



# NBWW Monitoring and Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 08, 2023 @ 12:30pm – 1:30pm  
Patty Turner Center, 375 Elm Street Deerfield, IL 60015

## NBWW MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Introductions & Roll Call

Rob Flood, North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) Monitoring Committee Chair, called the NBWW Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee meeting to order at 12:33pm.

### 2. Roll Call

Monitoring Committee members present were **Rob Flood**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Larry Bridges**, East Skokie Drainage District; **Chris Johnson**, Illinois Sierra Club; **Sam Barghi**, Village of Lincolnshire; and **Leonard Dane**, Fehr Graham Engineering & Environmental. A roll call and introductions were performed.

### 3. Public Comment – None

### 4. Approve January 11, 2023 NBWW Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Meeting Minutes

Bridges motioned to accept the January 11, 2023, NBWW Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Meeting Minutes, seconded by Barghi. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### 5. Old Business

#### a. IPS Model Discussion: Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation

Stephen McCracken gave a presentation on the DuPage River Salt Creek Watershed Workgroup's (DRSCW) monitoring efforts, the Nutrient Implementation Plan (NIP) framework and their IPS model approach. In the watershed workgroup planning area, the DRSCW chose to approach the integrity of aquatic resources from all major factors; chemical variables (basis of Illinois EPA 303(d) impaired waterbodies list), flow regime, biotic factors, energy source and habitat structure. The DRSCW data was able to show that habitat was very important. The DRSCW discussed with the Illinois EPA to look at environmental parameters to improve water quality, such as riparian score, riffle score, channel score, substrate score, pool score, chloride, TKN, BOD and NH<sub>3</sub>N. A case to the Illinois EPA was made that linked biological responses to stressors; stream alteration impacts to biological endpoints. The DRSCW ranked monitoring sites based on IPS model prioritization and made a case to water quality improvement through project implementation in the stream (dam removals). The DRSCW created a pros/cons list of approaching POTW Total Phosphorus effluent limits for specific amounts. The NBWW Monitoring Committee can follow-up with DRSCW for more information. More information on this presentation can be found in the meeting recording.

*Questions/Answers:*

#### a. Are other states using this approach?

(I am) not sure about other states but other groups are using this approach. The approach itself sources from U.S. EPA. The DRSCW seemed to be a good approach, with the existing data.



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- b. Is the DRSCW done any or considering any reintroductions of species (historically present) with the implemented projects?

This has been considered but the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was not supportive of this idea for fear of spreading Asian Carp (further). At the moment the DRSCW is not pursuing this effort but trying to find different habitat improvement measures (fish ladder) with the dam removals. The IPS model allows for look at potential reintroductions at locations to determine if there would be improvement of IBI scores.

- b. **NARP Update** - No update to report.

- c. **NBWW 2023 Monitoring Strategy Review**

Strelcheck was looking for Monitoring Committee feedback on whether the NBWW would like to pursue the 2024 core site bioassessment monitoring or to decline that sampling and wait until the full bioassessment sampling in 2026. The Monitoring Committee requested a cost estimate for the biennial sampling (4-6 core sites) to make a more informed decision. Strelcheck will coordinate with MBI to get a cost estimate for the biennial and full bioassessment sampling events.

- d. **NBWW Workplan Discussion**

Given the limited time remaining in the meeting, this agenda item was agreed to be tabled until the April 12, 2023 meeting.

### 6. New Business

- a. **NBWW 2020-2021 Bioassessment Report Review**

Chair Flood provided a summary of his revision requests on the NBWW 2020-2021 Bioassessment Report. Leonard Dane, Wally Dittrich and Ashley Strelcheck all submitted revisions for the report so far. Strelcheck will combine all revision requests into one document and submit the draft report to MBI for revisions. The revised report will be reviewed at the April 12, 2023 Monitoring Committee meeting. There were no additional comments or revisions at this time.

### 7. Member Remarks

- a. There has been some access and redirect issues with the workgroup websites. SMC is working on adding additional security measures and changing the passwords.

### 8. Next Meeting:

- a. NBWW Monitoring Committee Meeting: April 12, 2023, Patty Turner Center, Deerfield, Illinois

### 9. Adjournment – 1:35pm

Bridges motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dane. The motion passed unanimously.



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### NBWW Monitoring Committee Meeting Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Ashley Strelcheck	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, NBWW Coordinator
Brandon Janes	Village of Deerfield
Chris Johnson	Illinois Sierra Club
Chuck Bodden	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Josephine Meincke	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Larry Bridges	East Skokie Drainage District
Larry Cox	Downers Grove Sanitary District & DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Leonard Dane	Fehr Graham Engineering & Environmental
Rob Flood	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Rosemary Heilemann	Illinois Sierra Club
Sam Barghi	Village of Lincolnshire
Stephen McCracken	The Conservation Foundation & DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup