NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

NBWW COMBINED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026 * 1:30PM – 3:30PM

DEERFIELD, VILLAGE HALL, 850 WAUKEGAN RD, DEERFIELD, IL 60015
(COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

NBWW COMBINED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call meeting to order**
2. **Roll call**
3. **Public comment**
4. **Meeting minutes approval**
   a. October 14, 2026 NBWW Executive Board meeting minutes approval
5. **Financials**
   a. NBWW revenues & expenditures ratification
   b. Vote: NBWW FY2027 Budget Approval
6. **New business**
   a. Vote: Approval of FY2027 NSWRD Water Chemistry Monitoring Technical Services Agreement Approval
   b. Vote: Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. Microbial Source Tracking Grant Application Support Contract Amendment #1 Approval
   c. Vote: NBWW 2027 Meeting Schedule Approval
   d. Vote: Education & Outreach funds for 2027 general membership meeting spaces approval
7. **Old business**
   a. Monitoring Committee updates
   b. Draft 2026 NBWW Newsletter Review & Feedback
   c. Discussion: Microbial Source Tracking Strategy with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
      i. Monitoring Strategy Discussion
      ii. Draft QAPP
8. **Member remarks**
9. **Next meetings:**
   a. NBWW Executive Board Meeting, January 13, 2027, Deerfield Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 (**2nd Floor Meeting Room 206**); 2:00pm – 3:00pm
10. **Adjournment**

NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

NBWW Combined Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Village of Deerfield, Village Hall
850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015
(Council Chambers)

NBWW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call meeting to order**

   Brandon Janes, North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) Executive Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

2. **Roll call**

3. Executive Board members or alternates present were **Brandon Janes** (President), Village of Deerfield; **Keeley Evans**, Village of Northbrook; **Chuck Bodden**, North Shore Water Reclamation District; **Matt Ueltzen**, Lake County Forest Preserve District; **Michael He**, Village of Winnetka; **Rob Flood** (Monitoring Committee Chair), North Shore Water Reclamation District; and **Tim Horn**, Village of Glenview. A roll call was performed, and an NBWW Executive Board quorum was present. A full list of attendees is at the bottom of the meeting minutes.

4. **Public comment** - None

5. **Meeting minutes approval**

   a. September 9, 2026 NBWW Executive Board meeting minutes approval
   Flood motioned to approve the August 19, 2026 NBWW Special Executive Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Evans. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

6. **Financials**

   a. NBWW revenues & expenditures ratification
   Strelcheck presented the FY2026 revenues and expenditures to the NBWW Executive Board for ratification. There were no questions. Ueltzen motioned to ratify the revenues and expenditures, seconded by He. The motion passed via a roll call vote: Janes - aye, Evans - aye, Bodden - aye, Ueltzen - aye, He - aye, Flood - aye, and Horn - aye (7-0).

7. **New business**

   a. New member vote: West Deerfield Township

   Bodden motioned to approve West Deerfield Township as a new NBWW member, seconded by Horn. The motion passed unanimously.

   b. Vote: November NBWW Meeting Date Revision – Conflict with Veteran's Day

   The Board agreed to cancel the October 27, 2026, Special Monitoring Committee meeting and reschedule the November 11, 2026 meeting due to the Veterans Day conflict, moving it to November 18, 2026, at 1:30 PM as a combined Executive Board and Monitoring Committee meeting.
   Bodden motioned to approve the change, seconded by Horn. The motion passed unanimously.

   c. Review: NBWW Monitoring Strategy

   Strelcheck presented the proposed updates to the NBWW Monitoring Strategy to reflect current monitoring activities and future planning needs. The Board discussed scheduling the next bioassessment

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for 2030–2031 and recommending bioassessments at least every ten years to allow sufficient time to assess changes in water quality. Members also discussed conducting water quality summary reports approximately every five years (between bioassessment monitoring events) and evaluating an online resource for sharing monitoring results. There was a request from the members to include voluntary monitoring language under sections of the monitoring strategy that are not Illinois EPA NPDES permit required to denote the differences between voluntary and required monitoring efforts performed by the workgroup. Strelcheck will include preliminary budget placeholders for future expenses based on this feedback, and members were asked to provide comments on the strategy. The Board will revisit the potential water quality report and online resources in early 2027.

d. Vote: Approval of FY2027 NBWW Membership Dues

Strelcheck presented the proposed FY2027 membership dues, which will remain at the current rates. Evans motioned to recommend maintaining the current dues structure for consideration at the February 2027 General Membership Meeting, seconded by Ueltzen. The motion passed via a roll call vote: Janes – aye, Evans – aye, Bodden – aye, Ueltzen – aye, He – aye, Flood – aye, and Horn – aye (7-0).

8. Old business

a. Monitoring Committee updates

Flood reported that all 2026 water quality sampling was completed between February and September 2026. Final monitoring data will be provided to Strelcheck by year-end, with results presented at a future meeting. Dissolved oxygen results for the Skokie River Highland Park Streambank Stabilization project site tentatively showed improvement following the recent streambank stabilization project, but results are still being compiled. Flood also reported that all microbial source tracking samples had been submitted to Grand Valley State University for analysis and the NBWW is awaiting the complete results. Strelcheck requested that the North Shore Water Reclamation District prepare a contract for FY2027 for the Executive Board's consideration in November.

b. Vote: Approval of the NBWW Technical Memorandum - Responses to Comments on the Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) for the North Branch Chicago River Watershed

The Executive Board reviewed the revised technical memorandum, which incorporated responses to comments on the NARP. There were no additional comments or revisions requests. Bodden motioned to approve the memorandum, seconded by He. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Discussion: Microbial Source Tracking Strategy with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

Strelcheck presented budget scenarios from the October 1, 2026 NBWW meeting for the proposed microbial source tracking strategy, which includes three to five dry-weather monitoring events, up to 12 sampling locations, and testing for up to four MST markers. The estimated cost is $741 per sample, with total costs varying based on the number of events, locations, and markers selected. Grant administration and education and outreach costs are not included in the estimates provided by Geosyntec Consultants. Strelcheck noted that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Section 604(b) grant has been delayed until the first quarter of 2027, with project expenditures likely beginning in 2028 and

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reimbursement potentially occurring in 2031. She will incorporate the updated timeline into the budget and confirmed that NBWW could accommodate a $200,000 grant application. Geosyntec also noted that consultant and laboratory costs will be reflected with the project delay. Geosyntec explained that the sampling strategy is flexible, with initial results helping determine whether additional markers or sampling locations are needed. The workgroup agreed that more time is needed to determine which MST markers to test, the number of sampling events, and the locations to sample. These decisions will be revisited at the next meeting.

9. **Member remarks**

   Strelcheck encouraged members to advertise available workshop and calibration event opportunities, noting that openings remain in DuPage and Cook Counties (November 3rd and 4th). She also reminded members that spots are still available for Winter Chloride Watchers on October 20, 2026.

10. **Next meetings:**

    a. NBWW Combined Executive Board Meeting, November 18th, 2026, Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 **(2nd floor, Council Chambers);** 1:30pm – 3:30pm

11. **Adjournment** – 2:25 PM

    Bodden motioned to adjourn, seconded by Flood. The motion passed unanimously.

