



Membership Meeting April 25, 2024 Minutes

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approve January 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes – *Motion to approve January 25 meeting minutes as presented made by Keith McKeen, seconded by Zach Brown, motion carried.*
- Bioassessment 2024 – upper portion of Des Plaines River plus northern tributaries update – *Jennifer reviewed the 2024 sampling plan which includes 22 mainstem Des Plaines River sites from I-355 bridge up to just upstream of Willow Creek in Rosemont and 10 tributary sites in the Willow Creek, Crystal Creek, Silver Creek and Schiller Trib subwatersheds.*
 - *Motion to “Authorize staff to finalize and execute the 2024 Bioassessment Contract with Midwest Biodiversity Institute with a do not exceed amount of \$228,000” made by Ed Dolezal, seconded by Keith McKeen, motion carried.*
 - *Motion to “Authorize staff to finalize work order with First Environmental Laboratory with a do not exceed amount of \$70,900” made by Dustin Gallagher, seconded by Zach Brown, motion carried.*
- NARP Update
 - *Discussion on IEPA’s process Stephen McCracken shared information from conversations that he has had with staff from IEPA: They are currently working out their review process for the NARPs, they do not plan to hold public comment periods for the NARPs, they will post all of the NARPs they have received on their website. The public will be able to comment on recommendations as they are added to wastewater permits during the normal review and comment process.*
 - *Review Special Conditions language update – One of the permit reviewers from IEPA requested updated language. Jennifer provided a review of the original special conditions language that was developed in 2018 along with proposed changes/updates. The proposed changes, including comments from members, are most relevant to mainstem dischargers as Mainstem NARP recommendations have been included. This language will be reviewed and updated again once the tributary NARP is completed at the end of 2024. Jennifer will cleanup the final document and share with IEPA for any final comments.*
 - *First steps for Large River IPS Tool development – As described in the Mainstem NARP recommendations (Section 7 of the report) the first step in determining an appropriate effluent target is identifying an instream benchmark. The NARP proposed developing a Large River IPS Tool modeled after the original IPS Tool that is calibrated for wadeable streams. After a review of all available data from Illinois EPA and Illinois DNR, staff are in the process of identifying additional sites in the Kankakee, Fox and Rock River watersheds to provide enough paired data (fish, bugs, chemistry and habitat) to be able to complete the analysis. We will work with MBI and First Environmental Labs to complete the data collection and MBI will work with staff to develop the Large River IPS Tool for a subset of nutrient related stressors.*

- *Motion to “Authorize staff to finalize and execute a contract with Midwest Biodiversity Institute for data collection and Large River IPS Tool Analysis with a do not exceed amount of \$255,220” made by Zach Brown, seconded by Ed Dolezal, motion carried.*
 - *Motion to “Authorize staff to finalize and submit work order to First Environmental Laboratory for chemistry analysis with a do not exceed amount of \$38,250” made by Ed Dolezal, seconded by Zach Brown, motion carried.*
- Winter Chlorides
 - *Winter Deicing Workshops – new roads workshop under development in partnership with the Salt Smart Collaborative and neighboring watershed groups. A steering committee is being assembled to help guide the process. A survey will be distributed to gauge interest in holding in-person trainings in addition to a virtual option.*
 - *TLWQS Reminders – Remember to turn in your annual reports to Hanna by June 1 so that information can be included in the watershed status report.*
- *PFAS Presentation – Deanna Doohaluk provided a high-level update on PFAS including recent US EPA approval of sampling methods, issuing of drinking water standards and designation of PFOW and PFOS as Hazardous Substances. Illinois Dept. of Public Health issued Fish Advisories, and Illinois EPA will be including PFAS sampling requirements in permit renewals. More information will be provided at the July meeting.*
- *Spring & Summer Outreach Materials New topics for spring included continuation of wastewater series, Native Trees and Shrubs for landscape, Role of River Plants in Supporting Fish & Insects. Summer materials include Wastewater Technology, Freshwater Mussels, and Appreciating our Freshwater Resources. All materials are available at <https://ldpwatersheds.org/outreach/>*
- *2024 Quarterly Membership Meetings – 10 AM - In Person at Village of Romeoville Public Works Facility:*
 - July 25
 - October 24
- *Chicago Area Waterways Chloride Workgroup Meetings*
 - June 5 – Annual Meeting – 1PM – MWRD LASMA Visitor Center in LaGrange