

**DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
General Membership Meeting
Village of Lombard
April 29, 2026
Minutes**

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nStvXqR_SfuGLOW0nHyFEA

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the February 25, 2026 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1).

S. Zehner made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026 Annual Membership Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by J. Hammer. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Reestablishment of Native Fish Populations in Ohio

DRSCW watershed's macroinvertebrate populations are showing strong signs of reviving but it has become increasingly clear that fish populations are not keeping pace. Is this problem something that may be resolved via the introduction of species gathered from other locations?

The presentation will cover 10 years of fish reintroduction work with Ohio's Fishes of Greatest Conservation Need. We will look at the release of 17 species for the purpose of attempting to re-establish fish populations to where they once were. These efforts, involving both translocation and captive propagation, have produced mixed results, with some being very successful; and others not. We look at what method was selected based on species and how variation in results can be explained, including the influence of the natural background recovery that has happened across Ohio thanks to the Clean Water Act and other state and federal regulations.

Presenter: Brian Zimmerman, Research Associate - Rare and Endangered/Non-Game Fish Biologist. Ohio State University - Olentangy River Wetlands Research Park, School of Environment and Natural Resources

SPECIAL CONDITIONS PERMIT ACTIVITIES

4. Special Conditions Permit Administration

- **2020/2025 Permit Negotiations** – See NIP Section 7 for more information on this language and permit status.
- **Additional Permit Items**
 - **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

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and the IEPA submittal letter via email on March 30, 2026. The report can be found at the DRSCW website at https://drscw.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2025-26_drscw-ldwrc_annualreport_final_03302026.pdf

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 has raised an issue about light in the ladder once installed in the culvert (the ladder will create a shadow and occlude light). Options are being investigated to provide light in the culvert
- **Fishway Capture System** –The fish net final design has been completed and purchased.
- **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.
- **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.

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- 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.
 - **Punch List**
 - As-builts have been completed and are undergoing final review by MWRD. MWRD hopes to complete the review by the end of April 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. It was determined that this could be due to the fact that the motor has been run at a substantially lower rpm than the manufacturer recommends. It was decided that V3's subcontractor who designed the motor would reinstall the wheel (completed during the week of April 13, 2026) and then complete an on-site investigation of options to reduce the noise by changing the speed that the motor is running and see if a temperature control system is needed to control temperatures of the motor/VFD if the wheel speed is increased. This investigation will be scheduled in the Summer 2026 once the outside temperatures increase.
 - **Seeding and Plantings** –Seed lists for supplementing seeding and plantings of perennial plants in Spring 2026 are under review by the FPDDC.
 - **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

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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
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:	\$ (61,849.40)
Approved Contingency Changes	\$ (314,878.30)
Current Approved Budget	\$ 9,313,895.60
Current Contingency	\$ 153,908.95
Pending Change Orders	\$ 0.00

- Potential Future Change Orders

- 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 parking lot resurfacing that would have been conducted to repair any damage caused by using the lot as a staging area.
 - Waterwheel Investigation: The DRSCW, FPDDC, and MWRD have agreed to fund a change order for the on-site investigation of options to reduce the noise by changing the motor speed and to see if a temperature control system is needed for the motor/VFD if the wheel speed is increased. The cost of the investigation is estimated at \$1,360.00. V3's subcontractor estimated that if additional work were needed to reduce the noise and/or install a temperature control system, the costs would be \$12-15,000. A more detailed cost estimate will be prepared after the on-site inspection is completed.
- **National Register of Historic Places Nomination** –McGuire Igleski and Associates (MIA) presented the NRHP Nomination to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council (IHSAC) on February 27, 2026. The Council requested a few small edits which have been made and the final nomination has been submitted to both the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS has also reviewed the NRHP

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nomination and requested a few additional changes. These have been made by MIA and the document has been resubmitted to the NPS. The final signed nomination is expected from the NPS by June 2026. The final MIA invoice has been paid; and the project was \$124.12 under budget.

- **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.
 - ✓ *D. Streicher made a motion to authorize staff to negotiate and sign a contract with MBI with a not to exceed value of \$16,000 for post-project monitoring at the Fullersburg Woods. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed with two abstentions.*
- **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 in the summer of 2025. Results were included in the DRSWC/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 Inter-Fluve. 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

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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 is looking into the FPDDC budget for opportunities to expand the project into DuPage County.
- ComEd –Coordination with ComEd is on-going during project design.
 - ♦ 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 Inter-Fluve started on February 6, 2026 and will continue for the length of the design work.
- **Modeling** – Inter-Fluve proposed continuing development of 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. 75% Plans are under development and a site walk through of the project area was conducted on March 24, 2026 with Inter-Fluve, DRSCW, FPDWC, and V3 (engineer for the FPDWC).
 - **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. Inter-Fluve and the DRSCW are 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

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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 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 FY26-27 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 the creating 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 DRSWC/LDRWC Annual Report.

