

STATE WATER PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

10:00 A.M. September 16, 2020

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Web-Ex Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present:

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

IDNR – ORC: Brian Metzke, Brennan Caputo, Seth Love

ISWS: Laura Keefer, David Kristovich, Sally McKonkey, Walt Kelly, Trent Ford

IDOT: BJ Murray

IEPA: Rick Cobb, Michael Brown

IDPH: Brian Cox, Gerrin Cheekutler

IWRC: Amy Weckle

IEMA: Joseph Jones

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

Non-Members Present:

IFB: Lauren Lurkins

USGS: Kelly Warner

The Meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. The meeting agenda, presentation and minutes are posted on the State Water Plan Task Force (SWPTF) website. The website also contains general information about the State Water Plan's history and current activity.

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

Note: An Illinois State Water Plan (SWP) was first published in March of 1967 and was updated in 1984. The Task Force which compiled the 1984 report continued to meet and publish several subsequent documents to continue the planning process and to provide updated information. That State Water Plan Task Force (SWPTF) continues to meet quarterly to address issues related to the waters of Illinois. The SWPTF is comprised of state agency representatives and invited federal and local partners.

Welcome: Loren welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and participating in this effort. The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes.

Drought Preparedness Plan Update: ISWS is preparing an update to the previously developed *Drought Preparedness Plan*. The Plan was originally approved by the SWPTF on October 12, 2011 by the SWPTF. We need to take official action to adopt and approve this updated plan. The revisions are mainly just updating links that were outdated. Laura Keefer provided an overview. ISWS has updated their webpage and corrected links to the OWR server. A new cover will need to be provided by CMS. Loren W. asked how flash drought will be addressed. It will not be specifically addressed but there will be a link to the state climate page where it is addressed. Amy W. noted that references to IWRC needs to be updated as well. Adoption of the updated plan with updated IWRC references included was approved.

Public Outreach Execution:

- After discussion, it was determined that the first public outreach meetings will be virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions. Future public meeting format will be determined closer to each meeting to follow the latest public meeting requirements. Our preference would always be to have future meetings face to face when it's appropriate and safe. The purpose of the public outreach meetings is to describe the project to the public and find out if they concur or disagree with any of the selected topics and why.
- A recorded introduction will be prepared by OWR. Each committee will generate a single slide with recorded narration. We reviewed the slide format. The first bullet describes the topic. The 2nd bullets provide a list of identified issues. Two minutes will be allowed per topic. The introduction will occur before the topic slides are presented. Committees are to submit their slides and narrative to OWR by October 30, 2020.
- The public questionnaire will be sent prior to the virtual meetings to allow another forum for public input.
- Several ideas were discussed related to timing and format of the outreach meeting. It was decided to hold three separate meetings at varying times of the day: Dec. 1 (10 am), Dec. 2 (2 pm) and Dec 3 (5 pm). Earlier dates would preclude the attendance of the agriculture community.
- The prerecorded slides will be presented first and then the meeting will be opened up for discussion. The prerecorded presentation will be available ahead of the meeting in case people want to watch it before the meetings and only join for the live discussion portions. The topics will be divided into three main clusters (separate rooms) to allow the public to provide input for more than one topic. An approximate time sequence will be about 30 minutes introduction/topic slides, 45-60 min separated discussion, 45-60 min combined group discussion.
- Ideally the public will be allowed 30-45 days for comments and response.
- Delaying the public meeting does impact the Task Force upcoming scheduled meetings and the hope to discuss the results in our Dec. meeting. Therefore, the next Task Force meeting will be rescheduled until after the public comments are received.
- A press release will be prepared and released ahead of the meetings (by October 30).
- Closed Captioning and Spanish translation topics were discussed. OWR will explore options and report back to the group.

Status of Critical Issues:

- As a reminder, each committee should compile all their topic information into a section of the report. If other reports have recently been developed about the issues, the report can link to those after a summary is provided. Each group should plan to have about 2-4 pages for the report about each issue and their recommendations.
- The group was reminded that each issue needs to incorporate social and environmental justice into each section as directed by the Governor's office.
- Cross Cutting issues will not be a separate section of the report (like in the 1984 report) but will need to be woven into each individual section
- Committee Status Reports:

- *Issue 1 – Water Quality:*
 - Rick Cobb mentioned that he will be retiring in December. He will be missed by this group but we congratulate him on his many accomplishments. Mike Brown is the new Division Manager. Rick will send Wes his contact information so he can be invited for future meetings. With Rick leaving, other EPA staff might be invited to join the Task Force to replace him.
 - Their group continues to review drinking, groundwater and surface water issues and they're working on their slide. Their Division has many public forums and have received much input already on the main topics of concern.
- *Issue 2 – Climate Change:* Background information is complete. As a reminder to the group, 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. They will share their section to the other committees ahead of time so the sections can be coordinated.
- *Issue 3 – Integrated Water Management:* 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:* No report.
- *Issue 5 – Water Sustainability:* Committee has met several times and developed a slide for the presentation.
- *Issue 6 – Lake Michigan:* No update.
- *Issue 7 – Flood Damage Mitigation:* This committee has met and are paring down their list of critical issues. Some issues might fall better under other committees so we're sending an email around to see if they are being addressed in other sections.
- *Issue 8 – Aquatic & Riparian Habitat:* No report.
- *Issue 9 – Water Use Laws and Regulations:* No report.
- *Issue 10 – Navigation:* IDOT is preparing a navigation report (estimated completion is Nov. 2020) that will be referenced in the SWP.
- *Issue 11 – Erosion & Sedimentation:* No report.
- *Issue 12 – Data Management:* Work continues on the problem narrative.
- *Issue 13 – Recreation:* No report.

Review of Schedule: The schedule has been revised due to COVID-19 delays and the associated public outreach delay. The schedule will be used a framework to help groups keep on task. Some dates were determined after the call ended but are included herein to update the group.

Red font = Committee Deadlines; Blue font = Public Outreach Meetings; Green font = Task Force Meetings

Identifying issues Phase

Oct 30 – Receive each Committee’s Issues slides (13) for public outreach

Nov 15 – Publish Presentation and Questionnaire

Dec 1,2,3 – Public outreach event on identified issues

Jan 15, 2021 – Close public comments period

Feb 10 –SWPTF meeting, discuss comments and next steps

Mar 8 – Finalize Issues

Developing Recommendations Phase

April 7 – Receive each Committee’s list of recommendations

April 14 – SWPTF meeting – discuss recommendations outreach

May 11, 12, 13– Public Outreach on report recommendations

June 18 – Close public comments period

July 14 – SWPTF meeting – discuss comments and next steps

Aug 31 – Finalize recommendations

Final Report Phase

Sept 8 – SWPTF meeting – Discuss draft report and outreach

Oct 11 – Receive each Committee’s Draft Section

Oct 30 – Combined Draft report developed

Nov 17 – Final Public Outreach on draft report

Dec 8 – SWPTF meeting – discuss final report needs

Dec 31 – Publish Report

Discussion of Next Steps:

- Groups that haven’t completed their Background narrative need to finish.
- Next, all groups will generate their slide and recorded narrative (submit by 10/30/20).

Activities to be Completed and Next Meeting Outline: The next meeting was set for Feb. 10, 2021 at 10:00 A.M to be held at the IDNR building in a room TBD or via Web-Ex depending on COVID-19 restrictions at that time. The agenda will include a discussion about the results from the upcoming outreach meeting and any related updates.

The meeting was concluded at 11:44 A.M.