

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
General Membership Meeting
Village of Lombard
October 29, 2025
Agenda**

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_wxJ9tMn-RgKCTyjZaai78g

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the August 27, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1).

3. How Can Salt Smart Assist with Chloride Related Permit Obligations

The new MS4 permit, the 2004 Chloride TMDLs, and the DRSCW Special Conditions all call for the adoption of best management practices to every aspect of winter deicing, and reductions in the discharge of chloride into area waterways. To assist members in achieving these objectives, the Salt Smart Collaborative, of which DRSCW is a part, has developed a wide range of outreach materials, volunteer programs, and trainings. The materials are relevant to all involved in winter management, from public works front line staff to private contractors to residents. These resources are available to all workgroup members to support education and outreach efforts this winter and provide annual training opportunities for your staff and outreach materials to residents. The presentation will review the materials and how they might be used as we move towards the winter season.

Presenter: Hanna Miller, Watershed Project Manager, The Conservation Foundation

4. DRSCW Special Conditions Projects Phase 2

NIP language is being included in recently released draft permits. A central element of the NIP Special Conditions, as submitted for consideration, is the continuation of physical restoration projects throughout the watersheds. The goal of these projects is to improve the fish and macroinvertebrate biodiversity of the rivers as measured by Index of Biological Integrity scores. These scores are the principle measure of a river's compliance with the Clean Water Act, and our analysis and experience are that physical restoration is often the more efficient means of improving them. The DRSCW is nearing the end of its current slate of highly successful projects and new projects need to be identified to continue to satisfy our NPDES permit requirements. DRSCW staff will be presenting the method, data and tools to be used by the Projects Committee to determine the next generation of physical restoration projects out to 2035.

Presenter: Alex Handel, Environmental Scientist, The Conservation Foundation

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SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERMIT ACTIVITIES

5. Special Conditions Permit Administration

- **2020/2025 Permit Negotiations** – Staff has received the 15-day permits from Wood Dale North and Elmhurst and distributed it to the negotiations team. The draft Naperville permit will follow once these are issued. See NIP Section 8 for more information on this language and permit status.
- **Additional NIP and Permit Materials** – See items in agenda # 7 and 8 (Project Matrix and NIP materials)
 - PFAS Monitoring/PFAS Reduction Program Language – The draft Wood Dale North, Elmhurst, and Naperville permits includes 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 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.

6. 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** – The permit currently includes a completion date for this project of December 31, 2025. Staff will be submitting a letter to B. Fleming with the Permits Section requesting to extend this date to December 31, 2027. It should be noted that draft 15-day

permits issued to Wood Dale North and Elmhurst include a completion date of December 31, 2026 for this project (moved to December 31, 2027 in suggested edits).

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- **Design and Fabrication** – Through to mid-September we have been hosting weekly calls between BK Riverfish, the fabricator, V3 and the DRSCW to discuss ongoing design issues. The suspected cost overrun reported at last meeting has been resolved and project is back on budget. A check for \$100,000 has been sent to BK Riverfish for material purchase and start fabrication.
- **QA/QC on Ladder Fabrication 1** – Fehr-Graham’s review of the shop drawings for the proposed Kynard Alternating Side-Baffle Fishway (KASBF) to be installed at Fawell Dam is complete. 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 on the “west wall”, 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** – Based on a recommendation from the designer (BK Riverfish) and additional “upstream lip” flow data gathered by V3 and DRSCW, the upstream portion “C” (removable section and wing wall section) have be removed from the final design. The fish net final design is also underway.
- **Coordination with DC SWM** – A meeting was held with DC SWM on Thursday, August 21, 2025 to discuss the final design of the fish ladder system and the bid process for ladder installation. Attention is turning the compiling the bid packet for the installer selection process.
- **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

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- 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 for this item is not required.
- **Next Steps** (some steps are run concurrently)
 - Finalize IDNR permit
 - Preparation of bid documents (plans and specs)
 - 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**
- **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 for the Spring 2025 season is complete. Watering is on-going as needed.
 - **Permit Related Activities**—2025 will be the first year of M&M reporting to the ACOE. A report will be submitted to the ACOE by December 31, 2025.
- **Grand Opening** – A grand opening ceremony coordinated with MWRDGC, FPDDC, and V3 was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 11:00 am. D. Streicher spoke on behalf of the DRSCW.

