

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
General Membership Meeting
Village of Lombard
June 24, 2026
Agenda**

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Yegh3BezQ8aPIGI4X0QNNQ

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the April 29, 2026 General Membership Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1).

3. Finding the Most Cost-Effective Path to NIP TP Goals

A crucial step, and key objective, in developing the DuPage River and Salt Creek Nutrient Implementation Plan (NIP), was establishing a watershed threshold concentration for TP that is protective of aquatic life in the NIP waterways. This protective threshold was found to correspond to a TP concentration range of 0.11 - 0.277 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Modeling was conducted using the QUAL2Kw platform to identify potential management scenarios that would decrease ambient instream TP concentrations into the range below the identified TP watershed threshold. Ultimately, the suite of scenarios modeled demonstrated that an effluent TP permit limit of 0.35 mg/L (for an effective effluent concentration of 0.28 mg/L) for WWTPs along Salt Creek and the West and East Branches of the DuPage River, and an effluent TP permit limit of 0.5 mg/L (for an effective effluent concentration of 0.4 mg/L) for WWTPs along the Lower DuPage River, would be sufficient to achieve the identified NIP threshold.

While the NIP allocated these effluent limits uniformly to all relevant facilities, it left the door open to potentially identify a more cost-effective allocation of TP reductions that meets instream TP objectives of the NIP (0.11- 0.28 mg/L). In late Winter 2026, the DRSCW was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the US EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW) to explore the feasibility and applicability of such a program.

This study, titled “The Optimizing Point Source TP Reductions under DuPage River and Salt Creek NIP”, has analyzed current WWTP financial information on capital and operational costs relative to what alternative management options can still meet instream NIP goals. This presentation will discuss the methods, analysis, and findings of the study. While Salt Creek was identified as the pilot watershed to explore feasibility, discussions on applicability of the optimization framework will be included for the East Branch, West Branch, and Lower DuPage watersheds.

Presenter: Hillary Yonce, Professional Hydrologist, Environmental Scientist, Tetra Tech

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SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERMIT ACTIVITIES

4. Special Conditions Permit Administration

- **On-going Permit Negotiations related to TP** – The Elmhurst, Wood Dale North, and Plainfield permits were all issued for public comment at the end of November 2025 and their public comment period closed on January 15, 2026 (extension granted by the IEPA to the Environmental Advocacy Groups (EAGs)). The majority of the edits suggested by the DRSCW to the NIP language in the Elmhurst and Wood Dale cover letter and permit were made by the IEPA. Plainfield’s permit included the DRSCW’s cover letter and NIP language, and not the applicable LDRWC language.

A summary of the **comments** received in January and the DRSCW’s rebuttals include:

- ♦ **The instream target is not low enough** – The NIP target is biological based (linked to IBIs) and even at TP concentrations <0.1 mg/L notable improvements in DO were not observed. Under implementation of the NIP will deliver median TP concentrations inside the 95th percentile of the NSAC recommendation.
- ♦ **The biological community used is not sufficiently protective** – The NIP concentration is keyed into the IBI range matching 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 statically most impacted by increases in TP (chosen statistically and not by species anecdote).
- ♦ **The 0.35 mg/L limit is illegal because it is above the 0.277 mg/L target proposed by the NIP and there is no evidence that significant available dilution or allowable mixing is available** – The NIP recommends a 0.35 mg/L effluent concentration for DRSCW and Crest Hill, and 0.5 mg/L for the other LDRWC POTWs. Under this effluent limit mean instream concentrations are predicted to be at 0.17-0.20 mg/L and 0.17-0.18 mg/L at their confluences (below the TP target of 0.277 mg/L).
- ♦ **The NIP substitutes aquatic life protection for water quality standards** – There is no Illinois WQS for TP.
- ♦ **Schedule is too long** – The 3rd party agreement already allows 0.5 mg/L using BPR by 2030 and using BNR by 2035. Under the NIP 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 upgrades are underway.
- ♦ **The permit includes “escape hatches”** – The IEPA included language in the NIP condition that allows for the Permittee to modify or reissue the permit to include an alternative TP reduction program or limit if 1) the limit is demonstrated to be not technologically feasible, 2) the limit would result in substantial and widespread economic or social impact, 3) it can demonstrate the DRSCW has developed and implement a cost optimization plan for TP that delivers the same result as the limit, and 4) the DRSCW implements an alternate means of reducing watershed P loading

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to a comparable result to remove the DO and offensive condition impairments. The EAGs letter judges these “escape hatches” unlawful.

