC target for TP; and there is no listed impairment. Kishwaukee will also be asking for the NARP language to be removed from their future permits. IAWA has provided written comments on this draft language to the IEPA (5/28/2025). The comments will also be shared with the EAGs. The IAWA comment letter dated 5/28/2025 has been shared with the Negotiations Team and staff will forward the IAWA comment letter to the Executive Board.
 - ◆ Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) – The DRWW and their consultant, Geosyntec, are working on a response to comments received from the EAGs on their NARP.
- 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

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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 Bioassessment** – The final 2020 West Branch Bioassessment Report has been received from MBI and posted to website.
- **Salt Creek Bioassessment** – 2021 Draft report is under development (data on principal outputs has already been supplied).
 - 2025 Bioassessment – Water chemistry sampling for the 2025 Salt Creek bioassessment began the week of June 2, 2025. Fish sampling is tentatively scheduled for the end of July 2025.
- **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 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 chosen to purchase the new sondes from Eureka. A formal purchase order has been requested from Eureka to move forward with the purchase. Item will be sent to the Board before an order is placed. MBI is ordering two sondes as part of the packet.

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- ✓ *D. Streicher made a motion to authorize staff to execute the purchase of data sondes with Solinst Eureka with a not to exceed value of \$126,521.08. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed unanimously.*

9. Chlorides

- **Workshops** – Dates have been confirmed for the Fall 2025 workshops. Public Roads – In-Person: Sept. 16, Sept. 23 and Sept. 30; Public Roads – Virtual: Sept. 25, Oct. 7, Nov. 12. Parking Lots & Sidewalks - All Virtual: Oct. 2, Oct. 14, and Nov. 13. In addition, dates have been set for Calibration Workshops for Force America equipment: Nov. 4 (Lake County), Nov. 5 (Cook County DOT), and Nov. 6 (DuPage DOT). A Save-the-Date flyer has been sent to the members.
- **Get a Grip Workshop** was held on 5/29/2025 and attended by 6 DRSCW members. Workshop was with NIRA Dynamics on their friction mapping software. Thanks to ACDC Addison for hosting.
- **Salt Management Questionnaire** – The questionnaire has been updated based on feedback from the Chloride Committee and has gone back out for final review.
- **BMP and Loading analysis** – The final report is under review.
- **SB2138 (liability for contractors)** – No update.
- **Salt Smart Collaborative**– J. Hammer and S. McCracken are members of the Salt Smart Collaborative Steering Committee. All Salt Smart Collaborative information can be found at SaltSmart.org
 - 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** – No update.
- **ILR00 and Chlorides** – No update.
- **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** – Per the IEPA, the effective date of the updated permit is expected to be August 1, 2025. The IEPA expects to post the permit a few weeks in advance of this date so that communities are prepared to start implementation on the effective date.

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- **DRSCW MS4 Activities Report** – A new DRSCW 2024-25 MS4 Activities report was emailed to all DRSCW members who hold a MS4 permit on May 9, 2025.
- **Newsletter** – Based on progress on the NIPs the new newsletter will be available summer 2025 and will report on the NIP permits and implementation.
- **Bacteria on Salt Creek** – No colonies were observed during summer 2024. Staff will conduct site visits during the Summer of 2025 to confirm that the problem has been resolved.
- **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. To date, *three* treatments of Sonar One have been applied in the watershed – April 23/24, 2025, May 20/21, 2025 *and June 23, 2025*. Additionally, the DRSCW has collected one fasTEST to document the concentrations of SonarOne in the watershed on May 9, 2025 with a second round of testing conducted on June 6, 2025. The sampling plan includes the collection of 6 locations (3 composite samples (Ginger and Briarwood Lakes and Lake Ed/Lake Ed) and 3 grab samples). Sonar One has been purchased by IDNR using funds from the Hydrilla Task Force and applied by IDNR, IEPA, and FPDDC staff. McCloud Aquatics is also doing application on Oak Brook Park District property and being paid for by the DRSCW. To date the DRSCW has spent \$2,605.39 (of the \$10,000 approved budget) on fasTesting and McCloud Aquatic invoices. A plant survey of the Ginger Creek watershed is being planned for the end of June/beginning of July with an intensive vegetation survey schedule for Fall 2025.

11. Business Items (new business)

Invoice Summary for Review – April 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025

Vendor/Project	Invoice Number	Amount (\$)	Status
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	271059	1,258.00	Pending
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	270018	950.00	Paid
Fehr Graham - Fawell	130952	1,503.50	Pending
First Insurance - Directors & Officers	2025-26	1,031.00	Paid
Hartford Insurance - Crime	2025-26	582.00	Paid
Hey & Assoc – Fullersburg Dam	20036	1066.88	Paid
MBI - 2023 EBDR Bioassessment	2320	19,290.58	Paid
MBI - 2020 WBDR Bioassessment	2317	6,361.11	Paid
McCloud Aquatics - Hydrilla treatment	108357-1&2	900.00	Paid
Murray and Trettel - Snowfall data - 6 locations	0525-304	3,000.00	Pending
Murray and Trettel - Snowfall data, 2008-2010	0525-305	900.00	Pending

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Murray and Trettel - Certified Regional data	0525-675	1,400.00	Pending
Solest Eureka - Probe Maintenance (re-issued)	3 invoices	1,253.58	Paid
TetraTech - QUAL2kw	52419302	7,548.00	Pending
V3 Companies - Fawell Dam Project	10125343	2,463.21	Paid
West Bend Insurance - General Liability	2025-26	400.00	Paid

- **YTD Financial Reports (through May 31, 2025)** (Attachment 2)
 - **Audit** – The audit has been reviewed and questions submitted to Lauterbach & Amen.
- **Membership Dues Payment Update (through June 18, 2025)** (Attachment 3).

12. TCF Staffing Contract – The TCF contract for 2025-26 is attached (Attachment 4). The contract reflects a 4% increase in staff salary and a 2% increase in fixed costs which are more than offset by staff sharing with other watershed groups.

- ✓ *L. Cox made a motion to approve the 2025-26 TCF Staffing Contract, amended to include the increased salary to \$286,369.52. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed with one abstention (D. Gorman).*

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.
- *October 8, 2025 – Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) Noon Network– field tour of Fullersburg Dam removal in Oakbrook, DuPage County. Hosts Erik Neidy, DuPage County Forest Preserve District, Deanna Doohaluk, Stephen McCracken, DuPage River/Salt Creek Work Group, Tim Pollowy, Hey and Associates, Inc.*
- Date Pending – Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal, presentation to the Village of Burr Ridge Board, Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation.

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14. Other Business

- *S. Zehner expressed his frustration with the delay of incorporating the NIP recommendation into the permits given the success the DRSCW has shown since its establishment in 2004. He also expressed his thanks to the staff and Negotiations Team for their continued talks with the IEPA and the EAGs.*

15. Future Meeting Schedule (location to be determined)

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
June 24, 2026 from 9AM-11AM

D. Gorman made a motion to adjourn at 10:58am. The motion was seconded by G. Ulreich.