



**NBWW MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Rob Flood, North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Chair, called the NBWW Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee meeting to order at 12:34pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Monitoring Committee members present were **Rob Flood**, North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD); **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department; **Chris Johnson**, Illinois Sierra Club; **Janice Aull**, Skokie Consolidated Drainage District (SCDD); **Cecylia Wszolek**, Village of Lincolnshire; and **Michael Warner**, Gewalt Hamilton. A roll call was performed. A full list of attendees is at the bottom of the meeting minutes.

**3. Public Comment – None**

**4. New Business**

- a. New Member Vote: David Koldoff as the new Alternate position for Gewalt Hamilton  
Mike Warner, requested this item be tabled as David Koldoff is no longer with Gewalt Hamilton. The Monitoring Committee agreed.
- b. New Member Vote: Zach Lesniewicz as the new Alternate position for Hey & Associates  
Strelcheck presented Zach Lesniewicz as the new Alternate position for Hey & Associates. Aull motioned to recommend Zach Lesniewicz as the new Hey & Associates alternate position, seconded by Johnson. Motion passed via consensus vote.
- c. Discussion Item: NBWW Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Amendment  
The Monitoring Committee discussed reaching out to Grand Valley State University (GVSU) for their availability to assist the NBWW on creating an amendment to the QAPP to include microbial source tracking SOPs for all markers. The Monitoring Committee is recommending this approach to the Executive Board and Rob Flood and Ashley Strelcheck will directly coordinate with GVSU.

During this discussion item, it was suggested to reach out to CMAP for potential NBWW membership opportunity as the goals of the workgroup align with CMAP and future E.coli microbial source tracking efforts may be supported with CMAP given their recent support of the Fox River Study Group's grant application. Strelcheck will reach out to CMAP about potential FY26 membership and starting a conversation about the workgroups microbial source tracking efforts.

- d. Discussion Item: 2026 Draft Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report NBWW Public Comments  
The NBWW wanted to provide public comments to the Illinois EPA inquiring if NBWW annual monitoring data has been taken into consideration for the 2026 water quality report and if the data has not been considered for the water quality report, the NBWW would like to find out how to properly submit data for future reports. "Oil" has been added as a cause to the Middle Fork North Branch Chicago River segment and the NBWW would like to inquire how this cause is added to the list of causes. It appears that visual observation is listed in the report, but the frequency and more detailed information is not provided.



## NBWW Monitoring and Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 @ 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Village of Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015

Strelcheck will draft these public comments on the workgroups behalf and submit them before the public comment period deadline. Any Illinois EPA responses will be reported back to the workgroup.

### 5. Old Business

#### a. NBWW field monitoring updates

Flood gave the Monitoring Committee an update on the current May 2026 water column chemistry sampling in the watershed (25 sites) underway. The results NSWRD is currently seeing is low E.coli at this time, we will see once all the results come in.

#### b. Geosyntec Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) Proposal Recommendation to Executive Board

Strelcheck presented the Geosyntec revised Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) Proposal to the Monitoring Committee for a recommendation to the Executive Board. The proposal amount and information did not change from the April 2026 joint meeting minus a grammatical error. Aull motioned to recommend Geosyntec's NARP Proposal with the addition of a 3-month deadline added to the proposal to the Executive Board, seconded by Warner. Motion passed via consensus vote.

#### c. Grand Valley State University 2026 Microbial Source Tracking Proposal Recommendation to Executive Board

Strelcheck presented the Grand Valley State University 2026 Microbial Source Tracking Proposal to the Monitoring Committee for a recommendation to the Executive Board. The proposal amount and information did not change from the April 2026 joint meeting. Strelcheck recommended if the Monitoring Committee did recommend the proposal to do so with the removal of "Ashley Strelcheck" as the signature authority (Brandon Janes is the NBWW signatory authority) and removal of the extra cost table in the appendices. Warner motioned to recommend Grand Valley State University 2026 Microbial Source Tracking Proposal with those revisions to the Executive Board, seconded by Aull. Motion passed via consensus vote.

NSWRD inquired about their additional sampling costs related to this microbial source tracking services for the NBWW. Strelcheck suggested that given the additional costs to their existing contract will result in less than \$1,000 let's reevaluate the contract amendment in August 2026 to create an more accurate contract amendment while NSWRD still has contract funds to use and we can get a contract amendment approved in September 2026. The Monitoring Committee agreed with this approach.

### 6. Member Remarks

#### a. Strelcheck made an announcement that a Save the Date will be sent out soon to the NBWW members for the Winter Best Practices Workshop and Calibration Events. At the June or July 2026 NBWW meetings, Strelcheck will also bring a request to the workgroups for a total sponsorship for the 2026 workshops and events for the NBWW.

#### b. Janes and Strelcheck brought up the Illinois' Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) for the workgroup's awareness; the Illinois EPA's regulatory approach for drinking water systems with elevated lead levels has been to push corrosion control treatment, primarily orthophosphate. Some systems are increasing their dosages, which increases the amount of phosphorus received by wastewater treatment plants whom are getting



## NBWW Monitoring and Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 @ 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Village of Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015

pushed by Illinois EPA for further phosphorus reductions. Phosphorus (as phosphates) isn't a contaminant regulated directly by the LCR's action levels (like lead/copper), but it's a vital chemical treatment used to meet the LCR's primary goal: corrosion control to keep lead and copper out of drinking water. A question we had is what is the relationship between this "lead and copper rule" update impacts to phosphorus usage in WWTPs and it's relationship to their objectives with the NARPs?

- c. Warner suggested stream clean ups be integrated into each watershed as part of the Lake County Qualifying Local Program (QLP) program. This may be an opportunity for the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) to be the lead for this suggestion.
- d. Davey Tree Expert Company is interested in NBWW FY26 Membership and presenting their biochar as an educational presentation at a future NBWW general membership meeting.

### 7. Next Meeting:

- a. NBWW Monitoring Committee Meeting, June 10, 2026, Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 (2nd Floor Meeting Room 206); 12:30pm – 1:30pm

### 8. Adjournment – 1:44pm

Aull motioned to adjourn, seconded by Warner. The motion passed unanimously.

### NBWW 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
Cecylia Wszolek	Village of Lincolnshire
Chris Johnson	Illinois Sierra Club
Janice Aull	Skokie Consolidated Drainage District
Josephine Meincke	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Leonard Dane	Hey & Associates
Michael Warner	Gewalt Hamilton (Representing Village of Northfield, Riverwoods and Bannockburn)
Rob Flood	North Shore Water Reclamation District