

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Village of Lombard Community Room  
255 E. Wilson Avenue, Lombard, Illinois  
February 26, 2025

Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

**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\\_QeD4YXBhSqOZsE4Q-kcKhw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QeD4YXBhSqOZsE4Q-kcKhw)

*President Gorman called the meeting to order at 9:03pm.*

**9:00-9:10 Welcome, Introductory Remarks**

Dave Gorman – DRSCW President & Asst. Director, Village of Lombard Public Works

**9:10-10:00 Annual Business Meeting**

- **Approval of the December 4, 2024 meeting minutes** (Attachment 1). *J. Lomax made a motion to approve the December 4, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed unanimously.*
  
- **Slate of officers and Members-at-Large FYE 2025 (for approval at Annual Meeting)**
  - President – Amy Underwood, President
  - Vice President – Matt Streicher, Vice President
  - Secretary/Treasurer – Pinakin Desai, MWRD
  - At Large – Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County SWM
  - At Large – Ryan Hayden, Village Addison
  - At Large – Steve Zehner, Robinson Engineering, Inc.
  - At Large – Vacant
  - At Large – Vacant
  
- ✓ *J. Hubsy made a motion to approve the slate of nominees as presented. The motion was seconded by T. Minarik. The motion passed unanimously.*
  
- **Appointment of Committee Chairpersons by Incoming President**
  - Projects Committee Chairperson – Greg Ulreich, Village of Carol Stream
  - Monitoring Committee Chairperson – Jennifer Hammer, The Conservation Foundation
  - East Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – Larry Cox, Downers Grove Sanitary District
  - West Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – Erik Neidy, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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- Salt Creek Watershed Committee Chairperson – Dennis Streicher, Sierra Club – River Prairie Group
  - A. *Underwood appointed the Committee Chairpersons as presented for FY2025-26.*

- **Adoption of FY 2025-26 Budget**

- Approval of the FY 25-26 Annual Dues Schedule and Annual Dues by Agency (Attachment 2). Annual dues for all Agency, Associate and Individual members will increase by 3%
  - ✓ *J. Hammer made motion to approve the Dues Schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed unanimously.*
- POTW Agency member project assessments related to the NPDES special conditions remain on schedule. FY 25-26 Assessments reflect year three of the three-year permit extension and are set out in an MOU between the relevant agency and the DRSCW.
- Review and approval of the FY 2025-26 Budget (Attachment 3 – One-Page Budget Summary, see also page 8 of budget and four-year plan document).
  - ✓ *L. Cox made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed unanimously.*
- Presentation and discussion of the detailed Four-Year Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 to 2029-2030:
  - ✓ *S. Zehner made a motion to post the One-Year Budget and Four-Year Financial Plan for informational and planning purposes. The motion was seconded by M. Streicher. The motion passed unanimously.*

<https://files.constantcontact.com/Ofa48d3a001/27712e1e-76a8-4f15-9951-67bdf7e9d084.pdf>. One-Page Budget Summary and the Four-Year Financial Plan was emailed to all members on 02/12/2025.

- **Financial Report (Attachment 4) and Vendor Invoice Summary - November 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025**

**Invoice Summary - November 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025**

<b>Vendor/Project</b>	<b>Invoice Number</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Andrew Ragas - Website	N/A	315.00	Pending
Barnes & Thornburg - NIP Review/Consultation	3330013	3,757.50	Paid
Eureka - Probe Maintenance	3 invoices	1,253.58	Paid
First Environmental - St. Sweeping CL Samples	4 invoices	378.00	Paid
First Environmental - St. Sweeping CL Samples	187713	94.50	Paid
Hey & Assoc - Fullersburg Dam	19402	2,250.78	Paid
Lauterbach & Amen - Tax Return Preparation	98136	2,010.00	Paid
MBI - NIP	2252	3,458.84	Pending
MBI - 2023 EBDR Bioassessment	2285	11,381.54	Pending
MBI - 2021 Salt Creek Bioassessment	2296	4,360.53	Pending

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MBI - Klein Creek Post-Proj. Bioassessment	2294	5,911.21	Pending
MBI - Spring Brook Post-Proj. Bioassessment	2295	4,443.86	Pending
Murray and Trettel - Weather Data	0125-631	900.00	Pending
Murray and Trettel - Weather Data	0125-827	1400.00	Pending
The Conservation Fdn - Summer Intern	13431	6,526.11	Paid
The Conservation Fdn - July -Sept Exps	13419	2632.12	Paid
The Conservation Fdn - Oct -Dec Exps	13475	2718.78	Pending

- **DRSCW Calendar**

- 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

- **Workgroup Meeting Schedule (9:00 AM start time)**

Unless otherwise specified all meetings are scheduled to occur from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Village of Lombard.

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-11AM  
 February 25, 2026 from 9AM-11AM

**10:00 – 10:55 DRSCW Activities Update**

The Presentation will include a brief update for the DRSCW’s and Lower DuPage Watershed Coalition’s (LDRWC) physical projects, monitoring activities and a review of progress on the status of the Nutrient Implementation Plan (NIP).

*S. Zehner made a motion to adjourn at 10:36 am. The motion was seconded by J. Hammer.*

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*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](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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:hmiller@theconservationfoundation.org)) or Stephen McCracken ([smccracken@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto: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.*

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**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](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](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 Iglesias 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 repose 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 (back ground 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 emailed 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=Ueg38jsj-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 fastTEST 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 fastTesting 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**

<b>Vendor/Project</b>	<b>Invoice Number</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Status</b>
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.*

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**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\\_yTrnRwhkRPyDQhaUf1R3Sw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yTrnRwhkRPyDQhaUf1R3Sw)**

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

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Approval of the June 25, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1).**

*S. Zehner made a motion to approve the June 25, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by M. Streicher. The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. Presentation Abstract: Environmental DNA metabarcoding for whole community inventories of vertebrates in rivers of the midwestern United States  
Presenter: Sophie Picq, eDNA Research Scientist / Head of the Biomolecular Clean Laboratory, Field Museum of Natural History**

Developing effective and rapid monitoring techniques that can identify trends in ecological communities is key to ensuring the future of biodiversity. Environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding is one such promising tool that provides a standardized and non-invasive approach to inventory biodiversity. Through the capture, amplification, and sequencing of the genetic material shed by all organisms in the environment, eDNA provides biologists with an additional indicator for detecting and monitoring organisms. In this talk, I will first review the background, methods, and main uses of environmental DNA (eDNA) as a tool for assessing and monitoring biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems. I will also cover main sampling and lab methodologies to detect the presence of single or multiple species. Finally, I will give a summary of our recent study that used eDNA metabarcoding for whole community inventories of vertebrates in the Kankakee River. In this study, we identified 147 different taxa including 77 fishes, 38 birds, 24 mammals, five amphibians and three reptiles at 11 locations in the watershed, including tributaries and mainstem stretches within and upstream of the Kankakee River State Park protected area. We also found that vertebrate communities among the different habitats significantly varied in taxonomic composition, showing an upstream-downstream shift along the mainstem river as well as tributary-specific assemblages. Our study demonstrates the ability of single-marker eDNA metabarcoding to simultaneously document aquatic and terrestrial communities across large temperate lotic ecosystems and to monitor diversity patterns across protected areas.

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The new MS4 permit, the 2004 Chloride TMDLs, and the DRSCW special conditions all call for the application of best management practices in winter deicing, and reductions in the discharges of chloride into area waterways. The Salt Smart Collaborative of which DRSCW is a part, has developed outreach materials, volunteer programs, and trainings for . 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 .

*These presentations 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 incorporating the NIP recommendations for the Wood Dale North and Elmhurst WWTP was received from the IEPA in early February 2025. It was reviewed and comments were submitted to IEPA. The draft Naperville permit (Lower DuPage Conditions) will follow once these are issued. See Section 7 (NIP) of the Agenda for more information on this item.
- **Additional NIP and Permit Materials** – See items in agenda 6 and 7 (Project Matrix and NIP materials)
  - PFAS Monitoring/PFAS Reduction Program Language – The draft Wood Dale North, Elmhurst, and Naperville permits also includes quarterly monitoring of the influent and effluent, and semi-annually monitoring of biosolids for 40 PFAS compounds using draft test method 1633. In addition, the draft permits 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](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.

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**5. Physical Projects (Ongoing)**

**Fawell Dam Modification**

- **MOU** – The MOU for implementing the project was signed in October 2023 by the DC SWM, FPDDC and DRSCW,.
- **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** – We have a design fabrication contract with BK Riverfish and have been hosting weekly calls between BK Riverfish, the fabricator, V3 and the DRSCW to discuss ongoing design issues. The first of these was held on March 25, 2025. An updated cost for fabrication has been received from BK Riverfish which is in excess of the original cost proposal. The current quote is for \$211,000 for fabrication and \$15,000 for the shop drawing for a total cost of \$226,000. Some of these increases are associated with design changes in the ladder and the time since the original quote (2022). Staff is negotiating the final pricing with BK Riverfish to bring it more in line with the original cost proposal (\$200,000).
- **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 review is complete and 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. The Project Team is continuing to resolve all of Fehr-Graham’s recommendations with the designer and fabricator during the Friday Project calls.
- **QA/QC on Ladder Fabrication 2** – The designer (BK Riverfish) is now recommending that the upstream (removable and wing wall sections) be eliminated. V3 and DRSCW have been 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 it was determined that a second site visit is not needed at this time. The final design of the upper most section of the ladder including the fish net attachment is on-going.
- **July 9, 2025 Projects Committee Meeting** – A Projects Committee Meeting was held on July 9, 2025 to present an update on the Fawell dam fish passage project and discuss next steps.
- **Coordination with DC SWM** – A meeting is scheduled with DC SWM for Thursday, August 21, 2025 to discuss the final design of the fish ladder system and the bid process for ladder installation.
- **Project Permits**

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- 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
  - ◆ KDSWCD – 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.
- **Next Steps**
  - Finalize IDNR permit
  - Meeting with DC SWM to present design changes to ladder/installation (scheduled for August 21, 2025)
  - Finalize Review of Shop Drawings and Final Design of Ladder/Project
  - 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
- **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.

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- **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—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. Education signs that were required under the ACOE Section 106 MOA have been installed. Three signs have been installed in the vicinity of the Graue Mill and include 1) The Men of Company V1668 – Recognizes the CCC Company that worked at Fullersburg Woods, 2) Going with the Flow – Remembers the former CCC dam and highlights the ecological benefits of the dam removal, and 3) Remaking the Mill – Highlights the CCC’s work on the restoration of the Graue Mill and the listing of the Mill on the National Register of Historic Places. The signs have been approved by both the ACOE and SHPO and this requirement from the MOA has been satisfactorily met.
    - 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 coordinated with MWRDGC, FPDDC, and V3. It is scheduled was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 11:00 am. D. Streicher will be spoke on behalf of the DRSCW.
  - 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

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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)-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).
  - 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.

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- 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 hopes to present the nomination to the October IHSAC meeting. This process should be completed by December 2025.
- **Chicago Wilderness Force of Nature Award** – TCF submitted a nomination to nominate the DRSCW and the Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project to the CW for the Force of Nature Award. 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 only previously located below the dam were found with the project footprint (and above the dam’s former location); northern pike, honeyhead chub, emerald shiner, blackside darter, smallmouth bass, log perch, central stoneroller, and rosyface shiner. Additionally, large populations of spotted suckers were found. A second pass of fish sampling will be completed later this summer/fall and macroinvertebrate sampling will be scheduled soon.
  - **Press Releases**
    - The FPDDC released a press release and video on the fish sampling results.  
[https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/news-releases/salt-creek-fish-survey?fbclid=IwY2xjawMJxFBleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFPY0dBdEpHSVN4cGU1MW9SAR6z5J-hJTdm6BmbypX8WGCotz8HmLjE3Q!srfM\\_kziM0HEYAGV2eZewl50rlw\\_aem\\_gSZqvPmYd-Dn5-i4nhjaEQ](https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/news-releases/salt-creek-fish-survey?fbclid=IwY2xjawMJxFBleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFPY0dBdEpHSVN4cGU1MW9SAR6z5J-hJTdm6BmbypX8WGCotz8HmLjE3Q!srfM_kziM0HEYAGV2eZewl50rlw_aem_gSZqvPmYd-Dn5-i4nhjaEQ) and  
<https://www.facebook.com/DuPageForest/videos/2031658340919446>
    - MWRD has also released a press release on the fish sampling results:  
[https://mwrld.org/news/fish-return-salt-creek-after-graue-mill-dam-removal-forest-preserve-district-dupage-county?fbclid=IwY2xjawMQV1xleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFjR21rWEldmlrTUxkMk5OAR7AF-9643WN9WgxVRRqMpfHxKX96wXCMm\\_NQOtHyFXZs-J\\_rfB56QURdPBYOQ\\_aem\\_h6XU4Y3QnvMitDETL-L-gQ](https://mwrld.org/news/fish-return-salt-creek-after-graue-mill-dam-removal-forest-preserve-district-dupage-county?fbclid=IwY2xjawMQV1xleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFjR21rWEldmlrTUxkMk5OAR7AF-9643WN9WgxVRRqMpfHxKX96wXCMm_NQOtHyFXZs-J_rfB56QURdPBYOQ_aem_h6XU4Y3QnvMitDETL-L-gQ)
  - **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

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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.

**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. The majority of the fish sampling was conducted on August 1, 2025. Two of the sites could not be sampled due to a gas leak caused by the construction at Phase 3. Macroinvertebrate sampling has yet to be scheduled.
- **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**

- **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 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 within ComEd on the project. 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 communication with ComEd. A second follow-up meeting with A. Flansburg, DRSCW staff and ComEd’s Realty and Environmental Divisions staff to discuss the project 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 approve to the project without final engineering, once the Transmission Engineer has an

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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, 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.
  
- **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. 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** – 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 on August 15, 2025 to re-start the design work on the project. Interfluve is reviewing their existing scope of work and fees and will be submitting a revised proposal to the DRSCW to continue the 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. 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 – A contract for \$14,270** for the 2025 post-project biological and habitat sampling at the Klein Creek Streambank Stabilization Project has been signed.

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Fish sampling is scheduled for second pass fish sampling and macroinvertebrate sampling will be schedule soon.

**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 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 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.

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- 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 all 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 all three sets of 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 (back ground and comments). 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 TP from causing violations of the DO standard and limit nuisance algae growth. 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 comments (dated April 4, 2025) submitted by the EAGs to the IEPA which focused on the draft permit language.

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 nine 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.

Staff will calculate an estimate of the WTP design costs to reach a TP effluent limit of 1 mg/L that are estimated to be spent in 2025-26. This number along with the total of 2026 project assessments dollars will be shared with the IEPA to demonstrate the amount of dollars that will be spent and/or not spent on in-stream

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improvements if the NIP language is not integrated into DRSCW permits in the immediate future.

Staff is working on a non-technical article on additional costs of NIP implementation such as those associated with chemical treatment (mining, transportation, sludge disposal, energy costs, etc.).

- **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 for the DRSCW 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 performed 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 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.

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- **Trading Analysis**
  - Point Source (PS) to PS Trading – No update.
  - Stream Crediting Trading – No update.
  - 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 *Champaign, Illinois at the I-Hotel*.
  - 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. 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

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with the Negotiations Team and staff forwarded the IAWA comment letter to the Executive Board. IAWA met with IEPA in early July, and IEPA indicated that they expect to issue pre-public notice drafts to the permittees soon.

- ◆ 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.

**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**

- **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 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. Fish sampling started in early July 2025 and the majority of the first pass of fish sampling has been completed. Macroinvertebrate sampling will be scheduled soon. Expanded DO sampling is on-going. 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.

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- **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 selected to purchase the new sondes from Eureka. An order for the new sondes has been placed with Eureka and the sondes are expected to arrive in August 2025. MBI is also ordering two sondes as part of the packet.

## **8. Chlorides**

- **Workshops** – Registration information will be sent out in August 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, the Calibration Workshops for Force America equipment will be held on Nov. 4 (Lake County), Nov. 5 (Cook County DOT), 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.

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- **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.

**9. 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>. *DC SWM is scheduled to host a workshop on the new MS4 permit on October 2, 2025. The DRSCW will forward registration and information on the DC SWM workshop when it's available.*
- **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 2025.
- **Hydrilla on Ginger Creek (Salt Creek watersheds)** – To date, four treatments of Sonar One have been applied in the watershed – April 23/24, 2025, May 20/21, 2025, June 23, 2025 and July 14, 2025. The fifth and final application is scheduled for August 20, 2025. Additionally, the DRSCW has collected four fastTEST to document the concentrations of SonarOne in the watershed on May 9, 2025, June 6, 2025, July 11, 2025 and August 12, 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). 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 and being paid for by the DRSCW. To date the DRSCW has spent \$7,864.20 (of the \$10,000 approved budget). A plant survey of the Ginger Creek watershed is being planned for August 28, 2025.

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

**Invoice Summary for Review – June 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025**

Vendor/Project	Invoice Number	Amount (\$)	Status
Barnes & Thornburg - NIP Legal Advice	3428032	5,340.00	Paid

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Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	271059	1,258.00	Pending
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	273203	286.00	Pending
ETP Labs - Salt Creek Fecal Coliform Sampling	4 invoices	1,225.00	Pending
Fehr Graham - Fawell	130952	1,503.50	Paid
Fehr Graham - Fawell	132352	1,895.75	Pending
Fehr Graham - Fawell	133132	8,885.25	Pending
First Environmental Labs - Salt Creek Chemistry	7 invoices	17,685.50	Paid
First Environmental Labs - Salt Creek Chemistry	8 invoices	11,847.50	Approved
Hey & Assoc - Fullersburg Dam	20036	1,066.88	Paid
Hey & Assoc - Fullersburg Dam	20257	324.71	Paid
Lauterbach & Amen - Audit (Final billing)	106787	2,000.00	Paid
McCloud Aquatics - Hydrilla treatment	108357-1&2	900.00	Paid
McCloud Aquatics - Hydrilla treatment	108357-3	450.00	Approved
MBI - Klein Creek	2340	7,264.59	Pending
MBI - Spring Brook	2341	8,428.26	Pending
MBI - NARP Support	2353	7,130.62	Pending
Murray and Trettel - Snowfall data - 6 locations	0525-304	3,000.00	Paid
Ragas Media – Website Programming & Staging	July 2025 Invoice	480.00	Pending
TetraTech - QUAL2kw & NIP Support	52437512	16744.00	Paid
The Conservation Foundation	13606	4530.33	Pending

- **YTD Financial Reports (through July 31, 2025)** (Attachment 2)
  - Audit has been completed and posted on the DRSCW.org website.
  - Tax Return has been extended.
- **Membership Dues Payment Update (through August 20, 2025)** (Attachment 3).

**11. 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.
- June 13, 2025 – Tour of Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal and Stream Restoration Project, The Conservation Foundation Staff and Board Retreat.
- October 8, 2025 – Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREPP) 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.
- February 22-25, 2025 –Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest (PRRSUM), Plenary Session, from. Stephen McCracken, DuPage River/Salt Creek Work Group

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- Date Pending – Fullersburg Woods Dam Removal, presentation to the Village of Burr Ridge Board, Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation.

**12. Other Business**

- *September 17, 2025 – West Branch Watershed-Based Plan Stakeholder Meeting*

**13. 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  
August 26, 2026 from 9AM-11AM

*J. Lomax made a motion to adjourn at 10:54 am. The motion was seconded by D. Streicher.*

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**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](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wxJ9tMn-RgKCTyjZaai78g)**

*Secretary/Treasurer Desai called the meeting to order at 9:09am.*

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

*S. Zehner made a motion to approve the August 27, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by J. Lomax. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**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

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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**

**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](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

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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).

- **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.
    - ◆ *As-builts have been completed and are undergoing final review by MRWD. MRWD hopes to complete the review by early November 2025 and submit them to DuPage County and close out the Building Permit.*
    - ◆ *As the Mill will be closing for the season, it has been decided that the motor will be removed and sent for evaluation to see if it can be repaired. If it cannot be repaired, it will be replaced. All motor work will be completed before the Mill reopens in the Spring of 2026.*
    - ◆ *Bolts on the waterwheel’s shaft have been sheered. The best estimation on why this damage has occurred is that the waterwheel motor was used to turn the*

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*wheel when there was high water in the raceway (aka during high stream flows). V3 and their subconsultants have developed a plan to repair the damage. On Wednesday, October 9, 2025, Tal Mar (subconsultant to V3) reattached the drive to the spline and the wheel is functioning again. The broken set screws were removed from the shaft, and the holes were cleaned out. New setscrews were then installed, and the clutch was adjusted to limit torque to the wheel. The SOP for running the wheel has also been updated to ensure that the damage does not occur in the future and the waterwheel will not be turned on if the water in the raceway is above the height of the existing weir structure. The option of the installation of a float to automatically turn of the motor if the water reaches this level is being discussed.*

- 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.
- 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).

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- 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).
    - 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.

- COR-X/RFP-X: *V3 did not use the parking lot of the Nature Center as a staging area as planned by the contract documents. The contract will receive a small credit of approximately \$1,200 since resurfacing of the parking lot was not needed to repair damage caused by using the lot as staging area.*

- **National Register of Historic Places Nomination** – A contract with McGuire Iglleski 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.

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- 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 *received* 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, honeyhead 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.  
[https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/news-releases/salt-creek-fish-survey?fbclid=IwY2xjawMJxFBleHRuA2FbQIxmABicmlkETFpY0dBdEpHSVN4cGU1MW9SAR6z5J-hJTdm6BmbypX8WGCotz8HmLjE3QIsrfM\\_kziM0HEYAGV2eZewl50rlw\\_aem\\_qSZqvPmYd-Dn5-i4nhjaEQ](https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/news-releases/salt-creek-fish-survey?fbclid=IwY2xjawMJxFBleHRuA2FbQIxmABicmlkETFpY0dBdEpHSVN4cGU1MW9SAR6z5J-hJTdm6BmbypX8WGCotz8HmLjE3QIsrfM_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=IwY2xjawMQV1xleHRuA2FbQIxmABicmlkETFjR21rWEIdmlrTUxkMk5OAR7AF-9643WN9WgxVRrqMpfHxKX96wXCMm\\_NQOtHyFXZs-J\\_rfB56QURdPBYOQ\\_aem\\_h6XU4Y3QnvMitDETL-L-qQ](https://mwrdd.org/news/fish-return-salt-creek-after-graue-mill-dam-removal-forest-preserve-district-dupage-county?fbclid=IwY2xjawMQV1xleHRuA2FbQIxmABicmlkETFjR21rWEIdmlrTUxkMk5OAR7AF-9643WN9WgxVRrqMpfHxKX96wXCMm_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.

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- **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**
  - **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 \$256,000. If approved, the new contract will reflect an increase in cost of \$79,748.60 from the original contract. This results in a total contract value with Interfluve of \$148,831.60 (billed to date) + \$256,000 (2025 contract) = \$404,831.60. 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 \$56,000 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.*
    - ✓ J. Hammer made a motion to approve the amended Interfluve contract with a not to exceed value of \$404,831.60 which is a \$79,478.60 increase from the current

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*contract signed with Interfluve. The source of the additional \$56,000 will be from the Special Conditions Contingency Fund. The motion was seconded by L. Cox. The motion passed unanimously.*

- **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 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

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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 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.

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**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 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

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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

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.

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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 reviewed and provided revisions to the “re-opener” language in both the cover sheet and the permit (Special Condition 22 H). The final language in both the permit and cover letter was reviewed and approved by Elmhurst, Wood Dale- North, Executive Board and Negotiations Team prior to the submittal of the language to the IEPA. The final language was submitted to the IEPA on October 17, 2025.* 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.

*Roselle has been issued draft permit language for their facility’s expansion. The permit language includes the 0.5 mg/L TP limit by 2030 as agreed upon by the IAWA/IEPA/EAG agreement. Staff has reached out to the IEPA to discuss the inclusion of the NARP recommendations in the expansion permit in place of the IAWA/IEPA/EAG language.*

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.

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- **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.
  
- 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:

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<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 Kiskwaukee 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.
- 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. *Biological and habitat sampling is complete.* Both expanded DO sampling and fecal coliform sampling has been completed. *Sediment sampling is ongoing.*
- **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** – 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.

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- **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

**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.

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

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

<b>Vendor/Project</b>	<b>Invoice Number</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	271059	1,258.00	Approved
Baxter & Woodman - 2025 CL Reduction	273203	286.00	Approved
BK Riverfish - Fawell Dam Fish Litter	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
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

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- 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

**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).

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**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

*J. Lomax made a motion to adjourn at 10:58am. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner.*

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**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\\_X19bWISFSj20s1k88hJkPg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X19bWISFSj20s1k88hJkPg)**

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

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- 2. Approval of the October 29, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1).**  
*M. Warner made a motion to approve the October 29, 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by M. Streicher. The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. Lower East Branch Stream Bank Restoration Project**

The DRSCW is kicking off the final design for its next large scale restoration project, the Lower East Branch Stream Restoration Project. This project is located on the Lower East Branch of the DuPage River between Royce Road and Washington Road/Weber Road in Bolingbrook and Naperville, Will County, Illinois. Project Partners include the Village of Bolingbrook, Bolingbrook Park District, City of Naperville, Naperville Park District, Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC), and ComEd. This presentation will review the objectives of the project, the conceptual designs prepared for the project, upcoming design tasks, project schedule and funding.

**Presenter: Deanna Doohaluk, Senior Watershed Project Manager, The Conservation Foundation**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERMIT ACTIVITIES**

**4. Special Conditions Permit Administration**

- **2020/2025 Permit Negotiations** – DRSCW and WWTP comments on the 15-day permits for Wood Dale North and Elmhurst have been submitted to the IEPA. The 30-day Public Drafts were expected to be released by the end of November, 2025 (see PFAS discussion below). The draft Naperville permit will follow once these are issued (Naperville has agreed with this schedule). See NIP Section 7 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)

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- 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. Staff is working with Mary Dressel (City of Elmhurst) and Brett Garelli (Village of Wood Dale) to review the language’s fidelity to the original IEPA proposed language (which has been modified by IEPA and USEPA). See section 7 for additional details on the PFAS Special Condition that has been included in the draft 15-day permits.
- **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](https://drscw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-25_drscw-ldwrc_annualreport_03262025_compressed.pdf).

## **5. Physical Projects (Ongoing)**

### **Fawell Dam Modification**

- **MOU** –DC SWM, DRSCW and the FPDDC signed an MPOY to implement the project in October 2023.
- **Extension Letter** – Current permits list a completion date of December 31, 2025 for this project. Staff are in the process of submitting a letter to B. Fleming, Permits Section, requesting this be changed to December 31, 2027. The draft 15-day permits issued to Wood Dale North and Elmhurst include a completion date of December 31, 2026 for this project, which was changed in the edits to December 31, 2027.
- **Design and Fabrication** – Fabrication of the fishway is underway with walls and floors being cut along with relevant anchor holes.
- **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 and distribution of anchor points. Other recommendations including materials (Stainless Steel V hot dipped galvanized and replacing the steel “box” with concrete) were not adopted.

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- **Fishway Capture System** –The fish net final design is underway. Its frame has been integrated into the construction.
- **Bid Packet** - DC SWM will be issuing the RFP for the installation contractor. A bid packet will be developed for their use in collaboration with County staff.
- **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 for this item is not required.
- **Next Steps** (some steps are run concurrently)
  - Finalize submittal of IDNR permit
  - Preparation of bid documents (plans and specs)
  - DC SWM 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

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- **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 Winter 2026 FPPDC Board meeting agenda.