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- 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 Billed by V3 to date (08/06/2025): \$8,364,149.97 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
 - Pay Estimate 16 (07/07/2025): \$505,459.22

Total paid by MWRD to date (08/06/2025) is \$7,945,942.45, (\$8,364,149.97 billed and 418,207.52 retainage).

- 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).
 - Reduce the quantity of Cost Proposal I (Installation of additional FA-2 Aggregate) by 133 tons (\$130/ton).

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- 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. A draft of the nomination was received on August 1, 2025. MIA was hoping to present the nomination to the October IHSAC meeting; however, SHPO is still reviewing the draft nomination report. Since IHSAC only meets three times per year, it appears this process will not be completed by December 2025. The next opportunity for MIA to present the nomination is uncertain as there is no set schedule for IHSAC meetings.
- **Chicago Wilderness Force of Nature Award** – CW awarded the Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods a 2025 Force of Nature Award. The DRSCW will receive the award at the CWA banquet on October 22, 2025. The FPDDC and MWRDGC were recognized as project partners.
- **Post-Project Monitoring**
 - **2025 Post-Post Project Monitoring** – Year 1 of Post-Project Monitoring will be coordinated with the Salt Creek Bioassessment. The first pass of fish sampling was conducted on July 28, 2025. Eight species previously only observed below the dam were found within, or upstream of, the project footprint (the dam's former location). These are: northern pike, horneyhead chub, emerald shiner, blackside darter, smallmouth bass, log perch, central stoneroller, and rosyface shiner. Additionally, large populations of spotted suckers were found. The second pass of fish sampling was conducted on September 18, 2025. Macroinvertebrate sampling has been completed.
 - **Press Releases**
 - The FPDDC released a press release and video on the fish sampling results.

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https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/news-releases/salt-creek-fish-survey?fbclid=IwY2xjawMJxFBleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETfpY0dBdEpHSVN4cGU1MW9SAR6z5J-hJTdm6BmbypX8WGCotz8HmLjE3QlsrfM_kziM0HEYAGV2eZewl50rlw_aem_qSZqvPmYd-Dn5-i4nhjaEQ and
<https://www.facebook.com/DuPageForest/videos/2031658340919446>

- MWRD has also released a press release on the fish sampling results:
https://mwrdd.org/news/fish-return-salt-creek-after-graue-mill-dam-removal-forest-preserve-district-dupage-county?fbclid=IwY2xjawMQV1xleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETfJR21rWEIdmlrTUxkMk5OAR7AF-9643WN9WgxVRqMpfHxKX96wXCMm_NQOtHyFXZs-J_rfB56QURdPBYOQ_aem_h6XU4Y3QnvMitDETL-L-qQ
- **Post Construction Public Opinion Research** – Staff reached out to Stonefly Strategies and began discussing options and timing for the Post-Project survey options to see if public opinion on the project has changed now that the project has been constructed. The Executive Board is reviewing the proposal submitted by Stonefly Strategies.
- **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

- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** -- Biological monitoring has been completed for the year.
- **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 project includes the replacement of the bridge and riparian, instream and streambank enhancement. Construction on the project started in late July 2025. The DRSCW will investigate a future post-project monitoring strategy for Phase 3.

Lower East Branch Stream Enhancement Project

- **Extension Letter** – The permit currently includes a completion date for this project of December 31, 2025. Staff will be submitting a letter to B. Fleming with the Permits Section requesting to extend this date to December 31, 2028. It should be noted that draft 15-day permits issued to Wood Dale North and Elmhurst include a completion date of December 31, 2028 for this 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.
- **Final Design and Permitting**

