

STATE WATER PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

September 09, 2021, 9:00 A.M.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Web-Ex Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present:

IDNR–OWR: Loren Wobig, Wes Cattoor, Terra McParland, Rick Pohlman. Jim Casey, Steve Altman, Megan McKinney

IDNR–ORC: Brian Metzke

ISWS: Laura Keefer, Walt Kelly, Glenn Heistand, Trent Ford, Yu-Feng Forest Lin

IDOT: BJ Murray

IDPH: Brian Cox

IWRC: Amy Weckle

IEPA: Greg Goode, Michael Brown, Scott Twait, Gary Bingenheimer, Christine Davis, Michael Summers

IDOA: Michael Woods, Brian Rennecker

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

Non-Members Present:

Kelly Thompson, IL Environmental Regulatory Group (IERG)

Raelyn Parmely, IL Farm Bureau (IFB)

The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. The meeting agenda, meeting recording 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. Loren reminded the group that today we are going to dive into three topic areas for the SWP. We want to have some general discussions and feedback. We are at a point of transitioning from individually working on specific topics related to our fields of interest to come back together and start to consider our collective Task Force level recommendations for each topic.

We will be getting ready to bring the draft report out for public outreach soon and recognize that we have some work to do regarding reaching out to disadvantaged communities. Loren has been reaching out to the IDNR Equity groups. If other agencies have outreach resources prepared, please let us know. If anyone has any ideas how we can do our final outreach efforts better, please reach out to Wes and Loren.

Wes reviewed the agenda. There will be no formal presentation today since we are going to be reviewing the submitted topic recommendations instead. Today we're talking about: *Water Sustainability, Flood Damage Mitigation and Integrated Water Management*. When reviewing the draft sections, we need to discuss cross cutting issues. The three topics will be shared online for discussion purposes and we will discuss each issue and recommendation separately.

Topic Discussion: Water Sustainability – Wes Cattoor

- The topic deals with water quantity.
- The background explains what water sustainability is and focuses on the availability of water for drinking, irrigation, power, recreation and navigation. It explains that the Regional Water Supply Program was established in 2006 but was originally suggested in the 1983 SWP. Water sustainability is how to balance supply and demand on a statewide level. Joliet is provided as a successful case study.
- Main issues:
 - Planning and meeting future needs with adequate resources
 - Climate change and impacts (greater evaporation and lack of resources to evaluate impacts)
 - Need widespread adoption of regional planning initiatives and work with local stakeholders to evaluate and determine each community's needs and feed those up to the state level.
 - There is confusion about roles and responsibilities of various state agencies with respect to water supply.
- Recommendations:
 - Brief statement talking about the water supply program.
 - Also discusses how this topic ties directly with Climate Change and Integrated Water Management.
- Add a new category for Funding: To be Evaluated or Determined. Also, might need to add New Fund to differentiate from existing funding. This will be resolved in the next SWPTF meeting.
- Comments from the Task Force are listed below for the Topic Leader's use. Blue font is suggestions for word changes from group. Yellow is highlighted X-cutting topics.

Recommendation	Comments
1. Prioritize services to vulnerable and low-income communities. Communities that meet this requirement will be implemented as top priority for services rendered by OWR and for capital improvement projects.	<p>-- This issue could be part of all topics and all agencies. Decide how we want to address similar issues/recommendations with same wording? (to detm in future). Cutting and pasting might look bad.</p> <p>–Loren felt we should put same recomm in each section even if it is a repeat in case someone only looks at this section.</p> <p>-- This issue is listed at top as most important, we need to decide about how we are listing recommendations – in order of importance?</p> <p>-- This issue overlaps with Int. Man.</p> <p>-- Was this issue for services rendered or for capital improvements projects – both per Wes</p>

Recommendation	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- This issue might be too vague, how will it be measurable? Tracking system? -- First need to detm who needs services. Wes will update to develop a means to detm vulnerability and detm metrics for each agency to measure. -- Some felt recommendation as is was too broad, some felt we should keep broad. -- Need to make sure defn of water sustain is clear since it could relate to water supply infrastructure or simply access to the water, Wes thinks both. -- We have access to real time data and that might also be included. -- Is this a good overall recommendation by itself or should it be weaved into other recommendations. -- Annual metrics are put together showing populations served for different programs so maybe we could do something similar to show success serving underserved populations -- Wes will rewrite and share with other groups if they are interested in using this recommendation.
<p>2. Update the statewide water demand forecasts with annual water use data and each decade with population forecasts. Determine sustainable water yield for all water supply sources and update every five years. Annually evaluate shortages. This data will be provided on a GIS application, available to the public, and easily accessible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- This issue had 2 leads, last mo we decided to only have one lead and that agency is responsible for reporting and completing effort and has ownership. For this one, we'll just use IDNR as lead. -- How does this issue work with Lake MI allocation. Wes will coord with Jim -- Will there be push back from locals? Per Wes only public supply data will be published. -- Is this program already occurring, just updating more frequently, need to clarify in description. Per Wes, just updating is needed at this time
<p>3. Establish region water supply committees throughout state where this is sufficient local interest. Ensure data are readily available to support regional water supply committees. Add structure to regional plans to identify and report on capital improvement project needs related to water sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- This is an ongoing effort so perhaps add Continue establishing.....to the text and perhaps add that more funding is needed --Add structure for providing future funding for capital impr projects, recommend adding words to consistently fund
<p>4. The new study on lake evaporate will include recent higher evaporation rates due to higher temperature and more extreme drought expected from to climate change leading to a more accurate assessment of surface water availability.</p> <p>(Coordination with Climate Change section)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- no comments
<p>5. Work with regional water supply planning committees to develop state and regional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- This was attempted in past but did not pass -- This needs to be coord with Aq. Hab Topic

Recommendation	Comments
<p>strategies for implementation during emergencies including minimum low flow stream protection.</p> <p>(Coordination with Water Law section)</p>	<p>-- Instead of saying low, maybe use minimum</p> <p>--Perhaps say that a state decree or local ordinance is required.</p> <p>-- Will this be legislation or local ordinance? Not sure.</p> <p>-- How will this be implemented?</p> <p>-- Will funding be needed – to be determined</p> <p>-- The minimum flow reqt will vary depending on ecosystem.</p>
<p>6. Update the State of Illinois Drought Preparedness and Response Plan to ensure clear responsibilities, authorities/decision-making, and action plans are in place for when drought conditions come again, which they will.</p> <p>(Coordination with Integrated Water Management section)</p>	<p>-- This should be a Study since last mo Project was more for something to be constructed.</p>
<p>7. Improve the accuracy of high capacity well water (> 0.1 MGD) use reporting by adding improving water metering requirements to Water Use Act of 1983.</p> <p>(Coordination with Water Law section)</p>	<p>-- Define high capacity for > 0.1 MGD</p> <p>-- Group was confused about wording. Wes will revise, basically they don't want to allow estimation.</p> <p>-- If flow measurement reqts added, there might need to be funding.</p>
<p>8. Improve public outreach and education on state agencies' roles and responsibilities regarding water supply (IEPA, IDNR, IDPH).</p> <p>(Coordination with Integrated Water Management section)</p>	<p>-- Confusion if mean data portal or local outreach?</p> <p>-- This could be another that all topics might want to use.</p> <p>--Maybe delete and put in Int Man instead?</p> <p>--Maybe have a one-time funding for pamphlet or website</p> <p>-- Wes not sure he'll keep this one as it might not be the best place for it.</p> <p>-- Pin for future discussion.</p>
<p>9. Work with state legislators to revise the state revolving loan eligibility requirements to be inclusive of administrative and planning activities.</p> <p>(Coordination with Long Term Funding section)</p>	<p>Removed from list as this item is complete per IEPA.</p>

- Question if adding water conservation using water harvesting practices could be added as a recommendation? Brian Cox will email ideas to Wes. Also, would be helpful if IEPA had any ideas as well.

Topic Discussion: Flood Damage Mitigation – Terra McParland

- Overview:

- Prevalence of flooding
- Climate Change impacts
- Issues:
 - Hazard Identification
 - Equity
 - Mitigation
- Still not sure the best way to bring in equity, as a separate issue or rolled into other recommendations. We did both ways for now.

Recommendation	Comments
1. Long-term precipitation records show that Illinois has become wetter over the past several decades. Similarly, land use has changed over time which impacts flood risk. Generate climate variability rainfall predictions along with future land use projections for the entire state. Updates should be completed every 15 years. (Climate Change)	-- Perhaps make this 2 separate recommendations, one for climate ch update and one for land use projection updates --This could be a report for both issues or the climate ch report could be a supplement of Bulletin 75.
2. ISWS currently tracks FEMA approved models only. Update the database to include all hydraulic models developed by federal, state, private and public entities. (Data Management, IL Water Center – Integrated Management)	--It was noted that ISWS only has a partial list of models now that they have been part of developing. --Private models might not volunteer to post but perhaps we could just provide a link to who privately generated the model and when (meta data). Then if people reach out to company that performed model and they can charge for its use, there is more impetus for private participation. --Put this in GIS and click on a stream to find out latest models -- Need funding for database
3. Many areas in our state utilize decades old hydraulic and hydrology models or have not been modeled at all. Continue providing updated modeling. However, since updates are slow and expensive, also explore advances in technology and utilize data from new sources (LiDAR, publicly available photos, and other available data) to provide non-regulatory models for use at the planning and response/recovery stages. Upload all updated regulatory and non-regulatory models in the database (Item 2).	-- ISWS explained that this is a way to do preliminary modeling to help detm where additional more complex modeling is needed. -- ISWS is proposing to do statewide 2D modeling. This issue might help propel that idea forward with funding.
4. Generate flood inundation mapping for all communities and upload the data to a website. Add features to website to generate downloadable materials or information packets for communities or property buyers. Update	-- This is broad and big ask. -- It would be very hard to do frequent updates -- Maybe pick an area of the state to do a pilot --ISWS was able to do an inundation map of Gibson in 1 day.

Recommendation	Comments
inundation mapping and website with changes after each flood or mitigation event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- This can incorporate urban flash flooding as well (not only riverine) -- Maybe just generate a database of all inundation modeling completed to date for where it is available. Per Terra would prefer it to be a map instead of database.
5. Continue collecting data, modeling and uploading structural damage assessments to the Structures at Flood Risk (SAFR) website for all floodprone structures in the state. Structural damage assessments help to determine best use of flood prevention and mitigation efforts. Results can also be used to help develop the statewide mitigation priority list (Item 8) and shared with communities for their planning efforts.	-- No comments.
6. Generate flood insurance guidance materials for locations outside the mapped floodplain. The materials will be shared with insurance agents to share with communities with vulnerable populations that might unknowingly be impacted by either or both riverine and urban flooding. This will help homeowners understand flood insurance options better. Add legislation to require property sales to disclose sewer backup, if the property is in a floodplain or provide mapping showing flooding potential if outside the floodplain. . (Local Assistance Program- Integrated Management)	-- Would be good to coordinate effort with IL Dept of Insurance.
7. Provide staffing to work with counties and municipalities to include flood protection and mitigation needs in their Action Plans to be eligible for HUD-CDBG fund and in their County hazard plans for FEMA-BRIC funding eligibility. (Local Assistance Program - Integrated Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Since federal grants go through IEMA, include them on this issue -- Per Terra, might be too detailed of a recommendation but no one suggested deleting.
8. Develop database of all structural and watershed protection infrastructure and condition throughout the state. Next develop a priority list of needed upgrades focusing on socioeconomically disadvantaged areas and best value projects. Update the database and priority list annually. Share this information with County Officials to use for their hazard plans (Item 7). (Data Management, IL Water Center-Integrated Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Big ask and broad -- Try a pilot program for a region -- Too bit for 5 years and we'll need to provide annual updates to progress so pilot is better. --Talk to Jason at OWR about O&M -- Hard to sustainably update annually

Recommendation	Comments
<p>9. Using Infrastructure priority list (Item 8), perform upgrades to the existing infrastructure and develop new flood protection (focusing on natural options) and mitigation infrastructure projects (buyouts/relocation, elevated construction, affordable housing, road stream crossing redesigns and land-use change). Also upgrade transportation and communication corridor infrastructure. Focus a portion of the funding on projects that will assist socioeconomically disadvantaged areas by use of designated grants or need-based scoring.</p>	<p>-- Will need to cut a chunk off to see what can be done in 5 years.</p>
<p>10. Provide staffing to offer guidance, technical, educational and grant application support to communities about watershed-level and natural flood prevention strategies to minimize flooding impacts. Form a Guidance Group made up of experts that include, but are not limited to the following areas: engineering, scientists, energy, connectivity (includes transportation/ communication/ internet), conservation and natural resources, education, health and well-being (includes food security/recreation/open space design), and economic development. The Group will assist the new staff in generating outreach materials for communities to use for watershed level planning and how to incorporate green/natural mitigative alternatives. The Group can also focus on developing new funding alternatives such as crowdsourcing or private/public partnerships. (Local Assistance Program – Integrated Management)</p>	<p>-- Pick a pilot program/area to test drive</p>
<p>11. Flood prevention strategies need to be evaluated and developed at a watershed-level to optimize opportunities for cost sharing, economies of scale and provide better long-term solutions without adversely impacting other nearby communities. Communities need to develop partnerships at the watershed level to better focus on ecosystem functionality. Provide grants to communities for partnering when planning and developing watershed level projects. Focus a portion of the funding on partnerships that will assist socioeconomically disadvantaged areas by use of designated grants or need-based scoring.</p>	<p>-- Need to define which watershed defn – HUC, hydrologic, etc. --There is an opportunity to tie the water planning with hazard mitigation plans - This involves IEPA, FEMA and IEMA to allow them to qualify for funds from IEMA but also FEMA. -- Is this an expansion of 319 Program?</p>