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- **2026 Post-Project Monitoring** – A contract with MBI for Year 3 post project monitoring at Klein Creek is being negotiated.
- ✓ *S. Zehner made a motion to authorize staff to sign a contract with MBI with a not to exceed value of 16,000 for post-project monitoring at the Klein Creek Streambank Stabilization project. The motion was seconded by G. Ulreich. The motion passed with one abstention.*

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. 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 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.
 - **Highest Attainable Use – Attainment of General Use (Biological Endpoints)** – 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.

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->

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[prioritization-system/](#) and the LDRWC at <https://ldpwatersheds.org/about-us/lower-dupage-river-watershed-coalition/our-work/narp/>

- **Ongoing Discussions on the NIP** -- The Elmhurst, Wood Dale North, and Plainfield permits were all issued 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. 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 made the following recommended changes to the permit:

- All POTWs should meet the 0.5 mg/L by 2030 (2035 if using BNR)
- By 2032, the Permittee should submit a study that
 - Identified an instream target TP that must be met in order to comply with the existing DO and offensive conditions standards and/or other such standards in effect in 2032. This study should use 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 April 3, 2026 response letter was shared with the FRSG and DRWW/NBWW.

The IEPA met the EAGs on April 15, 2026 to discuss all permits and NARP/NIP provisions. While the conversation between the EAGs and IEPA was primarily focused on the FRSG permits, A. Ettinger did indicate that he was open to negotiations between the EAGs and

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the DRSCW/LDRWC to prevent permit appeals. The EAGs would like to see some language to include future studies similar to what was included in the Sierra Club comment letter (see above) included in the permit language. *The Executive Board and Negotiations Team provided guidance to staff that it is not our intent to re-do our studies until after the TP reductions at the WWTPs have been implemented. Staff relayed to IEPA that we do not want these additional study requirements incorporated into our permit language and ask that permits be issued with the Special Condition as it was in the draft permits.*

The Executive Board has recommended that staff reach out to J. Darin via phone to schedule a meeting with him and members of the DRSCW Board (A. Underwood and D. Streicher) to discuss the Sierra Club's threat to appeal permits issued with the NIP special conditions. *Staff has shared the talking points with the Executive Board and is waiting on any feedback before calling J. Darin.*

Staff will also reach out to F. Andes for input on the repercussions of a permit appeal on the date for the implementation of the 1 mg/L by 2028 (or similar) in current permits.

President Underwood would like to survey the DRSCW WWTPs to determine their financial need (not just for TP treatment) over the next 12-years to demonstrate to the IEPA how large the financial need is for WWTP upgrades. DGSD staff will prepare the survey.

PFAS Special Condition

During the review of the public permits, it was noted that there were differences in the PFAS Special Condition language compared to that initially provided to the IAWA. The primary change was inclusion 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 this PFAS arithmetic sum in the permit language. It was developed internally by the IEPA as a way to track BMP implementation progress at each POTW as it was thought impracticable for the agency to track 40 individual PFAS at each facility 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 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 drafted language to be included in the fact sheet 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

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observation of trends. As a simple sum it is not appropriate to evaluate the toxicity of the medium reported”.

The DRSCW also reached out to IAWA to discuss this inclusion of the PFAS arithmetic mean in the Special Condition language. 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”. 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.

POTW Expansions

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. IEPA have said that a POTW covered by the NARP may forego the 1 mg/L, but must be capable of hitting the 1 mg/L. 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 agreement language.

- **F. Andes** – F. Andes has reviewed and provided comments of the letter drafted to respond to the EAG comments on the public notice permits.
- **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** – Staff has received updated cost proposals for different iterations of Power BI training from MBI (for IPS database). The proposal is in two parts. The first is the updating of the databases programming language and the testing and QA the updated database. The second is the training on querying the database and building projects. Staff met with the DRWW and NBWW to determine their interest in participating in and cost-sharing the IPS Training. Both groups are interested but would need to review costs prior to committing.
 - ✓ *L. Cox made a motion to authorize a budget amendment moving funds from the Monitoring Budget (2026-27 Maintain database and Develop interface for public query lines and the 2027-28 Maintain database) and 2026-27 IPS Model Development, PowerBI data update, to authorize the signing of a contract with*

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*MBI not to exceed value of \$27,800 to update the IPS database programming language and QA/QC on the database. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner.
The motion passed unanimously.*

- 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**
 - **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 project team is currently working on analysis of POTW treatment costs and the development of a water quality framework for point source to point source water quality trading. All work on this project needs to be completed by June 30, 2026.
- **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 five POTWs are undergoing IEPA review to determine if 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:
<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/narps.html>

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- **Other Permits with NARP Language** – IAWA 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 is under review by staff.
 - 2025 Bioassessment – Biological and habitat sampling preliminary results have been received from MBI. Water chemistry results are forthcoming.
- **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

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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** – Several entities have shown interest in this initiative including MWRDGC, The Field Museum and Constellation Energy.
- **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 is in the process scheduling a call with the Field Museum for the week of May 4-8, 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 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 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).

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 will be held again on 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.

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- 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
- **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 trucks loaded, and the area of the loading area. To date, the study has shown that good housekeeping can reduce the amount of salt being transported to local waterways from loading areas; and more expensive BMPs may not be needed for these loading areas.

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 will be drafted by staff and provided to all MS4 permit holders in April 2026.
- **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 Force is still waiting on the release of the FY2026 GLRI funds. It has been decided that the herbicide needed to complete the first application of hydrilla treatment in Summer 2026 will be funded by the Hydrilla Task Force. The DRSCW will conduct and fund FasTest sampling similar to what was done in Summer 2025.

11. Business Items (new business)

Invoice Summary for Review – February 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

Vendor/Project	Invoice Number	Amount (\$)	Status
Barnes & Thornburg - NIP	3544133	1,335.00	Approved
Barnes & Thornburg - NIP	3553045	890.00	Pending
BK Riverfish, LLC - Fawell	130	84,368.00	Paid
BK Riverfish, LLC - Fawell	132	22,221.90	Pending
Fehr Graham - Fawell	137860	558.50	Approved

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First Environmental Labs - Sediment	196061	1,826.00	Paid
Hey & Assoc. - Fullersburg	21270	570.55	Approved
Inter-Fluve - Lower EBDR Project	21-04-12-09	16,889.00	Paid
Inter-Fluve - Lower EBDR Project	21-04-12-10	27,098.00	Approved
Lauterbach & Amen - Tax Return	111741	2,020.00	Paid
McGuire Igleski & Assoc.	2325-02	3,608.00	Approved
MBI - EBDR 2023 Bioassessment	2397	2,680.33	Paid
MBI - Klein Creek 2025 Bioassessment	2405	2,638.40	Paid
MBI - Klein Creek 2025 Bioassessment	2412	4360.74	Pending
MBI - Salt Creek 2021 Bioassessment	2398	2,972.69	Approved
MBI - Salt Creek 2025 Bioassessment	2404	12,002.72	Paid
MBI - Spring Brook 2025 Bioassessment	2406	2,022.34	Paid
MBI - Spring Brook 2025 Bioassessment	2413	4151.15	Pending
The Conservation Fdn - July - Sept Exps.	13671	8,618.23	Paid
The Conservation Fdn - Oct - Dec Exps.	13721	3,898.76	Paid

- **YTD Financial Reports (through March 31, 2026)** (Attachment 2)
 - **Audit** – The FY 2025-26 audit field work has been completed.
- **Membership Dues Payment Update (through November 12, 2025)** (Attachment 3)
 - FY 2026-27 agency and associate dues invoices are forthcoming. It is expected the agency dues invoices will be sent out in May 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 Changes** -- We are sorry to report that on April 30, 2026, Alex Handel is leaving The Conservation Foundation. Interviews for his replacement have been completed.
 - A. Handel's position as Environmental Scientist will be filled by Jessica Lee. She started at TCF on April 20, 2026.
 - Ashley Turner will be joining TCF as an Environmental Specialist. She is starting on May 11, 2026. This position is partially funded by a 319 grant.
 - Fish Biologist Position – A proposal has been made to the Board to recruit a new staff member to work on new budgeted items, namely the Fish Stocking Analysis and Implementation and the Highest Attainable Use Aquatic Life Study. This proposal was made when it was noted that one of the applicants for Alex's position held qualifications that made him highly suitable for this work (Fish biologist with a

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decade of experience, high level of familiarity with calculating IBI and QHEI, skilled in GIS and statistical analysis and working with large datasets, already familiar with many of the key agencies working in the area). The candidate has been interviewed twice by DRSCW staff and then interviewed a third time to ascertain his interest in this position. The proposal would be that this new position work on these items and the invasive Goby extension, as well as supporting on-going activities (expanded DO program and Bioassessment report reviews). Funding would be drawn mainly from funds already budgeted to be spent on these items. The contract would be for one year. Analysis by staff presented to the Board suggests that this would be about a third of the price of using contractors.

- ✓ *D. Streicher made a motion to authorize the Board to reallocate (as a budget amendment) a total of \$85,200 within the budget as follows: \$40,000 from fish Stocking Analysis and Implementation (from the budgeted \$50,000), and \$45,200 from the ending Activities Fund balance (predicted at \$706,787 for FY 2026-27) to Admin Staff Salaries to cover the costs of a new staff position. The motion was seconded by J. Hammer. The motion passed with one abstention.*
- ✓ *L. Cox made a motion to allow the TCF staffing agreement to be modified to allow the Post Doc - Watershed Project Manager position to be funded for one year. The motion was seconded by S. Zehner. The motion passed unanimously.*

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
- 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 21, 2026 -- Public-Private (Not-for-Profit) Partnerships for Water Resources Management, APWA Chicago, Illinois. Presenters: Tim Pollowy, Hey and Associates, Inc. and Deanna Doohaluk, The Conservation Foundation

13. Other Business

14. Future Meeting Schedule (location to be determined)

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June 24, 2026 from 9AM-11AM
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

K. Musich made a motion to adjourn at 11:05 am. The motion was seconded by G. Ulreich.