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- **Interfluve Contract** – The original contract with Interfluve for the Lower East Branch Stream Enhancement Project with a not to exceed value of \$325,353.00 was signed in August 2021. To date approximately \$148,831.60 has been billed to the contract and completed tasks include the site survey, wetland delineation, preparation of the conceptual design report, and contract management. Due to the project delay, Staff asked Interfluve to update their contract pricing to reflect their current billing rates and estimate time it will take to complete the design, permitting, and preparation of a bid package for the project. The proposed 2025 contract has a not to exceed value of \$250,300.00. If approved, the new contract will reflect an increase in cost of \$73, 778.60 from the original contract \$148,831.60 (billed to date) + \$250,300 (2025 contract) = \$399,131.60 (total contract value with Interfluve). The FY2025-26 Budget includes \$200,000 for this contract so any additional funds will need to be allocated from Projects Contingency or found elsewhere in the budget. Staff presented this contract change to the Projects Committee Chair on October 2, 2025 and G. Ulreich recommended moving forward with asking the Executive Board and General Membership for their approval with the contract increase. The Executive Board approved presenting the contract extension to the General Membership at their October 29, 2025 meeting and asked that the General Membership provide input on whether the additional \$50,300 for the increase should be allocated from the \$100,000 contingency fund or be obtained by potentially reducing amount allocated for the construction of the project.
 - ✓ *A motion is needed to approve the amended Interfluve contract with a not to exceed value of \$399,131,.60 which is a \$73,778.60 increase from the current contract signed with Interfluve. The source of the additional funds should be included in the motion.*
- **Lower East Branch Stakeholder Group** – The Lower East Branch Stakeholder Group, including members from the landowners in the project area and members of the DRSCW Projects Committee, has reconvened. The Stakeholder Group met on September 10, 2025 to discuss the project and next steps. Members include the Village of Bolingbrook, Bolingbrook Park District, City of Naperville, Naperville Park District, Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC), ComEd, and the DRSCW Projects Committee. The Stakeholder Group will continue to meet on a regular basis during the design and construction phase of the Project.
 - Forest Preserve District of DuPage County – The FPDDC (D. Hebreard) has expressed interest in possibly collaborating with the DRSCW on this Project so that we can extend the project into DuPage County (Reach 1: Hobson Road to Royce Road within the Green Valley Forest Preserve). Staff will follow up with President Hebreard to discuss options.
 - ComEd –Staff had a meeting on July 28, 2025 with A. Flansburg with Stantec who works with ComEd to discuss the project and see how Stantec can assist the DRSCW with

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communication with ComEd. A follow-up meeting with A. Flansburg, DRSCW staff and ComEd's Realty and Environmental Divisions staff was held on August 7, 2025. Staff was given some guidance on ComEd's requirements in regards to the high voltage power lines and other ComEd structures located within the potential project site such as no grading underneath high voltage power lines and no grading within 15 feet of any ComEd structure (towers, poles, etc.). While ComEd cannot provide official approval to the project without final engineering, once the Transmission Engineer has an opportunity to review the concept plans, they hope to issue a letter of no objection to

the general project concept at which point staff would feel comfortable proceeding with the final project design.

- 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 2025, 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.
- **Design Engineering and Hydraulic Modeling**
- **Modeling** – Interfluve is proposing to continue developing the one-dimensional (1-D) and two-dimensional (2-D) HEC-RAS hydraulic models that they set-up during the preliminary design phase. The 1-D model is used to support the flood hydraulic analysis while the 2-D model is used to assess the hydraulic conditions for the project engineering and ecological design. Modeling work will begin once an updated contract is signed.
 - **Project Design** – The Project is going to be focused on the Lower East Branch between Royce Road and Washington St/Weber Road. The river has been broken into 3 reaches in this area in the preliminary design report. Reach 1 is located in DuPage County primarily within the Green Valley Forest Preserve and is not currently included in the Project due to funding.
 - **Reach 2: Royce Road to east boundary of Trout Farm Park:** Small areas of improvements include riparian enhancements, installation of woody debris for bank stabilization, and adding boulders/substrate on existing riffles.
 - **Reach 3: Trout Farm Park to Whalon Lake:** Relocation of the channel back into floodplain, riparian enhancements, placement of a mid-channel log jam, and installation of woody debris for bank stabilization.
 - The FPDWC has recently gained ownership of Trout Farm Park which may allow for some additional changes to the channel in the area. Staff is coordinating a meeting between the FPDWC and Interfluve to discuss options.
 - **Reach 4: Whalon Lake to Washington St/Weber Road:** Small areas of improvements include riparian enhancements, installation of woody debris for bank

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stabilization, placement of grade control structures to isolated adjacent ponds from river, and adding boulders/substrate on existing riffles.

- **Permitting**
 - **ACOE** – A request for a pre-project meeting has been submitted to the ACOE. Additionally, the 2021 wetland delineation report has been submitted for a jurisdictional determination.
- **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. Grant requires a 35% match; cash, land costs, and in-kind services can be used as match. Federal monies for the project are not expected to be available in the next few years so staff are proceeding 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 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.
- **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. Supplemental plug planting was completed. An Eagle Scout is building a pergola near the trail the Carol Stream WWTP within the project footprint.
 - **Payment** – Payments totaling \$1,100,000 have been made to Carol Stream for the Project (Total of Grant).
- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** – Biological monitoring at the site has been completed for the year.

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)

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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 Conditions or NIP funds. The draft Matrix was presented to the Projects Committee at their July 9, 2025 virtual meeting. After some minor updates to the database, the database will be shared with the Projects Committee via email. After a review period, 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 proposed exploring 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. Both documents were

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forwarded to the DRSCW/LDRWC Negotiations Team. In these comments, the EAGs advocate for IEPA to issue a Time Limited water quality standard (TLWQS) (aka a variance) for dissolved oxygen (DO) and that each workgroup be given additional time to identify a TP limit that will prevent DO and nuisance algae growth violations. Staff has drafted comments to all of the comment letters.

The IEPA had a meeting 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.

S. McCracken communicated with A. Ettinger via email and a phone call in late July 2025. There is no change in A. Ettinger's stance on how the IEPA should proceed in future permit conditions and he is advocating for the IEPA to issue a TLWQS for DO.

Staff drafted a letter template that was sent via email on August 7, 2025 to seven Special Condition holders whose current permit will not expire before they would need to start taking measures to meet a 1 mg/L TP limit. The letter template can be used to send a letter to the IEPA asking for the member's permit to be reopened and include the NIP recommendations.

The IEPA released the 15-day permits to Kankakee and Kishwaukee permits in early September 2025. Staff has reviewed the permit issued to Kishwaukee and the IEPA did not include any references to variances in the permit nor cover letter.

The 15-day draft permits to Wood Dale and Elmhurst have been received and are under review by the negotiations Team, staff and MWRD legal. The Executive Board reviewed the Cover Letter and Special Condition 22 of the City of Wood Dale – North STP. Staff reviewed the proposed changes that the DRSCW will be submitting to the IEPA. MWRD Legal Staff has also provided feedback on the cover letter and permit language. F. Andes reviewing and providing revisions to the “re-opener” language in both the cover sheet and the permit (Special Condition 22 H). The updated language provided by F. Andes will be shared with the Executive Board and Negotiations Team for their review. Once consensus is obtained from the Executive Board and Negotiations, staff will share the comments with Elmhurst and Wood Dale – North to forward to the IEPA. Once the IEPA incorporates the comments into the permits, the drafts will be shared with A. Ettinger prior to the permits being issued for public notice.

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As directed by the Board, Staff calculated an estimate of the WTPP design costs that would be spent in 2025-26 to reach a TP effluent limit of 1 mg/L. This number along with the total of 2026 project assessments dollars was shared with the IEPA to demonstrate the amount of dollars that will be spent in lieu of in-stream improvements if the NIP language is not immediately forth coming.

- **F. Andes** – The Executive Board has authorized a contract for the review of the draft Wood Dale-North and Elmhurst proposal by F. Andes as discussed above.
- **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 one quarter (\$2,690) of the most recent contract extension with TetraTech as the scope of services (completion of the modeling reports and assistance with the NIP response letters) was beneficial to LDRWC special condition permit holders and related to the LDWRC work.
- **IPS Tool Update**
 - Final Report – The final report is complete and has been posted on the website at: <https://drscw.org/activities/stressors-analysis/>
 - Power BI Training – Staff has received an updated cost proposal for Power BI training from MBI and the training is tentatively scheduled for early 2026. Staff will look into other potential vendors to develop and finalize the Power BI database once MBI QA/QCs the data.
 - Level of Rigor Analysis – No update at this time.
- **Additional NIP Tasks**
 - Development of Relationships and Thresholds for Continuous DO variables, nutrients, and biological Attributes in NE Illinois IPS – Report has been finalized and placed on website.
- **Trading Analysis**
 - Point Source (PS) to PS Trading – No update.
 - Stream Crediting Trading – No update.

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- USEPA National Water Quality Trading Policy – No update.
- **Related to Nutrient Trading** – As they are completed, please submit PDOPs and FSs to DRSCW staff.
- **NSAC Update** – The NSAC recommendations are not foreseen as being on the IPCB agenda for rulemaking in 2022.
- **Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS)** – The 2025 NLRS Conference is scheduled for November 5, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois
 - The DRSCW submitted their update for IL NLRS Biennial Report.
- **Other NARPs (NIPS)** – Per the IEPA, 27 NARPs were submitted by 12/31/2023 representing 22 individual facilities and 5 watershed groups. Eight (8) facilities failed to submit their NARPs by their required deadline (12/31/2023). An additional 41 NARPs were submitted at the end of 2024. Eleven (11) additional NARPs were due in 2024 but not submitted. In addition to the DRSCW permits, the IEPA is working on issuing updating permits that incorporate NARP language into the permits of one other watershed group and 2 individual facilities.
 - **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>
 - EAG or Other Comments on NARPs – Staff have asked that if the IEPA receives any comments on the DRSCW/LDRWC NIP, that the comments be provided directly to the DRSCW/LDRWC.
 - **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. The 15-day public notice permits for the Kishwaukee and Kankakee were released by the IEPA in early September 2025. Staff has reviewed the permit issued to Kishwaukee and the IEPA did not include any references to variances in the permit nor cover letter.
 - ◆ Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) – The DRWW and their consultant, Geosyntec, submitted a response to comments received from the EAGs on their NARP.

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- 7. Springfield Regulatory and Legislative Updates** – Communication with the IEPA staff has been ongoing via email and phone regarding the incorporation of the NIP recommendations into NPDES permits. See Section 6 for more details.

NON-SPECIAL CONDITION PERMIT ACTIVITIES

8. Bioassessment Program

- **East Branch Bioassessment**
 - 2019 Bioassessment – Report is finalized.
 - 2023 Bioassessment – MBI is working on preparing the report (data already 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 review by staff.
 - 2025 Bioassessment – Water chemistry sampling for the 2025 Salt Creek bioassessment has started. The majority of the habitat, fish, and macro sampling is complete. A few second passes remain and will be completed by the second week of October. Both expanded DO sampling and fecal coliform sampling has been completed.
- **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

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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** – Seventeen Eureka sondes have been purchased and delivered. As part of the deal MBI ordered two sondes for their use.

9. Chlorides

- **Workshops** – Chloride Workshops are on-going. To date, we have held three in person Public Roads workshops (Sept. 16, Sept. 23 and Sept. 30), two virtual Public Road workshops (Sep. 25 and Oct. 7), and two Parking Lots & Sidewalks workshops (Oct. 2 and Oct. 14). Still to come are one virtual Public Roads Workshop (Nov. 12) and one virtual Parking Lots & Sidewalks workshop (Nov. 13). In addition, the Calibration Workshops for Force America equipment will be held on Nov. 4 (Lake County), Nov. 5 (Cook County DOTH), and Nov. 6 (DuPage DOT).
- **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 chloride monitoring effort.
- **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** – No update

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10. Other Activities

- **MS4 Permit Update** – On July 8, 2025, the IEPA released the updated the MS4 permit which became effective on August 1, 2025. The new permit can be found at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/forms/water-permits/storm-water/ms4.html>.
- **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 Fall/Winter 2025 and will report on the NIP permits and implementation.
- **Bacteria on Salt Creek** – No colonies were observed during summer 2025.
- **Hydrilla on Ginger Creek (Salt Creek watersheds)** – To date this year, five treatments of Sonar One have been applied in the watershed – April 23/24, May 20/21, June 23, July 14, and August 25. Additionally, the DRSCW has collected four fasTEST to document the concentrations of SonarOne in the watershed on May 9, June 6, July 11, and August 12, 2025. The fifth and final SonarOne sampling was conducted on October 6, 2025. The sampling plan includes the collection of 6 locations (3 composite samples at Ginger and Briarwood Lakes and Lake Ed and 3 grab samples). The majority of the Sonar One has been purchased by IDNR using funds from the Hydrilla Task Force and applied by IDNR, IEPA, and FPDDC staff. However, an additional 80 lbs of SonarOne was purchased by the DRSCW in July 2025 (for a cost of \$3,086.60). McCloud Aquatics is also doing application on Oak Brook Park District property which is being paid for by the DRSCW. To date the DRSCW has spent \$8,777.74 (of our \$10,000 approved budget). A plant survey of the Ginger Creek watershed was conducted on August 28, 2025 and September 15, 2025. No hydrilla was found during the vegetation survey.

11. Business Items (new business)

Invoice Summary for Review – August 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025

Vendor/Project	Invoice Number	Amount (\$)	Status
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	271059	1,258.00	Approved
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	273203	286.00	Approved
BK Riverfish - Fawell Dam Fish Latter	Pmt #3	100,000.00	Paid
ETP Labs - Salt Creek Fecal Coliform Sampling	4 invoices	1,225.00	Paid
Fehr Graham - Fawell	132352	1,895.75	Paid
Fehr Graham - Fawell	133132	8,885.25	Paid
Fehr Graham - Fawell	133830	488.00	Approved
First Environmental Labs - Salt Creek Chemistry	Batch 3-5	43,011.50	Approved
First Environmental Labs - Salt Creek Chemistry	Batch 6-11	20,439.00	Pending
Lauterbach & Amen - 2024-25 Final Audit Pmt	106787	2,000.00	Paid
MBI - Klein Creek	2340	7,264.59	Paid
MBI - Spring Brook	2341	8,428.26	Paid
MBI - NARP Support	2353	7,130.62	Pending

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MBI - 2025 Salt Creek Bioassessment	2359	13,793.79	Pending
Ragas Media - Website Programming & Staging	July 2025 Invoice	480.00	Paid
Solinst Eureka - Purchase of 17 Sondes	526	113,478.07	Paid
Solinst Eureka - Sonde Repair	527	7,129.18	Pending
The Conservation Foundation	13606	4,530.33	Approved
The Conservation Foundation - Interns, May/June	13629	7,065.49	Pending
The Conservation Foundation - Interns, July/Aug	13630	9003.79	Pending

- **YTD Financial Reports (through September 30, 2025)** (Attachment 2)
 - Tax Return has been approved by the Executive Board.
 - The Executive Board has authorized the transfer of the DRSCW accounts from Itasca Bank to Naperville Bank. Signatories on the accounts will remain the same.
- **Membership Dues Payment Update (through October 22, 2025)** (Attachment 3)
 - Staff is developing a plan to reach out to MS4 communities, especially those in Cook County and Townships that have MS4 permits who are not members of the DRSCW, to encourage them to consider joining the DRSCW as we can assist with the implementation of the requirements of the new MS4 permit

12. Presentation and Workshops

- June 3, 2025– Tour of Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project, La Grange League of Women Voters and Salt Creek Watershed Network. Presenters: Deanna Doohaluk, Stephen McCracken, DuPage River/Salt Creek Work Group
- June 13, 2025 – Tour of Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project, The Conservation Foundation Staff and Board Retreat. Presenters: Deanna Doohaluk, Stephen McCracken, DuPage River/Salt Creek Work Group
- October 7, 2025 – Illinois Institute of Technology Presentation and round table discussion with students on water quality and surface water management, Stephen McCracken.
- 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.
- October 23, 2025 – IPRA Recognized Project Presentation, Master Plan at Fullersburg Woods, Virtual, Stephen McCracken (filling in for Eric Neidy).
- February 22-25, 2026 – Plenary Session, Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest, Presenters: Stephen McCracken, DuPage River/Salt Creek Work Group

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13. Other Business

- **OWOW Nutrient Strategy Technical Assistance** – G. Azevedo with the USEPA Region V reached out to staff about a potential USEPA grant opportunity for technical assistance with nutrient related projects. The grants are for up to \$50,000, work would need to be completed by June 30, 2026, no new data should be needed to be collected to complete the project, and the outside contractor on the grant is Tetrattech. This grant would have to be administrated through the IEPA so G. Azevedo encouraged us to reach out to the IEPA to see if they would be interested in submitting a project for Illinois. Staff contacted C. Davis with the IEPA and she was interested in working with us to submit a proposal. Staff drafted and submitted two proposals to the IEPA: 1) a project to evaluate the viability of a TP trading system between WWTP in one or more of the four basins covered by the NIP and 2) a study to evaluate the potential causes for the cool weather DO lows observed in April/May. The IEPA submitted both projects suggested by DRSCW before the grant deadline of October 3, 2025.
- **Walder Foundation** – Staff is working with staff with the Field Museum and a Post-Doc student to submit a proposal to the Walder Foundation for funding of a project that would use eDNA (the topic from our August General Membership Meeting presentation) to track fish distribution in the DuPage River system and Salt Creek following the removals of dams at Hammel Woods (Shorewood, DuPage River), Oak Meadows (Wood Dale, Salt Creek), and Fullersburg Woods (Oak Brook, Salt Creek) and the installation of the fish passage system at the Fawell Dam (Naperville, West Branch DuPage River).

14. Future Meeting Schedule (location to be determined)

December 3, 2025 from 9AM-11AM
February 25, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
April 29, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
June 24, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
August 26, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
October 28, 2026 from 9AM-11AM