NBWW Executive Board 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
Brian Valleskey	Baxter & Woodman
Chuck Bodden	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Chris Johnson	Sierra Club
Jared Ervin	Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (virtual)
Janice Aull	Skokie Consolidated Drainage District
Keeley Evans	Village of Northbrook
Lauren Godinez	Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (virtual)
Matt Ueltzen	Lake County Forest Preserve District
Michael He	Village of Winnetka
Mike Warner	Gewalt Hamilton
Rob Flood	North Shore Water Reclamation District, NBWW Monitoring Committee Chair
Tim Horn	Village of Glenview
Zoe Schaaf	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

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2026 NBWW REV-EXP

NBWW Revenues (778-4230010-46010)

Name	NBWW Actual Expense	NBWW Ratification Date	NBWW Ratification
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Illinois Sierra Club	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Vetaclear	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
City of Highland Park	$ 6,084.41	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Union One Middle Fork Drainage District	$ 1,000.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Lake County Forest Preserve District	$ 939.90	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Lake County Division of Transportation	$ 1,118.29	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Cook County Department of Transportation & Highways	$ 1,323.52	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Vernon Township	$ 1,002.86	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Lake County SMC	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Deerfield	$ 11,113.37	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
City of North Chicago	$ 1,952.03	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Hey & Associates, Inc.	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Lake County Planning, Building & Development	$ 2,338.35	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Friends of the Chicago River	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Green Oaks	$ 2,452.13	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Skokie	$ 1,751.58	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Union One West Fork Drainage District	$ 1,000.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Lincolnshire	$ 1,746.46	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Glencoe	$ 2,144.68	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Libertyville Township	$ 1,107.28	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.	$ 200.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
West Deerfield Township	$ 1,090.73	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Skokie Consolidated Drainage District	$ 1,000.00	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
Gewalt Hamilton	$ 200.00	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Riverwoods	$ 1,938.13	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Engineering Resources Associates	$ 200.00	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Chicago Botanic Garden	$ 200.00	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Wilmette	$ 2,826.94	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
City of Lake Forest	$ 8,749.37	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
North Shore Water Reclamation District	$ 35,816.55	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Bannockburn	$ 2,229.06	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
City of Waukegan	$ 3,200.16	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Winnetka	$ 2,539.01	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Lake Forest Open Lands	$ 200.00	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Illinois Department of Transportation	$ 2,517.14	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
City of Evanston	$ 1,076.58	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Morton Grove	$ 2,894.26	5/13/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Glenview	$ 8,088.50	6/10/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Niles	$ 1,080.28	6/10/2026	NBWW ratified
Baxter & Woodman	$ 200.00	6/10/2026	NBWW ratified
Davey Tree Expert Company	$ 200.00	6/10/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Northbrook	$ 7,753.92	6/10/2026	NBWW ratified
Village of Northfield	$ 2,829.40	7/8/2026	NBWW ratified
City of Park City	$ 1,385.99	9/9/2026	NBWW ratified
Deerfield Park District	$ 200.00		
	$ 127,090.88		

NBWW Expenditures

Name	NBWW Actual Expense	NBWW Ratification Date	NBWW Ratification
FY26 NBWW SMC Admin Quarter 1	$ 7,318.33	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW NSWRD Payment #1	$ 4,363.75	4/8/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW SMC Admin Quarter 2	$ 5,417.25	7/8/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW NSWRD Payment #2	$ 5,038.75	7/8/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW Geosyntec Payment #1	$ 7,403.13	9/9/2026	NBWW ratified
NBWW Sponsorship of 2026 Lake-McHenry MS4 Workshop (copy)	$ 250.00	9/9/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW NSWRD Payment #3	$ 4,874.75	9/9/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW SMC Admin Quarter 3	$ 7,078.22	9/9/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW Geosyntec NARP Response Memo Payment #2	$ 8,581.96	9/9/2026	NBWW ratified
NBWW FY26 Winter Best Practices Workshop Sponsorship $250	$ 250.00	10/14/2026	NBWW ratified
NBWW FY26 Lake County Winter Chloride Watchers Training Sponsorship $250	$ 250.00	10/14/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW NSWRD Payment #4	$ 5,038.75	10/14/2026	NBWW ratified
NBWW FY26 Winter Best Practice Workshop Materials Expense	$ 12.21	10/14/2026	NBWW ratified
FY26 NBWW NSWRD Payment #5	$ 5,038.75		
NBWW FY26 Geosyntec MST Application Services Payment #1	$ 9,890.25		
FY26 NBWW NSWRD Payment #6	$ 3,377.86		
FY26 NBWW Geosyntec NARP Response Memo Payment #3	$ 631.39		
NBWW FY26 Lake County Calibration Event Sponsorship	$ 76.66		
FY26 NBWW Geosyntec MST Application Services Payment #2	$ 6,823.50		
NBWW FY26 Winter Chloride Watchers Event Sponsorship	$ 80.99		
	$ 81,796.50		

North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) Budget

Budget of Accounts - Revenues Expenditures

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NBWW Budget of Accounts	Adjusted Projected 2026 Budget	Actual 2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2028	Projected 2029	Projected 2030	Projected 2031
REVENUE							
NBWW Membership dues (778-4230010-46010)	$127,090.88	$126,890.88	$127,090.88	$127,090.88	$127,090.88	$127,090.88	$127,090.88
***Carryover Addition (778-4230010-46010)**	$24,381.28	$24,381.28	**$52,630.44**	$85,435.07	$73,802.94	$76,393.82	$195,484.70
****Account Interest (778-4230010-45350)***		***$40.98***					
Potential Grant Funding Reimbursement						***$200,000.00***	
TOTAL REVENUE	**$151,472.16**	**$151,313.14**	**$179,721.32**	**$212,525.95**	**$200,893.82**	**$403,484.70**	**$322,575.58**
EXPENSES - 778-4230010-71150							
2026 - (Account Number: 778-4230010-71150)							
Administrative & Technical Support (Lake County SMC)	$ 24,000.00	$ 19,813.80					
Water Column Chemistry Monitoring & Sediment Analysis (NSWRD)	$ 27,896.61	$ 27,732.61					
Education & Outreach	$ 2,000.00	$ 919.86					
NARP Year 4 (Geosyntec FY2025 Contract Ongoing December 2025)	$ -						
***Microbial Source Tracking Grant Application (Geosyntec Consultants)**	**$ 27,500.00**	**$ 16,713.75**					
NBWW NARP Response Comments (Geosyntec Consultants)	$ 25,861.00	$ 16,616.48					
Microbial Source Tracking (Grand Valley State University)	$ 12,700.00						
Potential Contractual - MBI IPS Model Expense							
2027 - (Account Number: 778-4230010-71150)							
Consultants - Administrative & Technical Support			$24,000.00				
Education & Outreach			$2,500.00				
***Microbial Source Tracking Grant Application (Geosyntec Consultants)- continued PO#**			**$10,786.25**				
Contractual - NSWRD - Water Column Chemistry Monitoring & Sediment Analysis			$27,000.00				
Potential Contractual - Grand Valley State University Microbial Source Tracking			$13,000.00				
Potential Contractual - NBWW Monitoring Data Database Development			$7,000.00				
Potential Contractual - MBI IPS Model Expense			$10,000.00				
2028 - (Account Number: 778-4230010-71150)							
Consultants - Administrative & Technical Support				$ 24,000			
Education & Outreach				$ 3,000			
Potential Contractual - Microbial Source Tracking Grant Implementation				**$ 70,000**			
Potential Contractual - NBWW Water Quality Summary Report				*$ 14,223*			
Contractual - NSWRD - Water Column Chemistry Monitoring & Sediment Analysis				$ 27,500			
2029 - (Account Number: 778-4230010-71150)							
Consultants - Administrative & Technical Support					$ 24,000		
Education & Outreach					$ 3,500		
Potential Contractual - Microbial Source Tracking Grant Implementation					**$ 70,000**		
Contractual - NSWRD - Water Column Chemistry Monitoring & Sediment Analysis					$ 27,000		
2030 - (Account Number: 778-4230010-71150)							
Consultants - Administrative & Technical Support						$ 24,000	
Education & Outreach						$ 4,000	
Potential Contractual - Microbial Source Tracking Grant Implementation						**$ 60,000**	
Potential Contractual - MBI 25 Site Sampling (Year 1)						$ 93,000	
Contractual - NSWRD - Water Column Chemistry Monitoring & Sediment Analysis						$ 27,000	
2031 - (Account Number: 778-4230010-71150)							
Consultants - Administrative & Technical Support							$ 24,000
Education & Outreach							$ 4,500
Potential Contractual - MBI 25 Site Sampling (Year 2)							$ 68,000
Potential Contractual - Grand Valley State University Microbial Source Tracking							$ 20,000
Contractual - NSWRD - Water Column Chemistry Monitoring & Sediment Analysis							$ 27,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 119,957.61**	**$ 81,796.50**	**$ 94,286.25**	**$ 138,723.01**	**$ 124,500.00**	**$ 208,000.00**	**$ 143,500.00**
Unexpended Carryover/Reserve	$31,514.55	$69,516.64	*$85,435.07*	*$73,802.94*	*$76,393.82*	*$195,484.70*	*$179,075.58*

Footnotes:

Current contract balance is $10,786.25, fiscal year ends November 30, 2026. Any costs incurred to that date will reduce this value.

****Current Account Interest is $40.98; this amount will slightly fluctuate as of November 30, 2026 (end of the NBWW fiscal year) and will be updated to accurately reflect that amount***

*****Fund Balance (Carryover) is updated based on the two previous footnotes***

2027 TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT between the
NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP
and
NORTH SHORE WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT for
WATER CHEMISTRY MONITORING

1.This is an agreement (Agreement) by and between the NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP, 500 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois 60048 (NBWW) and NORTH SHORE WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT, 14770 W. Wm. Koepsel Drive, P.O. Box 750, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 (DISTRICT).

PURPOSE

The NBWW wishes to engage the District to provide technical services to assist the NBWW in conducting water chemistry monitoring within the North Branch Chicago River Watershed located in Lake and Cook Counties, Illinois. The water chemistry monitoring consists of the collection and analyses of water column samples within the Watershed. The NBWW has selected 25 sampling locations within the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed in Lake and Cook Counties, Illinois.

SERVICES

The District will perform the water chemistry monitoring by collecting and analyzing water column samples and providing the analytical data to the NBWW in accordance with the IEPA-approved NBWW Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The detailed Scope of Services to be provided by the District to accomplish the NBWW's objectives for the water chemistry monitoring is further described in Attachment A, 2027 North Branch Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) Water Chemistry Scope of Work.

COMPENSATION

1. The District agrees to perform the Scope of Services and furnish the items included in the Scope of Services for a fee (Agreement Amount) not to exceed $24,518.75 for water column sampling in accordance with the unit price rates identified in Attachment B – Project Budget.

2. The District shall bill the NBWW monthly, with net payment due in accordance with the Illinois Local Prompt Payment Act (50 ILCS 505/1 et seq.). Itemized invoices shall be submitted detailing the work completed during the current billing period.

3. The District will notify NBWW if scope changes require modifications to the Agreement Amount. Services relative to scope changes will not be initiated without authorization from NBWW.

SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

Generally, sampling will be conducted at the appropriate sites in accordance with the Sampling Schedule below within a single week per month and approximately the same week every month.

Sampling Schedule

- February 2027
- May 2027
- July 2027
- August 2027
- September 2027

Project Deliverables:

- Electronic data deliverables (EDDs) and the sample results in an editable Microsoft Excel file.
- A final report consisting of a pdf file of all analytical results, analytical methods, chain(s) of custody, and a field log. Any sampling or testing observations which may have affected accuracy will be noted in the report narrative. Any applicable data qualifiers (e.g., matrix spike failure) will also be noted in the project specific comments portion of the report narrative page.

TERMS and CONDITIONS

1. The NBWW may, by written Order, make changes in the scope of work if such changes are within the general scope of the Agreement. If such changes cause an increase or decrease in the District's cost or the time required to complete the project, the parties hereto shall agree to an adjustment in the Agreement Amount, prior to issuance of the Change Order. Adjustment of the Agreement Amount shall be based on the unit price rates identified in Attachment B – Project Budget. The District will not perform additional services without an approved Change Order.

2. Either party may terminate this Agreement by providing thirty (30) day written notice to the other party. NBWW shall pay District for all expenses incurred prior to the date of termination. Any and all services or deliverables provided to the NBWW by the District shall remain the property of the NBWW.

3. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

4. This Agreement supersedes any and all other agreements, oral or written, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof.

5. This Agreement shall not be assigned, altered or modified without the express written consent of both parties.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATION

All notices and communications given to either party by the other relative to this Agreement shall be addressed to the respective parties as follows:

To the NBWW: North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup
500 West Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
ATTENTION: Ashley Strelcheck, Administrative Agent
AStrelcheck@lakecountyil.gov

To the District: North Shore Water Reclamation District
14770 W. Wm. Koepsel Drive
P.O. Box 750
Gurnee, IL 60031
ATTENTION: Chuck Bodden, Director, Laboratory & Environmental Compliance
chbodden@northshorewrd.org

For the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup:

_____
Brandon Janes, President
North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup

_____
Date

Attest:

_____
North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup

For the North Shore Water Reclamation District:

_____
Stephen J. Drew, President
North Shore Water Reclamation District

_____
Date

Attest:

_____
North Shore Water Reclamation District

ATTTACHMENT A

2027 North Branch Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) Water Chemistry Scope of Work

- The North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) proposes to contract with the North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD) to perform 2027 water chemistry monitoring in the North Branch Chicago River Watershed located in Lake and Cook Counties, Illinois by collecting and analyzing water column samples and providing the analytical data to the NBWW in accordance with the IEPA-approved NBWW Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The water chemistry monitoring plan outlined in this 2027 Scope of Work (SOW) will support the NBWW's watershed monitoring program and aid the NBWW's evaluation whether the North Branch Chicago River Watershed meets criteria that support water quality goals.

- **Sampling Schedule**

Water Column Sampling and Analysis

- Water column sampling and analysis will begin in February 2027, after Technical Services Agreement approval. The North Shore Water Reclamation District's (NSWRD) Laboratory will sample twenty-five (25) sites over a one-week period. The sampling will occur during the following months: February, May, July, August and September 2027. Sample collection will follow methods outlined in the NSWRD Surface Water Collection Procedures (Attachment C). Samples will be analyzed for the water quality monitoring parameters listed in Table 1. All sample analyses will follow methods listed in Table 2 and the NSWRD Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) outlined in the NSWRD Quality Assurance Project Plan. The reporting limits and the laboratory method detection limits (MDLs) are listed in Table 2 (Test Methods and Reporting Limits).

    - **Field QA/QC Samples**

- For every 25 samples collected, NSWRD will also collect a blank and duplicate samples. The blank will be made up in the field by pouring deionized water into the same type of sample containers that are used for the surface water. The deionized water will be NSWRD Lab reagent grade water. This water will be placed inside a pre-cleaned container.

Table 1: 2027 Water Column Sampling Parameters and Frequency

Parameter	NBWW Routine Sampling Frequency	Number of Sample Events
General Water Quality Parameters		
Chloride	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
Conductivity	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
pH	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
TSS	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
DO	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
Temperature	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
BOD5	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
Nutrients		
Ammonia	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
Total Nitrates (NO3+NO2)	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
TKN	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
Total phosphorus	February, May, July, Aug, Sept	5
Bacteria		
E. coli	May, July, August, Sept	4

Table 2: Test Methods and Reporting Limits

Parameter	Method	MDL/Reporting Limit
Demand		
BOD5	SM5210B	1 mg/L
DO	YSI field meter	0.1 mg/L
Chloride	SM 4500-Cl^- E	5 mg/L
Conductivity	YSI field meter	1 umhos/cm
pH	Orion field meter	0.1 units
Temperature	170.1	0.1°C
TSS	SM 2450D	1 mg/L
Nutrients		
Ammonia	SM4500 NH3 D	0.1 mg/L
Phosphorous, Total	EPA 365.1, Re. 2.0	0.10 mg/L
TKN	SM 4500N_{org} C	0.50 mg/L
Total Nitrates (NO3 + NO2)	EPA 353.2 Rev 2.0	0.10 mg/L
Bacteria		
E-coli	9223B	1CFU/100ml

Field Parameters

NSWRD shall perform onsite field analysis for the following parameters:

- Conductivity
- pH
- Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen

The results of these parameters will be reported after each sampling event and on the final report along with the results of the analyses performed in the laboratory. The field meters shall be calibrated on a daily basis.

Field Reporting

Field Log

A field log will be kept each day that samples are collected. The field log will include:

- Name and signature of the person collecting the samples
- Location and sampling site
- Weather information
- Dates and times of sample collection
- Field measurements
- Descriptions of any unusual conditions at the sample locations
- Chains of Custody
- Indication of duplicate sample location

Sample Custody and Handling

Labeling and Storage

All samples will be placed in appropriate containers provided by NSWRD. All containers will be properly labeled. The duplicate sample will be labeled with the sample location and identified as “duplicate”. When preservation is required, pre-preserved bottles will be used. Samples will be placed inside a cooler with wet ice until they reach the laboratory.

Chain of Custody

Proper chain of custody documentation will accompany the collected samples. The chain of custody will contain the sample IDs, analyses to be performed, date and time of

collection, type and number of containers, preservatives added, date and time of transfers, and the signature of each person involved in custody transfer. The chain of custody will be placed in a water-resistant plastic bag inside each cooler. Indelible ink will be used on the container labels and chain of custody records. Upon receipt at the laboratory, sample temperature will be recorded on the chain of custody form. A copy of the chain of custody form will be included with the final report.

Sample Preservation

When necessary, preservatives will be added to sample bottles prior to sample collection. The preservative added will be indicated on the sample bottle.

Project Deliverables

Final Report

The final report will consist of a PDF file of all analytical results, analytical methods, chain(s) of custody and a field log. Any sampling or testing observations which may have affected accuracy will be noted in the report narrative. Any applicable data qualifiers (e.g. matrix spike failure) will also be noted in the project specific comments portion of the report narrative page.

Electronic Data Deliverable

An electronic data deliverable (EDD) which includes the sample results in an editable Microsoft Excel file will be included for every report.

Turnaround Time

The results for all analytical analyses will be provided no later than 20 business days following the date of collection.

Attachment B

2027 PRICE QUOTATION	Quoted Price	Proposed Quantity	Total Tier 1
Demand			
Chloride	$ 12.00	135	$ 1,620.00
BOD5	$ 25.00	135	$ 3,375.00
Conductivity*	$ 5.00	130	$ 650.00
pH*	$ 5.00	130	$ 650.00
TSS	$ 12.00	135	$ 1,620.00
DO*	$ 5.00	130	$ 650.00
Temperature*	$ 2.00	130	$ 260.00
		Total	$ 8,825.00
Nutrients			
Ammonia	$ 18.00	135	$ 2,430.00
Total Nitrates (NO2+NO3)	$ 15.00	135	$ 2,025.00
TKN	$ 20.00	135	$ 2,700.00
Total Phosphorus	$ 20.00	135	$ 2,700.00
		Total	$ 9,855.00
Bacteria			
E. Coli	$ 25.00	108	$ 2,700.00
		Total	$ 2,700.00
* denotes field measurement		Sampling Charge	$ 3,138.75
		Grand Total	$ 24,518.75

Note 1: Field Sampling Charge $25.11 per site visit
Note 2: Includes Field Blank and Duplicates

Total for 5 sample events at 25 sites 2025 =	$ 24,518.75
Grand Total =	$ 24,518.75

Quotation Accepted By:

Signature Title

Name (Print) Date

ATTACHMENT C

Protecting Lake Michigan & Our Waterways.
North Shore Water Reclamation District

Procedure	FLD-RIV
Revision No.	0
Org. Date:	04/13/18
Rev. Date	

TITLE:

Surface Water Collection Procedures

WRITTEN BY: **Robert Flood**

APPROVED BY: **Antoinette L. Favero**

The use of this SOP is governed by the North Shore Water Reclamation District's Quality Assurance Manual and associated Quality SOPs. Implementation of this SOP must always comply with the requirements of the Quality Assurance Manual and the Quality SOPs.

SCOPE AND APPLICATION:

This SOP is applicable to the collection of representative surface water samples from rivers, streams, lakes or any other surface waters. This procedure is a grab sample method that utilizes a stainless steel bucket or dip sampler to collect a surface water grab sample.

SUMMARY OF METHOD:

Sampling situations can vary widely depending on the location and characteristics of the water body. Generally, a surface water grab sample is accomplished through the use of one of the following techniques:

- Dip sampler
- Stainless steel or polyethylene bucket (polyethylene not for collection of organic samples)
- Direct method

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

1. Personal Protection
   Work or disposable gloves are recommended. Hip boots or waders may or may not be required during sample collection.

2. Chemical hazards
   Pre-preserved sample containers may contain hazardous chemicals. Handle all samples carefully to minimize exposure.
3. Biological Hazards
   Water samples may contain potential health hazards. Handle all samples carefully to minimize exposure.

INTERFERENCES:

The two most common interferences in surface water collection include cross contamination and improper collection technique.

1. Cross contamination can be eliminated through the use of dedicated or disposable sampling equipment or proper cleaning/decontamination procedures.
2. Improper sample collection can occur when using contaminated sampling equipment or poor technique. It is important to collect the sample in the most representative area. Care should be taken to minimize bottom substrate disturbance and avoid surface scum or debris.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES:

1. Stainless steel bucket with rope or dip sampler
2. Deionized rinse water
3. Decontamination equipment and supplies
3. Appropriate sample bottles
4. Cooler with ice packs
5. Field Instrumentation
5. Field Log Book and Sample Chain of Custody

REAGENTS AND STANDARDS:

Reagents may be used for preservation of samples. Preservatives will be specific to the analysis and determined by the laboratory. Cleaning solutions may be used for decontamination of sampling equipment.

SAMPLE PRESERVATION, CONTAINERS, HANDLING AND STORAGE:

Once samples have been collected, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Transfer the sample into a suitable, properly labeled sample container specific for the analysis to be performed.
2. Preserve the sample, if appropriate. Pre-preserved sample containers are preferred for simplicity and convenience. Do not overfill containers if they are pre-preserved.

