

STATE WATER PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

10:00 A.M. December 11, 2019

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Lake Level C

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

IDNR – OWR: Loren Wobig, Steve Altman, Rick Pohlman, Wes Cattoor, Terra McParland

IDNR – ORC: Brian Metzke, Leon Hinz

ISWS: Laura Keefer, Daniel Abrams

IDOT: Clayton Stambaugh, BJ Murray

IEPA: Rick Cobb

Agencies not in attendance: IDNR – OMM, IDPH, IDOA, IPCB, IEMA, DCEO, IWRC

Non-Members Present:

IFB: Austin Omer

MAC: Rick Twait

The Meeting was called to order at 10:10 A.M. The meeting presentation is posted on the State Water Plan Task Force (SWPTF) website.

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StateWaterPlanTaskForce.aspx>

Welcome: Loren welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and participating in this effort. A new OWR staff member, Terra McParland - Engineering Studies, was introduced and she'll assist Wes in coordination of the report deliverable.

Discuss Outreach Execution:

- After discussion, it was determined that the first two public outreach meetings will occur in three regions of the state, Chicago, Springfield and a southern location. The last meeting will be held only in Springfield and will be webcast/taped for interested parties to view. The meetings will occur after the problems are identified (spring), after the recommendations are listed (summer), and after the draft report is compiled (fall). Full Task Force attendance (or committee substitute) is requested for the first two meetings. The entire Task Force attendance will not be needed for the last meeting (required attendance TBD in future).
- The agenda for the first meeting (spring) was discussed. The format will include a brief presentation of the history, explanation of the Plan and how the 13 main Issues were developed. A representative (Lead or committee member) of each Issue will present a single slide overview along with subparts that will be reviewed as part of their category. The meeting will then open into break-out sessions for the 13 Issues to allow the public to provide input about their specific concerns/questions. A table will also be set up for general or overview questions. Since many of the original issues were rolled into the 13 main issues, only those

issues will be discussed. However, a handout might be made of the original 29 issues for reference. OWR will generate the handout(s) for the meeting.

- Each station will have a poster and a box for written questions/comments. The attendees will be able to vote using the sticky notes about their highest issues of concern. The voting data can be used in report to explain that public input was solicited and which issues were perceived as critical. OWR will develop 13 posters for each Issue along with each slide for the presentation. Each Issue Lead will provide OWR with information for the presentation slide and poster in January.
- The Chicago meeting will be held at CMAP (1:30 P.M.), IDNR for the Springfield meeting (1:30 P.M.) and the southern location and time is to be determined. Please send Wes potential location ideas for the southern location. Wes will send out a list of potential dates for the outreach meetings for the group to vote on.
- The presentations and a link for comments will be posted on the OWR SWPTF website after each meeting. Comments from the public will be requested within two weeks of each meeting and will be compiled and distributed by OWR. Sometimes questions will pertain to more than one issue, so they will be distributed as appropriate.
- Audience at the meeting is expected to be the general public but the target for the report is the General Assembly. Ideally staff representatives will attend the meetings, so they can let the Task Force know if we are on the right path and provide input otherwise.
- Publicity – Each Task Force member has their own target and conference lists. Please send the lists to OWR (Wes) for compiling and One Drive will be used for mass emailing. Another suggestion was to mail out a postcard with a link to the website.
- It was decided that a formal draft report will not be prepared before the second meeting in the summer, but each group will need to provide a bulleted list of their recommendations and be prepared to discuss more details at the outreach meeting.

Status of Critical Issues:

- As a reminder, the task force concluded that early in the report preparation, each committee should compile all information into a document. This document will be used to extract information for the State Water Plan. If there is significant additional information, that issue's committee could decide to publish a report specific to their critical issue. Alternately, if additional reporting is needed for an issue, the State Water Plan can be used to request funding to do additional research/reporting. If other reports have recently been developed about the issues, the report/website can link to those. Each group should plan to have about 2-4 pages for the report about each issue and the recommendations.
- The group discussed cross sector issues that might impact each other.
 - *Issue 1 – Water Quality:*
 - Rick Cobb mentioned that there is a new USGS grant funded lab to test water quality related to per- and polyfluorinated compounds (PFAS). Statewide data will be collected the first year and the results will be used the following year to develop an action plan for treatment/disposal. Due to the chemical's persistence, it might impact several issues such as groundwater, surface water, biosolids and human health.