- ♦ The letter also brings up additional issues outside of the TP limit including:
 - Asking the IEPA to develop a fish consumption standard for Arsenic and include that as an effluent limit in permits
 - Require all DRSCW/LDRWC POTWs to be a member of the Illinois River Study Group
 - The permit should include considerations beyond monitoring for nitrogen including the development of a WQS for nitrogen, encourage the POTWs to install BNR, improve ammonia toxicity testing and frequency to quarterly, and include effluent limits for TKN and NOX.
 - Disinfection should be expanded beyond May – October
 - Utilize the acute toxicity limit of <0.019 mg/L for the daily max residual chlorine level (instead of 0.038 mg/L)
 - Reduce the CBOD5 limit included in the permit to 5 mg/L
 - The arsenic MDL included in the permit of 50 ug/L is not protective of fish consumption and should be lowered.
 - The whole effluent toxicity included in the permit is not sufficient. Sensitive species testing should be considered.
 - The permit does not consider toxic substance accumulation in sediments.

The EAGs have asked for the following recommended changes to the permit:

- ♦ All POTWs should be required to meet the 0.5 mg/L by 2030 (2035 if using BNR)
- ♦ By 2032, the Permittee should submit a study that
 - Identifies an instream target TP that allows compliance with the existing DO and offensive conditions standards and/or other such standards in effect in 2032. This study should adopt the NSAC recommendations, proper modeling or other science-based methods as provided in 40 CFR 124.44.
 - Determines the highest attainable use over the 2032-2037 period
 - Details the construction, operations and maintenance and other costs meeting the legally approved standards in effect in 2032 and a timeline for meeting the standards.

Staff submitted a response to EAG comments on the draft permits to the IEPA on April 3, 2026. The Negotiations Team (including Fred Andes) and the IEPA met on June 4, 2026 to discuss the final permit language. At the meeting, the IEPA suggested that we include future studies in the permit language that would be useful to the DRSCW/LDRWC and might address some of the studies recommended by the EAGs to be included in permits. The Executive Board, Negotiations Team and Staff developed language for both the Fact Sheet and the project table in the Special Condition. The first study would be an analysis of TP data obtained from bioassessments conducted

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between 2025-2030 to confirm that TP data remains consistent with the TP data used in the NIP. The second study would be an update to the DO Adapted Management Plan. The final language was shared with all Special Condition Holders for their review and approval on June 17, 2026. F. Andes has reviewed and contributed to the language. The Special Condition holders are asked to submit their comments and/or approval to Staff no later than June 26, 2026. The goal would be to submit the final language to the IEPA by June 30, 2026.

- **F. Andes** – F. Andes has reviewed and provided comments on the letter drafted to respond to the EAG comments on the public notice permits
- **Clarifier Article**- Staff penned an article defending the NIP process that was published in the IWEA Clarifier Spring Newsletter.
- **POTW Expansions** – Roselle has been issued draft permit language following their Devlin facility's expansion. The draft permit language included the 0.5 mg/L TP monthly limit which IEPA has agreed is an error. IEPA said that a POTW covered by the NIP may forego the 1 mg/L, but must be capable of hitting the 1 mg/L.
- **Discussion with West Chicago Winfield Wastewater Authority** – Staff had a meeting with the West Chicago Winfield Wastewater Authority (WCWWA) during which the WCWWA expressed interest in discussing the date in which the plant will be required to treat to a 0.35 mg/L TP. WCWWA has requested to meet with the Negotiations Team to discuss their 0.35 mg/L TP Implementations Date and staff will coordinate scheduling this meeting in early July once Staff has returned from vacations and final Special Condition permit language is submitted to the IEPA.
- **On-going Permit Negotiations not related to TP**
 - **PFAS Special Condition** -- During the review of the public permits it was noted that they included a reporting requirement of a PFAS arithmetic sum on the DMR for effluent, influent, and biosolids. This was discussed with IEPA who informed Staff it was developed internally by the IEPA as a way to track BMP implementation progress at the POTW level (the method requires POTWs track 40 individual PFAS).

It was the DRSCW's recommendation that the PFAS arithmetic mean be removed from the PFAS Special Condition language, or that the units not be publicly available. If the IEPA was not willing to remove the requirement to report a PFAS arithmetic mean, staff and representatives from Wood Dale and Elmhurst suggested adding the following language:

"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."

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The DRSCW brought this to the attention of IAWA. The IAWA brought up their concerns with the IEPA at their November 20, 2025 meeting where 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”. At IEPA’s request, IAWA issued a letter to the IEPA to express their concerns. A response from the IEPA on the PFAS issues is still pending.

- **Metals Limits**
 - Addison – Addison is undergoing a permit modification for the consolidation of their two WWTPs. As part of the modification, the IEPA had included lower limits for silver and zinc. Staff coordinated communications between Addison, Trotter and Associates (Addison’s Consultant) and the IEPA to discuss the calculation of the new limits (using the IEPA WQ worksheet). It was agreed that that modification would not include the new limits but they will be included in the future renewal (2027).
- **Other Special Condition related topics**
 - **Annual Report** – The FY2025-26 Annual Report was submitted to the IEPA on March 30, 2026. All Special Condition Holders were provided a copy of the Annual Report and the IEPA submittal letter via email on March 30, 2026.

5. Physical Projects (Ongoing)

Fawell Dam Modification

- **Design and Fabrication** – Fabrication and dry fitting of the fishway is complete. It has been moved to BK Riverfish’s storage area. BK Riverfish’s concern about low light levels in the culvert has raised an issued about light in the system once its installed. They are developing a proposal to test if we can generate sufficient light using artificial means (they have developed a light system and are verifying lumens in the fishway under various mountings). This may require a change order, and would require an onsite power source. V3 is assisting with the structural component (mounting and protection for such a proposal). Staff will be measuring in-culvert lumens in early July.
- **Fishway Capture System** –The fish net (for fish exit) has been designed and purchased (not yet billed).
- **Bid Packet** - DC SWM will be issuing the RFP for the installation contractor. Fehr-Graham has been contracted to develop a bid packet for the project in coordination with the DRSCW, V3, BK Riverfish and DC SWM. The Projects Committee authorized the extension of Fehr Grahams contract to do this. To date materials from V3 (culvert plan with new concrete walls, pad and deflector) and the fabrication as-builts from Triangle have been compiled. Item is on hold while the light issue is investigated.

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- **Project Permits**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACOE) Nationwide Permit (LRC-2024-169) – The application was submitted 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.
- Delivery of ladder onsite.
- Installation supervised by County with assistance from BK Riverfish.

Graue Mill Dam

- **Construction** – Substantial completion was met in December 2024. Vegetation and M&M are ongoing.

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○ Punch List

- As-builts have been completed and are undergoing final review by MWRD. MWRD hopes to complete the review by the end of the Summer 2026 and submit them to DuPage County and close out the Building Permit.
- The motor on the waterwheel was returned to the manufacturer who was unable to recreate the noise that the FPDDC staff observed in the mill. The motor was reinstalled in the Mill in April 2026. However, when the reinstalled motor operates the waterwheel at the desired speed, it continues to generate an excessive amount of noise. V3/FM conducted a follow-up investigation and believes the noise is due to the motor operating at low RPM. In order to resolve the noise issue, a Request for Proposal was submitted to the contractor to perform the following work tasks:
 - Reprogram the VFD and motor to an optimal configuration to eliminate or reduce noise.
 - Design and install a motor temperature monitoring system, including the programming and calibration of one (1) sensor.
 - Provide staff training for the temperature monitoring system, including guidance on acceptable operating temperature limits for the system.
 - Conduct a follow-up visit to retest motor noise and temperature, perform a system audit, and make any necessary adjustments to the system.