3. Cap the container securely and cool immediately by placing in a sample cooler with wet ice or reusable ice packs.
4. Record all relevant information in the sample log book and NSWRD Field Collection Sheets.
5. Deliver samples to the laboratory and follow NSWRD chain of custody procedures. See the appropriate section of the NSWRD Laboratory QAP for additional guidance.

QUALITY CONTROL:

All personnel involved in the sample collection process must be properly trained and understand the sampling SOP. Any deviations must be recorded in the field book and/or on the field collection sheet. The laboratory supervisor must be notified of any deviations from the SOP and evaluate appropriately.

All field equipment shall be maintained following manufacturers recommendations. All field equipment shall be inspected, calibrated and tested prior to sampling events and after the equipment returns from the field. Any problems encountered or maintenance required must be noted in the equipment maintenance log book.

CALIBRATION AND STANDARDIZATION:

Field meters must be calibrated daily following manufacturers calibration procedures and documented in the field instrument calibration log book.

PROCEDURE:

Prior to being used for sample collection or holding, all sampling equipment is decontaminated and cleaned following procedures outlined in the NSWRD Laboratory Quality Assurance Project Plan.

1. <u>Preparation</u>
   a. Determine the sample locations by performing a general site survey if possible. Prior knowledge of the locations will aid in determining exact equipment needs and safety considerations. Sample sites may need to be adjusted based on access, property boundaries or obstructions.
   b. Determine the equipment needs and make sure everything is in working order.

2. <u>Sample Collection</u>
   a. Take sample at the specified location. If sampling a river or stream, sample at the middle of the main channel at mid-depth. Collect the sample from a representative site on the stream. Try to locate an area where the water is well mixed and the velocity of flow is great enough that the chance of solids settling is minimal. Depending on the site

characteristics, the sampler may use a bucket, pole sampler or wade in and collect the sample. Lower the sampling device into the stream. When it is properly positioned, activate the bucket to collect a sample by tipping the bucket gently. Avoid top floating debris if possible. It is important not to disturb the bottom substrate during the collection process. If excess dirt, gravel, or other foreign material is collected, discard the sample, and repeat the sampling. Once the sample has been collected, fill each sample bottle to the appropriate mark taking care not to overfill pre-preserved bottles.

b. Field measurements should be performed on site after all of the sample bottles have been filled.
c. Record collection date, time and field measurements in the field book and/or field collection sheet.

REFERENCES:

1. North Shore Water Reclamation District Quality Assurance Plan

2. Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 22nd ed,2012.

AMENDMENT NO. 1
to
2026-2027 SERVICE ORDER between the
NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP
and
GEOSYNTEC CONSULTANTS, INC. for
NBWW MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT

This Amendment is by and between:

North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW)
500 West Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

and

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec)
1420 Kensington Road, Suite 103
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Who agree to amend the original Agreement, as follows:

TIME EXTENSION REQUEST

The NBWW Executive Board has approved a time extension for Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. 2026-2027 Service Order Tasks to July 1, 2027. A compensation increase to the Service Order is not included in this Contract Amendment #1. The remaining FY2026 contract budget line item not-to-exceed amount will be paid upon completion of all scope of work services and deliverables. This time extension request is due to the Illinois EPA informing the NBWW on October 14, 2026 that they will not be posting the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Illinois EPA Section 604(b) funding until early 2027 (estimated) which will delay Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. from completing all of their scope of work items.

APPROVED FOR NBWW	**APPROVED FOR GEOSYNTEC**
By: _____	Signature: Rishab Mahajan
Printed Name: _____	Printed Name: Rishab Mahajan
Title: _____	Title: Principal Engineer
Date: _____	Date: 11/09/2026

North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup DRAFT 2027 Meeting Schedule													
Approve by the NBWW Executive Board: DATE													
Meeting Type	**Recurrence**		**1/13/2027**	**2/10/2027 - Membership Dues Approval**	***3/3/2027**	**4/14/2027**	**5/12/2027**	**6/9/2027**	**7/14/2027**	**8/11/2027 - Annual Meeting**	****9/8/2027 or 09/15/2027 Labor Day 09/06**	**10/13/2027**	**11/10/2027**
Monitoring/ WQ Improvement Committee	Monthly	2nd Wednesday of each month	12:30 PM		12:30 PM	12:30 PM	12:30 PM	12:30 PM	12:30 PM		12:30 PM	12:30 PM	12:30 PM
Executive Board	Monthly		2:00 PM		2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM		2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM
General Membership	Biannually			1:00 PM - 3:00 PM						1:00 PM - 3:00 PM			
LOCATIONS			Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	*To be determined* **Will be held in the Watershed*	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	*To be determined* **Will be held in the Watershed*	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall	Village of Deerfield, Village Hall

Monitoring Committee & Executive Board Meeting Locations:
Village of Deerfield, Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 (2nd Floor, Conference Room 206);

* The March 2027 NBWW meeting was moved from March 10, 2027 to March 3, 2027 to avoid the 2027 Illinois Association of State Floodplain Managers(IAFSM) Annual Conference and the 2027 Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference (IWPC)

**The September 2027 NBWW was moved from September 8, 2027 to ..... Due to Labor Day on September 6, 2027 which would impact an NBWW quorum.

DRAFT

Analysis: Microbial Source Tracking (MST)
Analyst: Brian Scull
NBWW 2026

North Shore Water Reclamation District for NBWW/North Branch Watershed Workgroup - Lake County, IL

Host targets analyzed: ***Human (HF183), Ruminant (Rum2Bac), Goose (ND2)***

LLOD = Lower limit of detection, instrument baseline-"zero" value (372 GC/100mL for HF183, 354 GC/100mL for Ruminant, 354 GC/100mL for Goose ND2)
EXT= Method control for DNA extractions, NTC= non-template control, method control for ddPCR plating, POS= positive control for host target