**Graue Mill Dam**

- **Construction** – Substantial completion was met in *December 2024*. Vegetation and M&M ongoing.
  - **Punch List** – V3 and their subconsultants are working through punch list items.
    - As-builts have been completed and are undergoing final review by MRWD. MWRD hopes to complete the review by the end of December 2025 and submit them to DuPage County and close out the Building Permit.
    - As the Mill will be closing for the season, it has been decided that the motor will be removed and sent for evaluation to see if it can be repaired. If it cannot be repaired, it will be replaced. All motor work will be completed before the Mill reopens in the Spring of 2026.
    - Bolts on the waterwheel’s shaft were sheered. The best estimation on why this damage has occurred is that the waterwheel motor was used to turn the wheel when there was high water in the raceway (aka during high stream flows). On Wednesday, October 9, 2025 , Tal Mar (subconsultant to V3) reattached the drive to the spline and the wheel is functioning again. The broken set screws were removed from the shaft, and the holes were cleaned out. New setscrews were installed, and the clutch was adjusted to limit torque to the wheel. The SOP for running the wheel has also been updated to ensure that the damage does not occur in the future and the waterwheel will not be turned on if the water in the raceway is above the height of the existing weir structure. The option of installing a float to automatically turn off the motor if the water reaches this level is being discussed.
  - **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.
- **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

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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).
  - ◆ 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.

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- ◆ 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 \$162,951.12. This COR/RFP is still in the MWRD review process and should be completed soon.
- COR-8/RFP-X: As V3 did not use the parking lot of the Nature Center as a staging area as planned by the contract documents, the contract will receive a small credit of approximately \$1,200 for the resurfacing of the parking lot that would have been conducted to repair any damage caused by the use of the lot as staging area.
- **National Register of Historic Places Nomination** – A contract with McGuire Iglleski 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** – The Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods has earned a 2025 Force of Nature Award, awarded at the CWA banquet on October 22, 2025. The FPDDC and MWRD were recognized as project partners.
- **Post-Project Monitoring**
  - **2025 Post-Post Project Monitoring** – Year 1 of Post-Project Monitoring was integrated into the Salt Creek Bioassessment. The first pass of fish sampling was conducted in 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, honeyhead 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 also been completed.
- **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. Due to the high cost of the proposal, the Executive Board will not be moving forward with the proposal as a whole. But as the deliverables/scope items were presented as ala carte, the Executive Board would like to review the proposal submitted by Stonefly Strategies and requested staff to strategize possible alternatives for some of the research to be conducted in-house.
- **License Agreement with FPDDC** – The License Agreement between the FPDDC and DRSCW to “Implement a Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods” is set to expire on

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December 31, 2025. Staff is in the processes of reviewing and updating the License Agreement with FPDDC staff, prior to signing for another 5 years.

○ **Press Releases**

- The FPDDC released a press release and video on the fish sampling results.  
[https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/news-releases/salt-creek-fish-survey?fbclid=IwY2xjawMJxFBleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFpY0dBdEpHSVN4cGU1MW9SAR6z5J-hJTdm6BmbypX8WGCotz8HmLjE3QIsrfM\\_kziM0HEYAGV2eZewl50rlw\\_aem\\_qSZqvPmYd-Dn5-i4nhjaEQ](https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/news-releases/salt-creek-fish-survey?fbclid=IwY2xjawMJxFBleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFpY0dBdEpHSVN4cGU1MW9SAR6z5J-hJTdm6BmbypX8WGCotz8HmLjE3QIsrfM_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=IwY2xjawMQV1xleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFjR21rWEIdmlrTUxkMk5OAR7AF-9643WN9WgxVRrqMpfHxKX96wXCMm\\_NQOtHyFXZs-J\\_rfB56QURdPBYYOQ\\_aem\\_h6XU4Y3QnvMitDETL-L-qQ](https://mwrdd.org/news/fish-return-salt-creek-after-graue-mill-dam-removal-forest-preserve-district-dupage-county?fbclid=IwY2xjawMQV1xleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFjR21rWEIdmlrTUxkMk5OAR7AF-9643WN9WgxVRrqMpfHxKX96wXCMm_NQOtHyFXZs-J_rfB56QURdPBYYOQ_aem_h6XU4Y3QnvMitDETL-L-qQ)
- The Daily Herald had a front page story on the project on November 9, 2025.  
<https://www.dailyherald.com/20251108/news/its-magnificent-how-a-dam-free-salt-creek-fullersburg-woods-have-been-revitalized/>
- As a response to the November 9, 2025 article, the Daily Herald Editorial Board wrote a supportive opinion piece about the project which appeared on the cover of the Opinion section on November 11, 2025.  
<https://www.dailyherald.com/20251111/editorials/daily-herald-opinion-a-project-works-out-two-years-after-removal-of-graue-mill-dam-benefits-gro/>

**Spring Brook Phase II**

- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** – Biological monitoring has been completed for 2025.
- **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.

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- **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**
  - **Interfluve Contract** –Staff has finalized a contract extension with Inter-fluve for the final design and preparation of contract bid documents for the project. The contract extension will include an increase of \$125,698.22 and result in a not to exceed total value of \$451,051.22 for the contract (inclusive of the \$195,051.22 already spent).
  - **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. 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 has followed up with FPDDC staff who is looking into the FPDDC budget for opportunities to expand the project into DuPage County.
    - ComEd –Staff had a meeting on July 28, 2025 with A. Flansburg of Stantec who is working with ComEd, to discuss how Stantec can assist the DRSCW with 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.
- **Kickoff Meeting-** A Kickoff Meeting was held between Interfluve and DRSCW staff on November 18, 2025 to discuss the schedule and project milestones.

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- **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.
- **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 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. It is unlikely that the project will be funded in FY2026-27.
  - **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.
- **Private Funding** – Staff is preparing a fact sheet on the Project for TCF to share with donors who may be interested in directly funding a project.