To date, the contractor has not submitted a Proposal to provide the above-mentioned work. A meeting with the Contractor to discuss the issue is being scheduled for later in June 2026.

- Seeding and Plantings – Spring perennial planting has started. A site walkthrough for the period of establishment (POE) inspections for the plants installed in Spring 2025 are on-going.
- Monitoring and Maintenance Activities: V3 has been on-site this Spring conducting weed control, mowing, and other M&M activities. M&M Activities will be continued throughout the growing season.
- Permit Related Activities—The Year 1 M&M report was submitted to the ACOE in December 2025.
- Payments – Total Billed by V3 to date (08/06/2025): \$8,571,551.50 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

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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
Pay Estimate 17 (11/03/2025): \$60,000
Pay Estimate 18 (03/11/2026): \$147,401.53

Total paid by MWRD to V3 to date (04/02/2026) is \$8,228,689.44. \$342,862.06 is being held as retainage by the MWRD.

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

Original Construction Budget:	\$ 9,375,745.00
Original Contingency	\$ 468,797.25
Approved Construction Budget Changes:	\$ (63,449.40)
Approved Contingency Changes	\$ (314,878.30)
Current Approved Budget	\$ 9,312,295.60
Current Contingency	\$ 153,908.95
Pending Change Orders	\$ 0.00

- Potential Future Change Orders

- Waterwheel Investigation: As discussed above, an RFP to resolve the waterwheel noise has been submitted to V3/FM. To date, a Proposal has not been received.

- **National Register of Historic Places Nomination** – The NRHP Nomination for the Fullersburg Woods Landscape District was approved by the NPS in May 2026. This was the final element of the Section 106 Mitigation Measures required under the project's Section 404 permit. The ACOE has been notified of the completion of the Mitigation Measures.

- **Post-Project Monitoring**

- **2025 Post-Post Project Monitoring** – Year 1 of Post-Project Monitoring was integrated into the Salt Creek Bioassessment. Eight species, previously observed only below the dam, were found within, or upstream of, the project footprint (the dam's former location). These are: northern pike, horneyhead chub, emerald shiner, blackside darter, smallmouth bass, log perch, central stoneroller, and rosyface shiner. Results of the 2025 monitoring was included in the DRSCW/LDRWC FY 2025-26 Annual Report.
- **2026 Post-Project Monitoring** – Contract with MBI for the Year 2 post project monitoring at Fullersburg Woods is being negotiated. Staff has added an additional site to the post-project monitoring upstream of Old Oak Brook Dam to that which was originally budgeted. Additionally, MBI has quoted higher fees for the sampling than expected due to the difficulty of sampling the site with its extensive riffles which increases MBI staff time. The budgeted amount for the sampling was \$14,553 and the quote from MBI was \$22,400. Staff is still negotiating with MBI on this total.

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- ✓ *A motion to allow staff to sign a contract with MBI not to exceed \$22,400 for the Year 2 post-sampling at Fullersburg Woods. The additional \$7,847 over the budgeted amount for the sampling will be funded from Contingency – Special Conditions.*
- **Post Construction Public Opinion Research** – Staff is strategizing options for potential public opinion research that could be conducted in-house.

Spring Brook Phase II

- **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** – The fifth year of post-project sampling was completed with sampling in the summer of 2025. Results were included in the DRSCW/LDRWC Annual Report and provided to the FPDDC for their Section 404 reporting. MBI is working on a summary report of all 5-years of Spring Brook post project monitoring. When complete, this will be shared with the FPDDC and included in FY 2026-27 Annual Reports. The post-project monitoring sites will be included in future West Branch bioassessment sampling including the scheduled 2027 West Branch bioassessment.
- **Spring Brook Phase 3 (FPDDC)** –The project includes the replacement of the bridge and riparian, instream and streambank enhancement. Construction started in summer in 2025 and the stream work is complete. The pedestrian bridge replacement work is still on-going. Post-project sampling of the Spring Brook Phase 3 area will be conducted as part of the 2027 West Branch bioassessment.