Recommendation	Comments
<p>12. Multi-benefit natural and green infrastructure solutions provide multiple benefits to the ecosystem. Provide incentives to communities for planning/implementing new alternative and environmentally sound practices to minimize impacts to both riverine and urban flooding. Update regulations and standards to allow and incentivize green designs. Focus a portion of the funding on projects that will assist socioeconomically disadvantaged areas by use of designated grants or need-based scoring.</p>	<p>-- IEPA developed a green infrastructure report in 2011/2012 with recommendations. Chris Davis will send to Terra.</p>

- What about sewer backup as an issue? This is as big issue and the committee wasn't sure how to address it. If anyone has any ideas how to tackle, please let Terra know.

Topic Discussion: Integrated Water Management – Loren Wobig

Recommendation	Comments
<p>1. Establish and fund an Illinois Water Center in the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois.</p>	<p>-- This would be a library of models, maps, studies, inundation and new products to share with agencies and communities. --This would also be a water resources education center by creating symposiums. --maybe bilingual staff for all translating all agency water materials -- tool hub for all things related to water. -- ISWS used to do this function but has lost the ability over the years due to funding changes for their programs. -- This would need annual funding, to supplement what ISWS does with grants. -- Would it be better to just expand ISWS functions? But someone said Prairie Institute has more resources. -- A Director level meeting will be held to discuss the best approach to this recommendation. Glenn will set up a mtg. -- Will this effort require funding for no. of staff. -- It is envisioned that several agencies can share resources and services in a centralized hub -- The Water Center would serve the SWPTF. We meet quarterly but this would allow more frequent collaboration. This would not replace the TF. -- The name could change -- The Center would need focus. Response is that this is not a program but a repository of information.</p>

Recommendation	Comments
2. Utilize water loss and water supply system improvement plan information collected by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources along with known information of disadvantaged communities to prioritize use of State Revolving Fund resources through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.	-- identify priorities for disadvantaged communities. -- No funding but need to change rules for scoring -- It was noted that Rev Fund does not get any state \$\$ -- What if get Public/Private/Partnership (PPP) but need a way to promote -- Maybe do this as a pilot program -- Loren will follow up with Chris and Gary about xcutting with Long Term Funding topic
3. Reestablish, staff, and fund the Local Assistance Program in the IDNR, Office of Water Resources	-- OWR used to provide these services but need new funding and new state resource person for communication efforts. -- 1 and 3 are cross cutting, #3 staffing and #1 materials to share -- Use the hub to develop materials to support outreach.
4. Utilize the State Water Plan Task Force to serve as Public in P3 Partnerships established in the state to promote and develop multi-benefit floodplain planning and use.	-- Maybe implement for many water issues, not just flooding. -- This recommendation is following American Rivers development plan/ideas for PPP
5. Develop consistent program funding criteria across all state agencies.	-- This and next were in Urban Flood Report. -- What can be done in five years, not make all equal but develop the criteria for what we are calling disadvantaged. -- Note this ties into Wes' first recommendation.
6. The Illinois Mitigation Advisory Group (IMAG) should expand their mitigation and resiliency building mission with representatives from various state agencies to coordinate various grant programs and projects to promote program efficiencies and consistent program funding and implementation requirements.	-- This will be in the spirit of collaboration to get different perspectives about how funding is spent.

Recommendation Table:

- Loren’s sample section showed lots of detail for each issue and then just a summary in the table. We’ve discussed that some issues might need more discussion than the table lends itself. To discuss later.
- Loren grabbed a previous generation of the recommendation table that looks good. Discuss in future if some elements could be added to this table.
- These questions about formatting were not discussed due to time limits. Will discuss in future.

General:

- We decided to try to meet every 3 weeks and only discuss 2 topics to better serve the remaining topics.

- We will use 3 hours to talk about 2 topics so every topic gets adequate evaluation.
- Wes will send out a poll for when the next meeting will be held.
- This will delay the overall report production but there is no requirement for when to publish the report. These changes indicate that the public outreach will likely move from winter to spring and the publication in early summer instead of spring.

Schedule: The schedule will be revised and posted on the website.

Next Meeting Outline: It was determined using a poll that the next meeting will be set for **September 17, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.** to be held via Web-Ex. The agenda will include a discussion about 2 topics to identify cross-cutting issues and recommendations. If time remains, we'll talk about report section format and the cross-cutting maps/spreadsheets.

- Please reach out to Wes if you're group is ready to present.

The meeting was concluded at 12:31 P.M.