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- **River Mitigation Bank** – *It was suggested that this project may be a good candidate for a river mitigation bank. Staff will explore the potential opportunities for the creating bank credits and investigate any regulatory barriers that might apply given that the project is a regulatory requirement.*
- **2024 and 2025 Pre-Project Monitoring** – No pre-project monitoring at the Lower East Branch Stream Enhancement Project was conducted in 2024 or 2025.

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

- **Construction Progress Update** – Construction of the DRSCW section is complete. ACOE conducted a site walkthrough for signoff on the Section 404 permit in September 2025 and requested a prescribed burn be conducted prior to issuing signoff. The prescribed burn is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025. An Eagle Scout built 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 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

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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).

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 TP caused DO and nuisance algae growth violations. Staff has drafted comments to all of the comment letters. Additionally, staff has had several conversations with Albert Ettinger and IEPA Permits.

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. The permit issued to Kishwaukee 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 reviewed by the agency staff, 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

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be submitting to the IEPA. MWRD Legal Staff has also provided feedback on the cover letter and permit language. F. Andes (Barnes and Thornburg) was hired to review and provide revisions to the “re-opener” language in both the cover sheet and the permit (Special Condition 22 H). This proposed language in both the permit and cover letter was reviewed and approved by Elmhurst, Wood Dale, Executive Board and Negotiations Team prior to the submittal of the proposed language to the IEPA. The final language was submitted to the IEPA on October 17, 2025. Per conversations with B. Fleming, the majority of the changes suggested in the submitted comments have been accepted by the IEPA and the 30-day Public Draft. *The Elmhurst Permit was issued on November 27, 2025 and its public comment period closes on December 29, 2025. The majority of the edits suggested by the DRSCW to the NIP language in the cover letter and permit were accepted by the IEPA.*

*S. McCracken reviewed the critiques raised by the Environmental Advocacy Groups in previous conversations and communications (EAGs) on the DRSCW/LDRWC NIP (comments on Elmhurst Permit are not due until December 29, 2025):*

- *The instream target is not low enough – The NIP target is biological based (linked to IBIs) and even at TP concentrations in the model at <0.1 mg/L notable improvements in DO were not observed.*
- *The biological community used is not sufficiently protective – The NIP concentration is keyed into the IBI signifying the general use support for aquatic life. Additionally, the IPS Tool included the use of a TP “sensitive species” index. The “sensitive species” index are species whose populations are most statically related to changes in TP concentrations. That is, they were chosen by statistical analysis not by species reputation.*
- *What is it the NIP recommends for effluent? – A 0.35 mg/L effluent concentration is recommended by the NIP. The instream concentration of TP is what matters. These instream concentrations are in the range of 0.17-0.18 mg/L at their confluence and mean stream concentrations are 0.17-0.20 with all plants discharging at 0.35 mg/L for DRSCW and Crest Hill and 0.5 mg/L for the mainstem LDRWC.*
- *Schedule is too long – The 3<sup>rd</sup> party agreement already allows BPR by 2030 and BNR by 2035. Facilities need to meet the TP limit by May 1, 2040 but be in operation by May 1, 2038; and physical projects will continue until TP removal updated are required in 2035.*

*Staff will keep Special Condition holders updated on all conversations related to the progress of the permits.*

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In the interim, Elmhurst noted that there were differences in the PFAS special condition included in the 15-day draft permits from both their prior 15-day draft permits as well as the language initially provided to the IAWA. The primary change was inclusion in the permits of a reporting requirement of a PFAS arithmetic sum on the DMR for effluent, influent, and biosolids. Staff and representatives from Wood Dale and Elmhurst met with S. Nightingale, Industrial Unit Manager with IEPA to discuss the reasoning for the inclusion of the PFAS arithmetic sum in the permit language and learned that this calculation was developed internally by the IEPA as a way to track BMP implementation process at each POTW. S. Nightingale mentioned that it was impracticable for the agency to be able to track the concentration of the 40 individual PFAS at each facility over time but felt that the agency could use the arithmetic sum of the PFAS to track changes over time.

As a result of the discussion with the IEPA, it was the DRSCW recommendation that the PFAS arithmetic mean be removed from the PFAS Special Condition language, or that the units be invisible. However, if the IEPA was not willing to remove the requirement to report a PFAS arithmetic mean, staff and representatives from Wood Dale and Elmhurst, drafted language to be included in the cover letter that explains the arithmetic mean requirement that reads “the PFAS arithmetic mean value is being calculated for the purpose of generating a single PFAS value which will allow for simplified tracking of BMP effectiveness to support the observation of trends. As a simple sum it is not appropriate to evaluate the toxicity of the medium reported”. It should also be noted in the cover letter that it is desirable that in the method utilized to calculate the arithmetic mean, any Non-Detects obtained in sampled analysis using Method 1633A should be treated as zeros in the calculations. This language was submitted to the IEPA (as set out in the permit language).

The DRSCW also reached out to IAWA to discuss this inclusion of the PFAS arithmetic mean in the Special Condition language. Similar information was also be provided to F. Andes for his guidance on this issue. The IAWA brought up their concerns with the IEPA at their November 20, 2025 meeting and the IEPA seemed amenable to further discussing the issue and indicated that the agency does not want to include any permit language that could add to “unnecessary public fear”. The IAWA is in the process of drafting a letter to the IEPA to express their concerns and IEPA would decide whether to remove the sum from municipal permits.

Roselle has been issued draft permit language following their Devlin facility’s expansion. The permit language includes the 0.5 mg/L TP monthly limit which IEPA has agreed is an error. Staff has reached out to the IEPA to discuss the inclusion of

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the NARP recommendations in the expansion permit in place of the IAWA/IEPA/EAG agreement language.

- **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.
  - USEPA National Water Quality Trading Policy – No update.
- **Related to Nutrient Trading** – As they are completed, please submit PDOPs and FSs to DRSCW staff.

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- **NSAC Update** – The NSAC recommendations are not foreseen as being on the IPCB agenda for rulemaking in 2025-26.
  - **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.
    - **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 Kiskwaukee 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.
- 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.

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- 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. Biological and habitat sampling is complete. Both expanded DO sampling and fecal coliform sampling has been completed. Sediment sampling is ongoing.
- **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** – Seventeen Eureka sondes have been purchased and delivered. As part of the deal MBI ordered two sondes for their use.

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- **Chloride Handheld** – A YSI ProDSS with Optical DO, Conductivity/Temp, and chloride sensors equipped with GPS is being purchased directly from YSI for \$8,259.00. This handheld meter will be utilized in winter continuous chloride monitoring and the continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring programs.

**9. Chlorides**

- **Workshops** – Chloride Workshops have been completed. This year there were three in person Public Roads workshops (Sept. 16, Sept. 23 and Sept. 30), three virtual Public Road workshops (Sep. 25, Oct. 7, Nov. 12), and three Parking Lots & Sidewalks workshops (Oct. 2, Oct. 14, and Nov. 13). Estimated attendance at the workshops was 1,300. Additionally, three Calibration Workshops for Force America equipment were held on Nov. 4 (Lake County), Nov. 5 (Cook County DOT), and Nov. 6 (DuPage DOT). Twenty-four agencies attended the workshops on November 5 and 6, 2025. Thanks to Force America for supplying their expertise and Lake County, Cook County and DuPage County DOT for hosting.
- **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.*

**10. Other Activities**

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- **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>.
- **IWEA MS4 Workshops** – Two IWEA Watershed Committee organized MS4 workshops were held in October 2025. A third independent workshop was held by DuPage County Division of Stormwater Workshop was held in early October. All were very well attended and had excellent participation. Thanks to everyone who attended and participated.
- **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 five fasTEST to document the concentrations of SonarOne in the watershed on May 9, June 6, July 11, August 12, 2025, and October 6, 2025. 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 the \$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 – October 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025**

Vendor/Project	Invoice Number	Amount (\$)	Status
Fehr Graham - Fawell	134379	735.25	Approved
Fehr Graham - Fawell	135493	52.75	Pending
First Environmental Labs - Salt Creek Chemistry	Batch 6-12	33,597.50	Paid
First Environmental Labs - Salt Creek Chemistry	3 invoices	3,097.50	Paid
MBI - NARP Support	2353	7,130.62	Approved
MBI - 2025 Salt Creek Bioassessment	2359	13,793.79	Paid
MBI - 2025 Salt Creek Bioassessment	2369	41,858.56	Approved
MBI - 2025 Salt Creek Bioassessment	2378	49,220.17	Pending
McGuire Iglesias - Fullersburg Dam	2325-01	9,667.88	Paid
Secretary of State - Annual Filing Fee	NA	10.00	Paid
Solinst Eureka - Sonde Repair	527	4,225.64	Paid
The Conservation Foundation - Interns, May/June	13629	7,065.49	Pending
The Conservation Foundation - Interns, July/Aug	13630	9,003.79	Pending

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- **YTD Financial Reports (through October 31, 2025)** (Attachment 2)
  - The transfer of the DRSCW accounts from Itasca Bank to Naperville Bank is underway. .
- **Membership Dues Payment Update (through November 12, 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
- **Budget Priorities for FY2026-27:** A discussion with the Board included these items:
  - Project Budgets – The FY 2026-27 budgets will remain similar to the FY2025-26 budgets. The proposed NIP funds will be incorporated into the 5-year Financial Plan but kept out of funding for any current permit project.
  - Special Condition Negotiations – The budget will again include funds for legal fees in case they are needed for the negotiations to have the NIP recommendations included in the Special Conditions (under NIP Budget line item) and perhaps for tailored watershed point source reductions, as well as the contingency funds. Fullersburg Woods monies will also be pushed into YE 2027.
  - Staff Salaries – Staff salaries are budgeted for a 4% increase.  
*It was noted that 2025 PDH certificates were sent out and anyone who was expecting one but did not receive it should let Nancy know.*
- **Slate of Officers and Members-at-Large FYE 2027 (for approval at the Annual Meeting)**
  - President – Amy Underwood, President
  - Vice President – Matt Streicher, Vice President
  - Secretary/Treasurer – Pinakin Desai, MWRDGC
  - At Large – Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County
  - At Large – Ryan Hayden, Village Addison
  - At Large – Steve Zehner, Robinson Engineering, Inc.
  - At Large – Brett Garelli, Village of Wood Dale
  - At Large – Sean Reese, DuPage County
- **Appointment of Committee Chairpersons by incoming President**
  - Projects Committee Chairperson –Greg Ulreich, Village of Westmont
  - Monitoring Committee Chairperson – Jennifer Hammer, The Conservation Foundation
  - East Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – Larry Cox, Downers Grove Sanitary District

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- West Branch DuPage River Watershed Committee Chairperson – Erik Neidy, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- Salt Creek Watershed Committee Chairperson – Dennis Streicher, Sierra Club – River Prairie Group

**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

**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.

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup  
General Membership Meeting  
Village of Lombard  
December 3, 2025  
Minutes**

- **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).
- **River Sweep will be April 18, 2026** – *Contact A. Phillips at TCF if your community would like to participate and she has yet to contact you.*

**14. Future Meeting Schedule (location to be determined)**

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  
December 2, 2026 from 9AM-11AM

*D. Armstrong made a motion to adjourn at 10:57am. The motion was seconded by J. Hammer.*