



NBWW JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD & MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

Brandon Janes, North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) President, called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

2. Roll call

- a. Executive Board roll call: Executive Board members present were **Brandon Janes** (President), Village of Deerfield; **Keeley Evans**, Village of Northbrook; **Chuck Bodden**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Matt Ueltzen**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (entered meeting at agenda item 5.b.); **Hayley Frank**, Village of Winnetka; and **Rob Flood**, NSWRD and Monitoring Committee Chair. A roll call was performed, and an NBWW Executive Board quorum was present.
- b. Monitoring Committee roll call: **Rob Flood**, NSWRD and Monitoring Committee Chair; **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department; **Chris Johnson**, Sierra Club; **Janice Aull**, Skokie Consolidated Drainage District (SCDD); **Mike Warner**, Gewalt Hamilton; and **Cecylia Wszolek**, Village of Lincolnshire; were present at the meeting. A roll call was performed, and an NBWW Monitoring Committee quorum was present.

A full list of meeting attendees is at the bottom of the meeting minutes.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Approve September 10, 2025, NBWW Joint Executive Board and Monitoring Committee meeting minutes

Evans motioned to accept the September 10, 2025, Monitoring Committee meeting minutes with the revisions discussed, seconded by Flood. The motion passed via a roll call vote; Janes – aye, Evans – aye, Bodden – abstain, Ueltzen – aye, Frank – aye, Flood – aye (5-0-1).

5. Financials

a. Ratify NBWW Revenues-Expenditures:

Ashley Strelcheck, NBWW Meeting Coordinator, presented the expenditures and revenues to the NBWW Executive Board for ratification. There were no questions. Evans motioned to ratify the revenues and expenditures, seconded by Bodden. The motion passed via a roll call vote; Janes – aye, Evans – aye, Bodden – aye, Ueltzen – aye, Frank – aye, Flood – aye (6-0)

b. NBWW Budget review:

Strelcheck presented the NBWW budget for 2026, 2027 and 2028. All membership dues will drop to 'base dues' (i.e. no NARP Special Assessment Fee). Microbial source tracking with Grand Valley State University (GVSU) was kept as a budget line item at \$10,000 and the MBI IPS Model expense of \$5,000 are reflected in the 2026 budget. Finally, in anticipation of a potential contractual response to the NARP comments, a \$20,000 line item is reflected in the 2026 budget.

QUESTIONS:



Can we highlight that dues will decrease in the next workgroup invitation letter? Yes.

Do we reach out NBWW non-members? Yes.

Will members receive a letter as well as nonmembers that highlight the return to base dues? Yes.

6. Old Business

a. Water chemistry monitoring update

Rob Flood, Monitoring Committee Chair, gave an update to the Board and Committee on water quality sampling and microbial source tracking efforts with Grand Valley State University (GVSU). Water chemistry results are available for 2025, including September 2025 sampling event. In September, there was low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and high phosphorous at several NBWW monitoring sites. Chloride levels were overall low for September. None of the 2025 sampling events were considered wet weather because of this year's drought, but there were still high E. coli hits at certain NBWW monitoring sites. The microbial source tracking should provide more insight into these higher E. coli levels. All microbial source tracking data should be available by mid-October 2025. GVSU will be invited to the January 2026 NBWW Monitoring Committee meeting to discuss the results and next steps for microbial source tracking. Members were interested in provided communities near high E. coli monitoring sites with educational materials and available data. The 2025 water chemistry results will be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) with the NBWW annual report.

Finally, Flood shared an update on the Skokie River Stabilization DO Pilot Project. Data sondes were deployed into the Skokie River at the beginning of September and were removed at the beginning of October. Two sondes were placed upstream of the project, but only one data sonde was placed downstream of the added aeration structure (due to repairs needed on the second data sonde), and one sonde was placed at the end of the project boundary. Data should be available for discussion from these data sondes in January 2026. Mahajan brought up the importance of including this DO investigation in the NBWW NARP Implementation table.

QUESTIONS:

Have you considered an illicit discharge investigation approach for the high E. coli levels? We want to wait for more data results from GVSU before discussing next steps.

Is there a rapid E. coli test to trace it within a storm sewer? No.

Can a legend be added to the water chemistry results table for which parameters are above or below regulatory limits? Yes.

Why was there an increase in chloride levels at some sites between August and September? It's possible there was a rain event close to the September sampling event.

Was there any reaction to the chloride response letters? Yes, communities were open to learning more about chloride reduction and Winter Best Management Practices.

b. NBWW Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) Update

Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec Consultants, provided an update on the NARP. Last month, Geosyntec shared NARP Chapters 1-3 for internal NBWW Executive Board and Monitoring Committee review. Members were



NBWW Joint Executive Board & Monitoring Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm
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850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015

comfortable sharing the revised Chapters 1-3 for internal NBWW General Membership review. Chapter 4 and the appendices will be shared with Executive Board and Monitoring Committee members on October 20, 2025. Strelcheck proposed an additional NBWW meeting for NARP review and potential approval in December 2025, and members agreed a Special Meeting in December would be necessary. Mahajan also presented Geosyntec's interest in having an Illinois EPA representative at the December meeting, and members were comfortable with this addition. Finally, it was announced Brian Valleskey is no longer with Geosyntec.

QUESTIONS:

Were there requests from NBWW General Membership for access to the NARP for review? Yes.

Is there an internal deadline for NARP approval? It has not yet been decided.

c. Approval: 2026 NBWW Meeting Schedule

Executive Board and Monitoring Committee meetings will return to separate meeting times. Executive Board meetings will now start at 2:00pm. Ueltzen motioned to approve the 2026 NBWW Meeting Schedule, seconded by Evans. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

7. New Business

a. Approval: Contract Amendment #3 for Geosyntec Consultants NBWW NARP Services

Flood motioned to approve the Contract Amendment #3, seconded by Evans. The motion passed via a roll call vote; Janes – aye, Evans – aye, Bodden – aye, Ueltzen – aye, Frank – aye, Flood – aye (6-0).

QUESTIONS:

Is there a place where this cost update for Geosyntec Consultants is shown? Yes, it is a budget line item.

Will this increase in cost consider all potential needs for NARP revisions? Yes.

b. Approval: 2026 Draft NBWW Budget

Flood motioned to approve the 2026 Draft NBWW Budget as presented, seconded by Frank. The motion passed via a roll call vote; Janes – aye, Evans – aye, Bodden – aye, Ueltzen – aye, Frank – aye, Flood – aye (6-0). There were no questions.

c. Approval: 2026 Draft NBWW Membership Dues

Ueltzen motioned to approve the 2026 Draft NBWW Membership Dues as presented, seconded by Evans. The motion passed via a roll call vote; Janes – aye, Evans – aye, Bodden – aye, Ueltzen – aye, Frank – aye, Flood – aye (6-0). There were no questions.

8. Member Remarks

a. [Winter Best Practices Workshops](#) & [Calibration Events](#)

Strelcheck shared the Salt Smart Collaborative is hosting Winter Best Practices Workshops in both virtual and in-person formats during October and November. Additionally, the Salt Smart Collaborative is partnering with Lake County Stormwater Commission to host Calibration Events for winter maintenance vehicles in Lake



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County (November 4), Cook County (November 5) and DuPage County (November 6). Registration remains open for all remaining workshops and events.

QUESTIONS:

Will NBWW host more workshops and events in 2026? Yes.

Can the NBWW see which NBWW members attended the workshops? Yes.

b. [IWEA MS4 Workshop \(In-Person @ Libertyville CPF\) on October 10](#)

Strelcheck shared that the Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) is hosting an MS4 Workshop at the Lake County Central Permit Facility in Libertyville on October 10, 2025.

c. [Great Lakes Beach Association 2025 Annual Meeting](#)

The Great Lakes Beach Association 2025 Annual Meeting is happening November 3-5, 2025 in Michigan City, Indiana. E. coli is one of the agenda items that will be discussed.

d. [2025 Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Partnership Conference](#)

The 2025 Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Conference is on November 5, 2025, in Champaign, IL. This conference will provide an overview of Illinois’ efforts to reduce nutrient losses and improve water quality.

e. The Illinois EPA has recently shared pre-public comments on some workgroups’ NARPs.

9. Next Meeting:

- a. NBWW Joint Executive Board & Monitoring Committee meeting: November 12, 2025, Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 (Council Chambers Board Room)

10. Adjournment – 1:57pm

- a. Bodden motioned to adjourn, seconded by Flood. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

NBWW Executive Board and Monitoring Committee Meeting Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Alana Bartolai	Lake County Health Department
Ashley Strelcheck	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, NBWW Coordinator
Brandon Janes	Village of Deerfield, NBWW President
Cecylia Wszolek	Village of Lincolnshire
Chris Johnson	Illinois Sierra Club
Chuck Bodden	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Haley Frank	Village of Winnetka
Janice Aull	Skokie Consolidated Drainage District
Josephine Meincke	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Keeley Evans	Village of Northbrook
Mark Olszewski	Village of Deerfield
Matt Ueltzen	Lake County Forest Preserve District



NORTH BRANCH
CHICAGO RIVER
WATERSHED
WORKGROUP

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Monitoring Committee Meeting**

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NAME	ORGANIZATION
Mike Warner	Gewalt Hamilton
Rishab Mahajan	Geosyntec Consultants Inc.
Rob Flood	North Shore Water Reclamation District, NBWW Monitoring Committee Chair
Sarah Skolozynski	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission