



## 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 (Vice President); **Chuck Bodden**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Rob Flood**, NSWRD and Monitoring Committee Chair; **Robyn Flakne**, Village of Glenview (board member arrived at agenda item 4a – 1:03pm); and **Matt Ueltzen**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) (board member arrived at agenda item 5c – 1:12pm). 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); **Cecylia Wszolek**, Village of Lincolnshire; **Mike Warner**, Gewalt Hamilton. 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. Meeting minutes approval

- a. **Approve January 14, 2026 NBWW Executive Board meeting minutes approval**  
Bodden motioned to accept January 14, 2026 Executive Board meeting, seconded by Evans. The motion passed via consensus vote.
- b. **Approve January 14, 2026 NBWW Monitoring Committee meeting minutes approval**  
Aull motioned to accept the January 14, 2026 Monitoring Committee meeting, seconded by Bartolai. The motion passed via consensus vote.

### 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 Flakne. The motion passed via a roll call vote; Janes – aye, Evans - aye, Bodden – aye, Flood - aye, Flakne – aye (5-0).
- b. NBWW Budget review:  
Strelcheck presented the 2026 NBWW budget to the workgroup members. There were no questions.
- c. Sponsorship request: Lake-McHenry County MS4 Workshop \$250  
Strelcheck presented the Lake-McHenry MS4 Workshop “Effective Green Infrastructure” sponsorship to the



NBWW Executive Board for consideration. This event is similar to last year's workgroup sponsored event with a different NPDES emphasis on managing green infrastructure. The sponsorship request is \$250. Flood motioned to sponsor the Lake-McHenry County MS4 Workshop in the amount of \$250, seconded by Flakne. The motion passed via a roll call vote; Janes – aye, Evans - aye, Bodden – aye, Flood - aye, Flakne – aye and Ueltzen – aye (6-0).

## **6. Old Business**

### **a. Response to remaining NBWW NARP comments – determine next steps**

The NBWW discussed next steps for potentially addressing the remaining Dr. JoAnn Burkholder and Albert Ettinger NBWW Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) feedback and comments (submitted November 19, 2025 & December 15, 2025). The NBWW did not have enough time before the December 31, 2025 NBWW NARP deadline to address these comments and meet the Illinois EPA's NARP submission deadline. The NBWW expressed an interest to respond to these remaining comments given previous conversations with Illinois EPA staff and their request to applicants to respond to outstanding comments on submitted NARPs. The workgroup members agreed with this approach and a few considerations were made for responding back to the Illinois EPA. The considerations included: keeping in mind non-point sources (MS4 roles), highlighting the Skokie Lagoons in the response (not addressed in the feedback at all) and reflecting on POTWs as the highest price point for pounds of Total Phosphorus when it comes to return on investment. The workgroup requested that the draft proposal Geosyntec submitted as part of this meeting be brought to the May NBWW meeting as an agenda item as a vote for approval so Geosyntec can start addressing the remaining comments/feedback.

### **b. IPS Model training presentation & discussion**

Stephen McCracken and Deanna Doohaluk, The Conservation Foundation, gave a presentation to the NBWW members on what the IPS tool is and the relationship of biological health in relation to watershed health (and NPDES permits) and it's relationship to their NARP. The DuPage River Salt Creek Watershed Workgroup (DRSCW) utilized the IPS model (first in 2006) to help identify likely candidates of observed degradation in the watershed and using biological assessment to provide a picture of the overall community response to all watershed stressors. DRSCW was able to use nutrient thresholds for the IPS model for Total Phosphorus and approached their NARP through (IPS model driven – restorability/protect) physical restoration projects to target priority stressors in the watershed. The IPS model has allowed DRSCW to select priority sites for restorability (through variable scores) and assess cost-benefit scenarios. The DRSCW, Conservation Foundation and MBI are teaming up with local watershed workgroups to set up a Fall 2026 training on the IPS model and would like NBWW participation. The Conservation Foundation staff will reach out to the NBWW with a scope of work and breakdown of costs for the training (shared regionally with local watershed workgroups).

## **7. New Business**

### **a. New Member Vote: Vetaclear**

Evans motioned to approve Vetaclear as a new NBWW member (FY26 membership dues and signed agreement have been received), seconded by Bodden. There were no questions. The motion passed via consensus vote.

### **b. 2026 Microbial Source Tracking Proposal**

Strelcheck presented the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) FY26 draft SOW for the 5 highest E.coli sites in the watershed (NBWW sites) averaged based on 2023-2025 data and performing (4) dry weather and (1) wet



**NBWW Joint Executive Board &  
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Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Village of Deerfield, Village Hall  
850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015

weather monitoring events in 2026 for human, goose and ruminant markers. A breakdown of the costs was also provided for consideration. There was a discussion on pursuing this proposal verses changing the scope of work to strictly analyzing for only human markers moving forward. The workgroup decided they would like to rule out the goose and ruminant markers (and/or see the extent of those markers) before creating a human marker only approach for E.coli. The workgroup will re-visit this approach in the late summer after some initial results for 2026. The formal GVSU FY26 Microbial Source Tracking Proposal will be included in the May NBWW meeting agenda for approval.

c. E.coli Summary Outline Feedback

Strelcheck requested this agenda item be tabled given the lack of time in left in the meeting. NBWW Members agreed. NBWW members are encouraged to continue to send feedback on the draft outline to Strelcheck. A question was raised about potential funding opportunities for this kind of funding and the Illinois EPA Section 604(b) Program that may be a good fit. The NBWW would need to amend their current Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to incorporate E.coli monitoring to qualify for this funding source.

**8. Member Remarks - None**

**9. Next Meetings:**

- a. NBWW Monitoring Committee Meeting, May 13, 2026, 12:30pm – 1:30pm; Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 (**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room 206**)
- b. NBWW Executive Board Meeting, May 13, 2026, 2:00pm – 3:00pm; Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 (**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room 206**)

**10. Adjournment – 3:03pm**

- 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
Anna Niedzinski	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (virtual)
Ashley Strelcheck	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, NBWW Coordinator
Brandon Janes	Village of Deerfield, NBWW President
Brian Valleskey	Baxter & Woodman
Chris Johnson	Illinois Sierra Club
Chris Yoder	Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) (virtual)
Chuck Bodden	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Deanna Doohaluk	The Conservation Foundation
Ed Rankin	Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) (virtual)
Janice Aull	Skokie Consolidated Drainage District
Josephine Meincke	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Keeley Evans	Village of Northbrook
Matt Ueltzen	Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD)
Mike Warner	Gewalt Hamilton



NORTH BRANCH  
CHICAGO RIVER  
WATERSHED  
WORKGROUP

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NAME	ORGANIZATION
Rishab Mahajan	Geosyntec Consultants Inc.
Rob Flood	North Shore Water Reclamation District, NBWW Monitoring Committee Chair
Robyn Flakne	Village of Glenview
Stephen McCracken	The Conservation Foundation