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.
- **Final Design and Permitting**
 - **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 the project can be extended into DuPage County (Reach 1: Hobson Road to Royce Road within the Green Valley Forest Preserve). Staff followed up with FPDDC staff who are looking into the FPDDC budget for opportunities to expand the project into DuPage County.
 - ComEd –Coordination with ComEd is on-going during project design.

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- ♦ ComEd Environmental Due Diligence Form – No input has been received from ComEd on the Due Diligence Form submitted in October 2023 and again in mid-January 2025.
- **Monthly Project Meetings** – Monthly project meetings with Interfluve started on February 6, 2026 and will continue for the length of the design work.
- **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. Draft 75% have been received and are undergoing review by Staff. Once Staff has reviewed the plans, the 75% Plans will be shared with the Project Team for their review and comment.
 - **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 and is interested in working with the DRSCW on options to re-meander the stream through a portion of the park. Interfluve and the DRSCW is working with the FPDWC and their consultant, V3, to explore opportunities within Trout Farm Park and incorporate agreed upon designs into final plans.
 - **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 the 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.
 - **Permit Matrix** – A permit matrix for all required permits has been developed. Permit development is expected to begin in Summer 2026.
- **Funding under ACOE Section 206** – The Lower East Branch Stream Restoration Project was submitted to Representative Foster's office as a Community Project Request for funding up

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to \$10 million via the ACOE Section 206 Aquatic Restoration Program. Based on communications with Representative Foster's office, the project was selected to be included in his Community Project Requests that were submitted to the US House of Representative's Appropriation Committee. If no changes are made to the Representative Foster's submitted projects, this project will be funded upon approval of the FY 26-27 Federal Budget. Funds will need to be allocated within 12 months of project award.

- **Letters of Support** – Two letters of support for funding the project by Section 206 has been obtained from US Representative Bill Foster and forwarded to the ACOE. Additional letters of support for the Community Project Request application were received the FPDDC, FPDWC, Bolingbrook, Naperville, and Naperville Park District.
- **Private Funding** – A draft fact sheet has been prepared on the Project for TCF to share with donors who may be interested in directly funding a project.
- **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 creating the bank credits and investigate any regulatory barriers that might apply given that the project is a regulatory requirement.
- **2024, 2025, and 2026 Pre-Project Monitoring** – No pre-project monitoring at the Lower East Branch Stream Enhancement Project was conducted in 2024 or 2025. No additional pre-project monitoring is scheduled for 2026.

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 in Spring 2026.
- **Post-Project Monitoring**
 - **2025 Post-Project Monitoring** – Year two of post-project sampling was completed with the fifth year of sampling in the summer of 2025. Results were included in the DRSCW/LDRWC Annual Report.
 - **2026 Post-Project Monitoring** – A contract with MBI for the Year 3 post project monitoring at Klein Creek has been negotiated and signed (Contract amount \$15,165.84, Budget amount was \$15,730)
 - .

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 at their July 9, 2025 virtual meeting and has been 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 were allocated to fund future studies in the FY26-27 budget. Studies funded 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 in WWTP permits.
- **Other projects** – The Illinois Tollway and Brookfield Zoo has contacted staff for data on potential projects. Contacts are ongoing.

6. Nutrient Implementation Plan

- **NIP** – The NIP was submitted to the IEPA on December 29, 2023 and can be found 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/>
- **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.
- **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 – The contract to update the database from FoxPro to SQL has been started (\$27,800). Staff have also received an updated cost proposal for Power BI training which is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2026. Staff have been reaching out to the DRWW and NBWW to see ascertain if they would be interested in participating and cost-sharing the IPS Training.
 - Level of Rigor Analysis – No update at this time.

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- **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**
 - DRSCW Point Source (PS) to PS Trading and Stream Crediting Trading (2018 Project)– No update.
 - OWOW Nutrient Strategy Technical Assistance Grant for Optimizing Point Source TP Reductions under DuPage River NIP – The DRSCW via the IEPA was awarded \$50,000 to evaluate the viability of a TP trading system between WWTP in one or more of the four basins covered by the NIP. Project work is being coordinated with the USEPA, IEPA and TetraTech. A project kickoff meeting was held on February 24, 2026 and bi-weekly calls are being held between all team members. The analysis of POTW treatment costs and the development of a water quality framework for point source to point source water quality trading are complete. Salt Creek has been selected as the pilot watershed and various trading scenarios are being evaluated. All work on this project needs to be completed by June 30, 2026.
 - The Executive Board has authorized Staff to sign a Master Services Agreement with Tetra Tech with a not to exceed value of \$5,000 to continue the work on the Optimizing Point Source TP Reductions under the DuPage River NIP once the funds from the OWOW Grant have been spent. The Master Services Agreement may also be used to engage Tetra Tech in any other analysis that may be needed for permit negotiations. The Master Service Agreement is work order based and will be funded via the NIP line in the Special Conditions.
- **NSAC Update** – The NSAC recommendations are not foreseen as being on the IPCB agenda.
- **Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS)** – The 2025 NLRS Conference was held on November 5, 2025 in Champaign, Illinois. A. Handel attended.
 - The DRSCW submitted their update for IL NLRS Biennial Report.
- **Other NARPs (NIPS)** – Per the IEPA, 152 of the 241 Major POTWs are required to develop NARPs. To date (04/02/2026), 60 NARPs have been submitted with 10 additional NARPs forthcoming. An additional 5 POTWs are undergoing IEPA review to determine in a NARP will be required of them. Of the POTWs that are preparing NARPs, 86 are in one of the 8 watershed groups or covered by MWRD's PARP.
 - **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>

- **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 pre-public permits for the Kiskwaukee and Kankakee were released by the IEPA in early September 2025 but have yet to be issued as public draft permits. The FRSG has had multiple permits posted as public drafts.

- 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**
 - 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 next West Branch Bioassessment is scheduled for Summer 2027.
- **Salt Creek Bioassessment** – 2021 draft report has been reviewed and comments sent to MBI.
 - 2025 Bioassessment – Biological and habitat sampling preliminary results have been received from MBI. Water chemistry results are forthcoming. A request for DMR data from 2022-2025 will be sent to all Salt Creek POTWs prior to the June General Membership Meeting.
- **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.
- **Fish Stocking Analysis and Implementation**
 - **Potential Partners** - Several entities have shown interest in this initiative including MWRDGC, The Field Museum and Constellation Energy. Staff has been reaching out to potential partners to gauge their interest in working with the DRSCW on this project.
 - **FPDDC Mussel Reintroduction into Salt Creek and the East Branch** – The FPDDC is considering reintroducing the Ellipse mussel into local streams but concerns are dissolved copper sensitivity and the presence of host fish (Johnny Darter) species during the juvenile stage. The FPDDC has asked for DRSCW assistance on obtaining water quality data, specifically related to copper concentrations, in Salt Creek and the East Branch. Staff has supplied data on Total Copper, calculated thresholds for dissolved copper from our total copper data using the IEPA Metals calculator and compared in to the state water quality standard and data on mussel sensitivity. Staff also prepared numerous charts/graphs depicting the data requested. As the Ellipse mussel glochidia also requires the presence of johnny darters (they are the primary species involved in spreading this species) staff provided data on the distribution of johnny darters in the two watersheds.
- **eDNA Monitoring on Salt Creek and the West Branch DuPage River** – Unfortunately, the proposal submitted to the Walder Foundation to use eDNA to track fish populations in the DRSCW was not selected for funding. As the DRSCW has funds in the budget to self-fund this work, staff held a call with the Field Museum on May 6, 2026 to discuss a scope of work and fee for conducting eDNA monitoring in the watersheds in the Summer of 2026. In general, the project will use eDNA (the topic from our August 27, 2025 General Membership Meeting presentation) to track fish distribution in the DuPage River system and Salt Creek since the removals of the Hammel Woods (Shorewood, DuPage River), Oak

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Meadows (Wood Dale, Salt Creek), and Fullersburg Woods (Oak Brook, Salt Creek) dams and with the upcoming installation of the fish passage system at the Fawell Dam (Naperville, West Branch DuPage River). Additional details on the project scope of work drafted by the DRSCW were provided to the Field Museum Staff in mid-May. Staff will continue coordination with the Field Museum on the project.

- **Continuous DO Monitoring** -- All continuous DO monitoring sondes have been installed for the 2026 sampling season. QAPP and SOPs for the program are being updated.
 - **DO Calibration Workshop** – A DO Calibration is tentatively scheduled for June 25, 2026 with all of the partner agencies that maintain a DO sonde. The goal of this workshop is to train the partner agency staff on the newly purchased Manta sondes so they can transition from the old Hach sondes to the new Mantas. Staff from Solinst Eureka (the manufacturer of the Manta) will attend virtually to assist with the training.

9. Chlorides

- **Workshops** – Dates for ten Fall 2026 workshops have been set:
 - Public Roads, In-Person: Sept. 24 (Kane DOT), Sept. 29 (Lake DOT), Oct. 6 (DuPage DOT), Oct. 13 (Cook DOTH)
 - Public Roads, Virtual: Sept. 15, Oct. 27, Nov. 12
 - Parking Lots & Sidewalk, All Virtual: Oct. 20, Oct. 29 (Refresher), Nov. 17In addition, the Force America Equipment Calibration Events are again scheduled for Nov. 3 (DuPage DOT), Nov. 4 (Cook DOTH) and Nov. 5 (Lake DOT). Thank you to our County DOTs for being willing to host these workshops and events.
- **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 received a Section 319 Grant to expand training and technical and education/outreach resources for communities, agencies, and private contractors to further chloride reduction efforts across NE Illinois. Work is expected to start in Spring 2026.
- **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.
- **Street Sweeping data** – No update.

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- **Study to determine the amount of salt lost at truck loading areas** – The DRSCW and the CAWCW is working with several municipalities to estimate how much salt (chloride loading) has the potential to be transported offsite via stormwater from truck loading areas. The sampling protocol includes sweeping up salt from loading areas post storm, tracking the number of truckloads, and the area of the loading area. Results will be forthcoming.

10. Other Activities

- **MS4 Permit Update** – The updated MS4 permit 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** – The 2025-26 DRSCW MS4 Activities report was drafted by staff and provided to all MS4 permit holders on May 6, 2026. Additionally, staff worked with DC SWM to format the report to meet the DOJ's Web Accessibility Rule.
- **Newsletter** – A new newsletter is on hold and will be released to announce the issuance of NIP language in permits.
- **Bacteria on Salt Creek** – No colonies were observed during summer 2025.
- **Hydrilla on Ginger Creek (Salt Creek watersheds)** – The Hydrilla Task received FY 2026 GLRI funding for the treatment of Hydrilla for Summer 2026. Application of SonarOne began in May 2026. DRSCW staff will conduct the monthly FasTest sampling similar to what was done in Summer 2025 but the fees will be paid for by the GLRI. Round 1 of the FasTest sampling was conducted on May 25, 2026.

11. Business Items (new business)

Invoice Summary for Review – April 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026

Vendor/Project	Invoice Number	Amount (\$)	Status
Barnes & Thornburg - NIP	3553045	890.00	Paid
Barnes & Thornburg - NIP	3567400	890.00	Pending
BK Riverfish, LLC - Fawell	132	22,221.90	Paid
Fehr Graham - Fawell	138769	308.75	Approved
Fehr Graham - Fawell	139595	896.00	Pending
Fehr Graham - Fawell	140160	56.00	Pending
The Hartford - Crime Insurance 2026-27	NA	582.00	Paid
Inter-Fluve - Lower EBDR Project	21-04-12-11	37,583.50	Approved
Inter-Fluve - Lower EBDR Project	21-04-12-12	41,011.00	Approved
Inter-Fluve - Lower EBDR Project	21-04-12-13	23,025.00	Pending
MBI - Klein Creek 2025 Bioassessment	2412	4360.74	Paid
MBI - Salt Creek 2025	2421	18,680.42	Pending
MBI - EBDR 2023	2422	15,451.63	Pending

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MBI - Spring Brook 2025 Bioassessment	2413	4151.15	Paid
MBI - Spring Brook 2025 Bioassessment	2413	4151.15	Paid
The Conservation Fdn - Jan - March Exp.	13789	4,303.56	Approved
West Bend Mutual - Gen'l Liability '26-'27	NA	400.00	Paid

- **YTD Financial Reports (through May 31, 2026)** (Attachment 2)
 - **Audit** – The FY 2025-26 audit report has been finalized by Lauterbach & Amen and submitted to the DRSCW.
- **Membership Dues Payment Update (through June 15, 2026)** (Attachment 3)
 - FY 2026-27 agency dues invoices were sent out and dues payments are being received. Associate member dues invoices will be sent in June 2026.
 - Staff is developing a plan to reach out to MS4 communities, especially in Cook County, and townships that have MS4 permits but are not members of the DRSCW. The impetus to join is the new MS4 permit.
- **TCF Staffing Contract** – The TCF contract for FY 2026-27 is attached for your review (Attachment 4). The contract reflects a 4% increase in staff salary, which is offset by staff sharing with other watershed groups, and a 3% increase in fixed costs. Also included is the new position (Project Manager-Fish Biologist). The proposed contract is within the Annual Budget amount for Workgroup staffing when adjusted for the new position.
 - ✓ A motion is needed to approve the FY 2026-27 TCF contract.
- **New Executive Board Member** – P. Desai has been appointed to the Deputy Director of Stickney WWTP (MWRD) and thus will be leaving the DRSCW Board. The Executive Board has selected Lucille Oduocha (MWRD) to fill the vacant seat. Welcome Lucille!
 - Sean Reese, DuPage County PW, accepted the position of Treasurer at a meeting of the Board on the 6/17/2026

12. Presentation and Workshops

- January 30, 2026- Update on NARPs, IWEA Governmental Affairs Workshop. Presenters: Rick Manner, Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District, Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation
- February 22-25, 2026 – Plenary Session, Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest, Presenter: Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation
- March 25, 2026 – Plenary Speaker 2026 NCD Rivers and Streams Technical Committee Annual Meeting, Stream Restoration as a Tool for Meeting Waste Water Permit Compliance? Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation

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- March 31, 2026 -- Initial Results from a Watershed Approach Applied to Improving Biological Integrity, IWPC, Peoria, Illinois. Presenters: Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation and Deanna Doohaluk, The Conservation Foundation
- May 19, 2026 – Local Watershed Management Initiatives, Downer Grove Rotary Club, Downers Grove, Illinois. Presenter: Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation
- May 21, 2026 -- Public-Private (Not-for-Profit) Partnerships for Water Resources Management, APWA Chicago, Grayslake, Illinois. Presenters: Tim Pollowy, Hey and Associates, Inc. and Deanna Doohaluk, The Conservation Foundation
- June 4, 2026 – Site Tour of Fullersburg Woods, League of Women Voters – LaGrange/Salt Creek Watershed Network, Oakbrook, Illinois. Presenters: Deanna Doohaluk and Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation
- September 10, 2026 – Development of Biologically Based Ambient TP Criteria for IWEA (by invitation) at IWEA Nutrient Committee workshop, Addison. Presenter - John Belcik, The Conservation Foundation.

13. Other Business

14. Future Meeting Schedule (location to be determined)

August 26, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
October 28, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
December 2, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
February 24, 2027 from 9AM-11AM
April 28, 2027 from 9AM-11AM
June 30, 2027 from 9AM-11AM