- Legionnaires Disease was discussed as a potential issue related to lower water quantity use (low flow fixtures) as an adverse impact from water conservation. Similarly lead corrosion was found after a water supply source was changed from groundwater to surface and the treatment regime was impacted by the different source background levels. These are examples of fixing one issue and not recognizing the impact to others. This report will need to correlate recommended improvements to related issues when appropriate.
- *Issue 2 – Climate Change:* Status was provided by Dave Kristovich and presented by Laura Keefer. Background information is complete. The committee is struggling with how to incorporate this topic since it impacts many of the other issues. It was decided that each group will need to incorporate climate change related consequences into their own sections. The climate change section will define climate change, present the current status and outline general potential impacts. This committee will then let each group know how climate change will impact each critical issue so that group can incorporate the impacts.
- *Issue 3 – Integrated Water Management:* Loren Wobig’s committee has reviewed the previous reports where it was recommended to have collaboration amongst agencies throughout the state. This group is serving that function. Therefore, this section will provide recommendations to improve collaboration. This group will also review aging infrastructure as a part of integrated asset management.
- *Issue 4 – Long Term Funding:* Rick will check with Sanjay and report to the group next time. Solutions might be a state revolving fund or water use fees. Some sort of sustainable funding source will be required to implement the recommendations outlined in this report.
- *Issue 5 – Water Sustainability:* Committee hasn’t met since last Task Force meeting so no update.
- *Issue 6 – Lake Michigan:* No update. Someone mentioned that wind energy evaluation is ramping up and maps are being developed that show potential locations. This might impact Lake MI. (Note: this Issue still needs a Lead)
- *Issue 7 – Flood Damage Mitigation:* This topic is tied into climate change, federal funding, continued support of mitigation with FEMA and IEMA vs. reduced damage.
- *Issue 8 – Aquatic & Riparian Habitat:* The committee is working on a list of problems to share with the Task Force.
- *Issue 9 – Water Use Laws and Regulations:* Steve’s group has been meeting but no update was provided.
- *Issue 10 – Navigation:* A report is forthcoming in April about navigation that can be referenced. Other issues include commerce shipping, mooring, funding and lock & dam aging infrastructure.
- *Issue 11 – Erosion & Sedimentation:* No representative has attended the meetings to date and no Lead has been assigned. Wes will follow up to see if DOA will contribute to the report.
- *Issue 12 – Data Management:* Due to other report conflicts, the background information will be generated for this issue in January.

- *Issue 13 – Recreation:* Previous discussions indicated fisheries would take the lead. Brian Metzke will get a contact for participation. A correlating issue is that there is more interest in lake/inland waterways cruising and increases in water tax which impacts the Navigation issue (No. 10).

Review of Schedule: The previous schedule was presented. The consensus of the task force was to not make any changes to the schedule at this time. The schedule will be used a framework to help groups keep on task, but formal submittals of each milestone will not be required. Recent and upcoming milestones (**red** font: report milestones, **green** font: Outreach meetings, **blue** font: Task Force Meetings)

- **October 2019 – Background information**
- **January 2020 – Submit problems narrative**
- **March 18, 2020 – Task Force Meeting**
- **Spring 2020 – First outreach meetings (Chicago, Springfield, Southern IL)**
- **June 10, 2020 – Task Force Meeting**
- **July 2020 – Submit recommendations narrative**
- **Summer 2020 – Second outreach meetings (Chicago, Springfield, Southern IL)**
- **September 16, 2020 – Task Force Meeting**
- **October 2020 – Submit final draft of section narrative**
- **Fall 2020 – Third outreach meeting (Springfield webcast)**
- **December 9, 2020 – Task Force Meeting**
- **December 2020 – Publish report**

Discussion of Next Steps:

- Groups that haven't completed their Background narrative will finish.
- Next, all groups will generate their narrative of the specific problems related to their issue.
- January - Each Issue Lead is to provide a problems narrative (bulleted list ok) to OWR (Wes) for generating the presentation slide and the poster for the spring meeting.

Activities to be Completed and Next Meeting Outline: The next meeting was set for March 18, 2020 at 10:00 A.M to be held at the IDNR building in a room TBD. The agenda will include a discussion about the upcoming outreach meeting, each group's problems, and overlapping issues.

The meeting was concluded at 11:45 A.M.