Sample Date	Analysis Date	Sample ID	AWRI ID	MPN/100 mL	HF183 Detected?	HF183 LLOD GC/100 mL	HF183 GC/100 mL	Rum2Bac Detected?	Rum2Bac LLOD GC/100 mL	Rum2Bac GC/100 mL	ND2 Detected?	ND2 LLOD GC/100 mL	ND2 GC/100 mL
5/21/2026	9/18/2026	Blank	77200	**	No	354	354	No	354	354	No	354	354
5/21/2026	9/18/2026	SR05	77201	461	Yes	354	1352	No	354	354	No	354	354
5/21/2026	9/18/2026	WF25	77202	727	Yes	354	21360	No	354	354	No	354	354
7/30/2026	9/18/2026	Blank	77203	**	No	354	354	No	354	354	No	354	354
7/30/2026	9/18/2026	SR05	77204	816	Yes	354	380	No	354	354	No	354	354
7/30/2026	9/18/2026	MF17	77205	816	Yes	354	2304	No	354	354	No	354	354
7/30/2026	9/18/2026	WF20	77206	>2419	No	354	354	No	354	354	No	354	354
7/30/2026	9/18/2026	WF25	77207	687	Yes	354	526	No	354	354	No	354	354
8/10/2026	11/9/2026	Blank	77662	**	Yes	372	724	No	354	354	No	354	354
8/10/2026	11/9/2026	SR05	77663	15531	Yes	372	5920	Yes	354	1744	No	354	354
8/10/2026	11/9/2026	MF14	77664	14136	Yes	372	8800	Yes	354	1256	No	354	354
8/10/2026	11/9/2026	MF17	77665	6131	Yes	372	59600	Yes	354	612	No	354	354
8/10/2026	11/9/2026	WF20	77666	14136	Yes	372	1320	No	354	354	No	354	354
8/10/2026	11/9/2026	WF25	77667	17329	Yes	372	22160	No	354	354	No	354	354
8/13/2026	11/9/2026	Blank	77668	**	Yes	372	454	No	354	354	No	354	354
8/13/2026	11/9/2026	SR05	77669	1090	Yes	372	2000	No	354	354	No	354	354
8/13/2026	11/9/2026	MF17	77670	565	Yes	372	21360	Yes	354	388	No	354	354
8/13/2026	11/9/2026	WF20	77671	471	Yes	372	824	No	354	354	No	354	354
8/13/2026	11/9/2026	WF25	77672	712	Yes	372	23760	No	354	354	No	354	354
9/14/2026	11/9/2026	Blank	77673	**	Yes	372	420	Yes	354	372	No	354	354
9/14/2026	11/9/2026	MF14	77674	1046	Yes	372	606	No	354	354	No	354	354
9/14/2026	11/9/2026	MF17	77675	488	Yes	372	3552	No	354	354	No	354	354
9/14/2026	11/9/2026	WF25	77676	1986	Yes	372	13520	No	354	354	No	354	354
NA	9/18/2026	EXT 9182026	NA	NA	NA	354	354	NA	354	354			
NA	9/18/2026	NTC 9182026	NA	NA	NA	354	354	NA	354	354			
NA	9/18/2026	POS 9182026	NA	NA	NA	354	2770400	NA	354	30400			
NA	11/9/2026	NTC 1192026	NA	NA	NA	372	372	NA	354	354			
NA	11/9/2026	POS 1192026	NA	NA	NA	372	2799200	NA	354	30800			
NA	11/9/2026	EXT 1192026	NA	NA	NA	372	372	NA	354	354	NA	354	354
NA	11/9/2026	NTC 11122026	NA	NA							NA	354	354
NA	11/9/2026	POS 11122026	NA	NA							NA	354	52437.544

NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

Executive Board

President
Brandon Janes, Deerfield
Alternate: Mark Olszewski

Vice President
Aram Beladi, Northbrook
Alternate: Keeley Evans

Committee Chair
Rob Flood, NSWRD
Alternate: Josephine Meincke

Members-At Large
Chuck Bodden, NSWRD
Alternate: Steve Waters

Obaid Khalid, Winnetka
Alternate: Michael He

Matt Ueltzen, LCFPD
Alternate: Nick Huber

Adriana Webb, Glenview
Alternate: Tom Horn

Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee

Committee Chair
Rob Flood, NSWRD
Alternate: Josephine Meincke

Members-At-Large
Anna Bartolai, LCHD
Alternate: James Fitzgerald

Christopher Johnson, Sierra Club
Alternate: *Vacant*

Janice Aull, SCDD
Alternate: Mary Scanlan Hogan

Leonard Dane, Hey & Associates
Alternate: Kirsten James

Michael Warner, Gewalt Hamilton
Alternate: *Vacant*

Wally Dittrich, Lincolnshire
Alternate: Cecylia Wzsolek

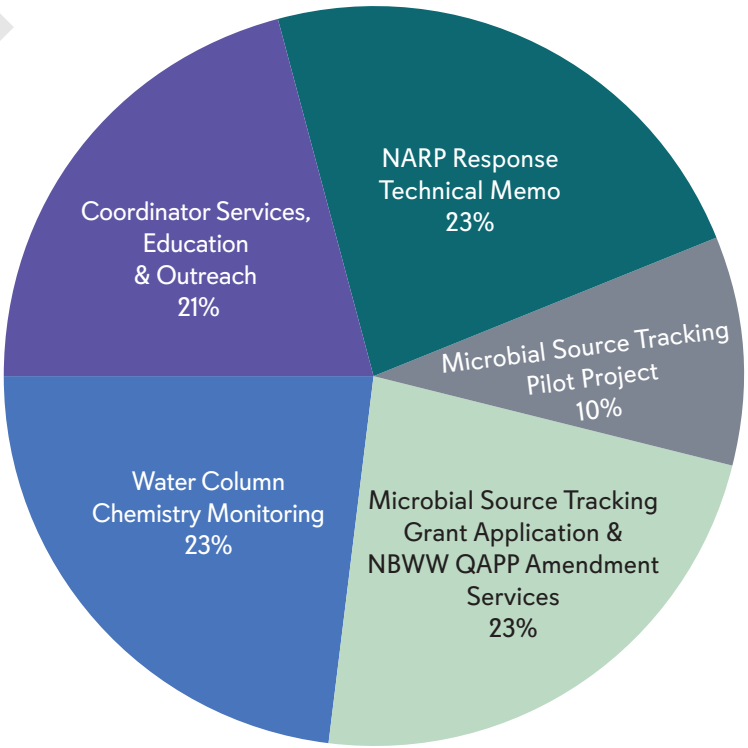
NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP
2026 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) is a voluntary, dues-paying organization. The workgroup is governed by bylaws, an elected Executive Board, and voting dues-paying members. The NBWW monitors water quality in the North Branch Chicago River watershed planning area upstream (north) of Dempster Street in Morton Grove, which includes the three subwatersheds: West Fork, Middle Fork, and Skokie River. In addition to meeting members' Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, the NBWW can prevent duplicated monitoring efforts and will accomplish more with less! Membership dues are used to implement the water quality program, which includes: data collection, analysis, and identification of potential water quality impairments based on collected water quality data.

WORKGROUP MISSION

To bring together a diverse coalition of stakeholders to preserve and improve water quality in the North Branch Chicago River and its tributaries through long term monitoring and gaining a better understanding of the stressors to the aquatic system.

2026 NBWW EXPENSES



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2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

WATER COLUMN CHEMISTRY

- North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD) was contracted to conduct water column chemistry monitoring at all 25 monitoring sites. NSWRD sampled water column chemistry five times a year in the months of February, May, July, August, and September.

NPDES PERMITTING

- Compiled and submitted the March 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026 annual report to the Illinois EPA which satisfies the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water quality monitoring component of the permit reporting requirements for NBWW agency members.
- NBWW updated and maintained the NBWW MS4 Resources page, **www.nbwwil.org/resources**.
  - The NBWW Resources webpage's NPDES permitting resources section has been updated with new links and a new MS4 Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) Compliance section.
- NBWW updated the 2026 Workplan Scorecard, find it at **nbwwil.org/reports-and-data**.
  - This scorecard helps members with corresponding MS4 minimum control measures reflected as measurable goals in the Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) as well as member's annual facility inspection resports.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- The NBWW created a summary of the 2025 E. coli microbial source tracking results and site locations for the NBWW members. This summary also lists ways NBWW members can assist with tracking potential leaking sewage infrastructure and lists next steps for the workgroup.
- NBWW held 17 meetings in 2026: 8 executive board, 2 general membership, 5 monitoring water quality impairment abatement committee, and 1 joint executive and monitoring committee meetings.
- NBWW sent 30 letters to entities tributary to the five NBWW monitoring sites in the watershed with the highest chloride levels (based on February 2026 monitoring). These letters also shared winter best practice and housekeeping resources and awareness.
- NBWW provided a scorecard with program activities that can be included in reporting as measurable goals to meet the minimum control measures (MCMs) of the NPDES ILR40 permit requirements.
- Maintained NBWW website: **www.nbwwil.org**, for posting information on the workgroup and distributing updates to NBWW members and the public.
- See Page 5 for NBWW Education and Outreach Sponsorships.



North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW) Microbial Source Tracking

NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP

Since 2018, the NBWW has been collecting and analyzing E.coli four times a year at all 25 NBWW monitoring sites on the North Branch Chicago River as part of the water column chemistry program. Elevated levels of E.coli have been detected at every NBWW site.

The NBWW began working with Grand Valley State University (GVSU) on a microbial source tracking services pilot project in May 2025 to help understand where fecal contamination (E.coli) is coming from in the watershed. The NBWW selected five monitoring locations for this pilot project based on the highest E.coli levels averaged from the 2023-2024 data. Each of the five sites were sampled for E.coli four times by the North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD) between May and September 2025. If E.coli concentrations exceeded 354 colony-forming units per 100 milliliters (CFU/mL), samples were then sent to GVSU to be tested for three possible microbial source markers: human, dog and/or gull data. The data showed human-associated markers at three monitoring sites: MF17, SR05, & WF25 (see map on page 2).Those three locations also tested above 354 CFU /100 mL, the minimum detection level for DNA extractions.

For Reference: *In Illinois, the maximum allowed E. coli level for licensed public swimming beaches is 235 CFU/100mL. E.coli is a species of fecal coliform that is specific to fecal material from humans and other warm-blooded animals.*

What does human-associated markers mean?

Human-associated markers detected in these water quality samples indicate human waste. Possible sources could be leaking sewer pipes, failing septic systems, or illicit connections. Regardless of the source, this poses a significant public health risk due to the presence of human pathogens. The North Branch Chicago River watershed has a mix of septic systems and sanitary sewer lines. The Cook County part is predominantly on sanitary sewer lines, with the Lake County part a mix of both septic and sewer services.

Page 1

NBWW Microbial Source Tracking summary document

DRAFT

TARGETED WATER QUALITY PILOT PROGRAMS

IN-STREAM RE-AERATION IMPACTS TO DISSOLVED OXYGEN FOR 2025-2026

The NBWW collaborated with workgroup member Skokie Consolidated Drainage District (SCDD) on a monitoring pilot project in conjunction with the installation of a Skokie River streambank stabilization project (Skokie River Channel Improvements Project Phase 3) between Danny Cunniff Park and Old Elm Golf Course in Highland Park. This 1,400 linear-foot streambank stabilization was implemented between Spring-Fall 2026 on both sides of the stream and includes four reaeration structures (pool/riffle structures).

In June 2025, the NBWW requested a scope of work expansion to NSWRD's 2025 water chemistry monitoring contract to deploy three datasondes in the Skokie River upstream/downstream of the SCDD project's boundaries. In September 2026, two datasondes were deployed upstream of Danny Cunniff Park and downstream of the reaeration structure for two weeks at a time, and one datasonde monitored for 30 days about 1,000 feet downstream of the project.

2026

In July 2026, the Skokie River Channel Improvements Project Phase 3 was substantially completed, with all in-channel work being fully completed. September 2026, DO monitoring was repeated to compare results once the project is completed. One datasonde was placed upstream of the project area, a second datasonde was placed at the first riffle area and the third datasonde was placed downstream of the project area adjacent to Parkside & Trail Way. The second datasonde was moved after a two-week deployment to the third riffle area downstream for additional data collection.



The NBWW Monitoring Committee will review and compare the 2025 and 2026 in-stream DO monitoring results in early 2027. The findings will be shared with the NBWW General Membership and incorporated into the NBWW NARP Implementation Table (see NARP report page 37) to support ongoing implementation and tracking efforts.

E.COLI MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING

The NBWW contracted with Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in 2026 for microbial source tracking services. The NBWW selected the five highest E.coli monitoring locations averaged from the 2023-2025 monitoring data. Each of the five selected sites were sampled for E.coli four times by NSWRD between May and September 2026 and then sent to GVSU to be tested for three microbial source markers: human, goose, and ruminant markers. Microbial source tracking services was performed on four dry weather and one wet weather samples events at the five sites. The data showed human markers at three monitoring sites.

The NBWW has conducted two years (2025-2026) of microbial source tracking services in the North Branch Chicago River watershed due to the consistently elevated levels of E.coli observed through routine water column chemistry monitoring efforts. The two years of microbial source tracking pilot monitoring efforts and conversations with neighboring watershed workgroups has led the NBWW to potentially expand their efforts.

MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT

Based on the 2025-2026 microbial source tracking NBWW pilot monitoring efforts in the watershed, the NBWW Monitoring Committee and Executive Board members agreed to seek grant funding to expand these services to further investigate the sources of the elevated levels of E.coli observed in the watershed. In September 2026, the NBWW hired Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. to develop a two-year microbial source tracking (MST) monitoring strategy, an amendment to NBWW's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and prepare an Illinois EPA Section 604(b) grant application on the workgroup's behalf.

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NBWW EDUCATION & OUTREACH SPONSORSHIPS

MS4 POLLUTION PREVENTION WORKSHOP

NBWW sponsored the 2026 Lake-McHenry MS4 Workshop: "Effective Green Infrastructure" hosted by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) and McHenry County Planning & Development on May 15. The workshop provided important information on managing green infrastructure, fulfilled training requirements for communities with MS4 permits or anyone interested in protecting our nation's water quality.

Featured speaker Jeff Edstrom, Illinois EPA, shared insights on the Illinois EPA 319 grant program and green infrastructure initiatives. Additional presentations featured information on implementing green infrastructure and maintenance that is vital for compliance and protecting water quality, followed by case studies of best management practices implemented by the Villages of Algonquin and Glenview. The workshop had a total of 65 in-person attendees and 121 virtual attendees.

WINTER BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOPS

The NBWW sponsored ten Winter Best Practices Workshops (virtual/in-person) for Roadways, and Parking Lots and Sidewalks from September to November 2026. The NBWW has sponsored and supported the Northeastern Illinois Regional Winter Best Practices Workshops since 2021.

The workshops aim to help municipalities and public works facilities implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the amount of salt used in operations and to address NPDES Permit Requirements. Watershed workgroup members were highly encouraged to attend these workshops and were offered a discount code to reduce the cost of attendance. Over 1,200 individuals were trained both in person and virtually through these workshops.

The NBWW encourages members to find ways to reduce road salt use while ensuring safe travel on transportation surfaces. Visit the **Salt Smart Collaborative** and **Lake County** websites for resources to use and share on winter deicing BMPs.

LAKE COUNTY CALIBRATION EVENT

The NBWW also sponsored a Lake County Calibration Event on November 5, 2026, located at the Lake County Division of Transportation in Libertyville. This free event was targeted towards those responsible for calibrating snow removal vehicles or those who will be training staff on calibration. Participants chose a one-hour timeslot to have a one-on-one calibration session with Force America representatives to prepare for the winter season.



Calibration Event attendees calibrate their vehicle with a Force America representative on November 5, 2026.

This event sold out for the third year in a row and was a big success in helping our local winter maintenance workers better understand vehicle calibration. Ten entities from around the county attended this year! The NBWW encourages members to look for ways to reduce road salt use while ensuring safe travel on transportation surfaces. Check out the **Salt Smart Collaborative** and **Lake County SMC** websites for resources to use and share on winter BMPs.

LAKE COUNTY WINTER CHLORIDE WATCHERS TRAINING

The NBWW sponsored a **NEW** Winter Chloride Watchers Training on October 20, 2026 for Lake County that was hosted by The Conservation Foundation. The Winter Chloride Watchers is a unique program to protect the water in our streams by collecting and testing water samples to gather important data to help inform future water protection efforts.

This training prepared volunteers in the basics of monitoring a sampling site monthly from November through May at a local waterway. By collecting water samples and gathering important data, these trained volunteers will help inform future water protection efforts. A total of XX volunteers were trained at the event.

Each volunteer was given a sampling test kit provided through the sponsorship of the NBWW and the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW). Volunteers chose sites throughout Lake County.

DRAFT

NBWW MEMBERS

2026 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES $127,090 & 47 NBWW MEMBERS

32 AGENCY MEMBERS

- City of Evanston
- City of Highland Park
- City of Lake Forest
- City of North Chicago
- City of Park City
- City of Waukegan
- Cook County Dept. of Trans. & Highways
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Lake County
- Lake County Division of Transportation
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Libertyville Township
- North Shore Water Reclamation District
- Skokie Consolidated Drainage District
- Union One Middle Fork Drainage District
- Union One West Fork Drainage District
- Vernon Township
- Village of Bannockburn
- Village of Deerfield
- Village of Glencoe
- Village of Glenview
- Village of Green Oaks
- Village of Lincolnshire
- Village of Morton Grove
- Village of Niles
- Village of Northbrook
- Village of Northfield
- Village of Riverwoods
- Village of Skokie
- Village of Wilmette
- Village of Winnetka
- West Deerfield Township

15 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Baxter & Woodman
- Chicago Botanical Garden
- Christopher Burke Engineering
- Davey Tree Expert Company
- Deerfield Park District
- Engineering Resource Associates Consultants
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Geosyntec Consultants
- Gewalt Hamilton
- Hey & Associates
- Illinois Sierra Club
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- Lake Forest Open Lands
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- Vetaclear

2027 WORKGROUP GOALS

NPDES PERMITTING

- Perform and analyze watershed monitoring results and implement the NBWW Monitoring Strategy.
- Compile the March 1, 2026 - February 28, 2027 NBWW monitoring data in a format to be included in an annual report that satisfies the NPDES water quality reporting requirements.
  - Revise format of monitoring data to submit to the Illinois EPA for inclusion of water quality data when preparing Integrated Reports on Illinois Water Quality.
- Continue to provide NBWW members with an annual scorecard and benefits pertaining to their NPDES permit requirements and MCMs, with additional support following August 1, 2025 permit updates.

WATER QUALITY MODELING

- Evaluation of February 2027 chloride levels to determine high chloride NBWW monitoring sites, and provide outreach to tributary entities.
- Evaluate 2025-2026 microbial source tracking (MST) results and await potential grant funding for expanded MST monitoring in the watershed.
- Integrate results from the in-stream re-aeration impacts to dissolved oxygen pilot program (2025-2026) into the NARP Implementation Table and evaluate next steps.
- Use management scenarios created from NBWW NARP to guide NARP Implementation next steps.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Continue to host meetings that provide education and outreach targeted towards achieving attainment of water quality standards and designated uses for the watershed.
- Support the North Branch Watershed Planning Committee and the North Branch Watershed Consortium through fostering general membership forums.
- Continue to sponsor local winter best practice education and outreach efforts, which will help achieve NBWW bylaw goals and objectives.

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NBWW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

NBWW MEMBERSHIP DUES PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS TO THE WATERSHED AND INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES.

Collaborative Monitoring and Reporting

General NPDES Permit No. ILR40, Part V, Item A.b.x

- NBWW has designed and implemented a watershed monitoring program.
- NBWW assesses the water quality of the water bodies and the sources of pollutants.
- Monitoring data is analyzed and summarized into a comprehensive report to meet Illinois EPA annual submittal requirements.

Over $200,000 Saved Every Year

General NPDES Permit No. ILR40, Part V, Item A, Section 2b

- An individual monitoring program managed by a MS4 community costs upwards of $10,000 annually.
- NBWW's annual water quality and bioassessment monitoring program costs $82,000 on average.
- Collectively, the workgroup saves the watershed over $200,000 annually thanks to collaborative monitoring.

MS4 Permit Compliance for Chlorides

General NPDES Permit No. ILR40, Part III, Item D

- "If permittee performs any deicing activities that can cause or contribute to a violation of an applicable State chloride water quality standard..."
- "The permittees shall participate in a watershed group, where feasible, organized to implement control measures which will reduce the chloride concentration in any receiving stream in the watershed."

NARP Implementation

NPDES Permit Special Conditions for POTWs and WRFs

- NBWW members worked with Geosyntec Consultants to fulfill this special condition by submitting a NARP report in December 2025.
- The NARP includes water quality goals, load reduction targets, and nutrient-reducing projects for NBWW members.
- Development of this NARP was supported by membership dues, and implementation is ongoing.

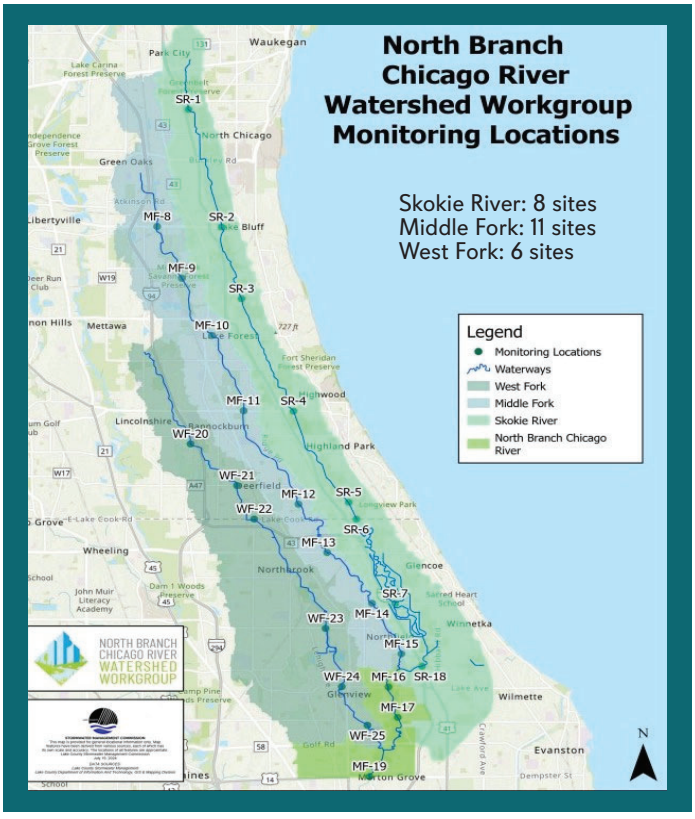
WATER QUALITY UPDATE

NUTRIENT ASSESSMENT REDUCTION PLAN (NARP) RESPONSE TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

The NBWW hired Geosyntec Consultants to respond to NARP public comments received in November/December 2025 prior to its submission to the Illinois EPA on December 22, 2025. Geosyntec developed a technical memorandum responding individually to all received public comments and additional NBWW member comments.

The NBWW Monitoring Committee and Executive Board reviewed all responses and provided feedback and approved the technical memorandum on October 14, 2026. The technical memorandum was submitted to the Illinois EPA on October 20, 2026. The NBWW is awaiting a response from the Illinois EPA on this submission.

NBWW 2026 MONITORING SITES



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