

STATE WATER PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

March 28, 2022, 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, Steve Altman, Megan McKinney

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

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

IDOT: BJ Murray

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

IDOA: Michael Woods

IDPH: Brian Cox, Gerrin Butler

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

Non-Members Present:

Kelly Thompson: IL Environmental Regulatory Group (IERG)

Kelly Warner: US Geological Survey (USGS)

Shawn Sullivan: US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Sharon Waller: IL Chapter of Water Reuse Association

Jennifer Boyer: DuPage County

Clayton Heffter: DuPage County

Kalindi Parikh: Current Water.org

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.

Red bold font indicates action items and dates.

Welcome: Loren welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and participating in this effort. Loren reminded the group that we have completed the Task Force review of each of the 13 critical topics and are now going to dive into the introduction section and other support sections of the SWP. We want to have some general discussions and feedback.

- Final topic sections were due 3/15/22. **If you haven't already done so, please turn them in to Terra and Wes by 4/8/22.**

Wes reviewed the agenda. There will be no formal presentation today since we are going to be reviewing report introduction.

Table of Contents:

- Wes shared the draft Table of Contents which outlines the Introduction, Cross-Cutting Issues, Social/Environmental Justice, Individual Sections for the 13 Critical Topics, and then the Conclusions. The TOC is a draft and headings might change as we begin writing.
- The Task Force was asked if anyone wanted to write or assist in writing any of the support sections. **If so reach out to Wes.**
- When finalizing your sections, try to include graphics, figures, tables, maps in each section to provide interest to the reader. Even narrative boxes to highlight a point.

Introduction:

- Each main subheading for the Introduction Section was discussed individually. Loren asked the group to provide input about what they'd like to see in these sections to help facilitate the overall discussion. What would folks like to see highlighted? Any attention grabbers before we get into the meat of the report.
- Executive Summary/Preface
 - Probably too many recommendations for the Exec. Summary to provide them all here.
 - The Exec. Summary is usually written at the end after all the sections are compiled and an overview of the report will be provided. Usually try to extract the most interesting portions of the report.
 - We should convey that this is an update to the SWP – an opportunity for improving and changing programs to serve the people of IL better.
 - The report includes input from all the state entities involved with water.
 - Decided to rename the executive summary and call it Preface or Preamble to describe the spirit and direction of the SWP. There is too much information to provide a traditional Executive Summary. It will lay the groundwork for the reader about the complexity of SWP. Should just be a few pages. For the IL Transportation Report, this was called the Plan Overview.
 - Since our report will be interactive, we should include instructions for how to use the report, provide the website. Perhaps a fact sheet which is separate from the report and will be a standalone document for the public and General Assembly (GA). A brochure that goes along with the report (1 page) which is more visually appealing and easier for public/GA to digest. Also address accessibility.
 - The Preface should reflect a little again from the cover letter.
- Letter from the Task Chair
 - Hit on opportunity and what the SWP is.
 - Touch briefly on the history.
 - Other GA's and similar audiences have seen this report in the past so it is not new.
 - Also note what we expect from GA and how the Task Force is there to help implement these recommendations.
 - Not lengthy. He will reread other cover letters from previous reports.
- Purpose
 - Overlaps with letter. Restate and expand

- Say how to use the report and what we expect plan to accomplish
- These are areas state agencies believe spotlights are needed and GA should look at especially if this issue falls in your region.
- This report will not present details of how everything is going to be implemented. The Implementation (How) phase is to follow the report with future Task Force meetings and updates
- IL Water Overview
 - Talk about IL water facts
 - Reflect on importance of why we deal with these issues
 - Why it matters to people of IL
 - **Send water facts to Loren to add to this section**
 - Talk about how the SWP had impacts to state agencies in the last 30 years
 - Mention that staff and resources have diminished in that period, if want to improve, will need additional resources. Group felt this issue needs to be mentioned often in the report since additional capacity is key to getting this work done. Mention in letter too.
 - Would be good to highlight major changes in state or federal laws.
 - A lot has changed in the world in 30 years.
 - Good to mention where programs are heading now and emerging issues
 - Also talk about successes from previous SWPs and how the recommendations have been used in the past
 - This report conveys a 2022 snapshot but work will continue as it is an ongoing effort
 - Task Force and committees will continue to meet to implement the recommendations and others as they surface. This is a dynamic effort.
 - Data will be updated annually with status reports to get information into public's hands
 - This is an opportunity to teach about IL water, maybe on the website or portal to learn more
 - This website will be updated with information until the Integrated Water Information Center (IWIC) is up and running
- Water Challenges
 - There are upstate and downstate varying challenges that need equally varying solutions.
 - Identify what we mean by challenges (brief definitions) so people can decide what they are interested in reading more about.
 - Describe changes in state populations and where populations are moving around in state. Even decreasing populations can impact topics differently – sustainability affects decreased water use which is good but negatively impacts water supply with stagnation issues in pipes which leads to heavy metal concentrations.
 - Briefly touch on Social/Environmental Justice and state more discussion in body of report.
 - Briefly touch on Climate Change and land use changes and more discussion in body of report.
 - As discussed earlier, staffing capacity (one of the main purposes of the report so need to make sure this is clear)
 - Here is where we'll give a brief intro to the 13 topics.
 - Mention trying to mitigate the cause and not the effects of the water problems.
 - Legislative mandates vs. voluntary programs/outreach/education

- Conflicting interests
- Which levels of government should take ownership? Note that local/regional issues not addressed in this report since it is a statewide report.
- Plan History
 - Section writing has started and will need to be reviewed by the Task Force.
 - Add successes completed since last SWP update
 - **Let Wes know if there are other water documents that need referencing in this subsection.** Not every report but any holistic water planning reports that should be included.
 - Include photos in intro and figures to minimize continual text. **Please send photos/figures/illustrations to Wes/Terra** or even just suggest something that might be helpful. When sending photos, ID location, source, date
 - Each topic leader should ask what programs have initiated from old reports. **Send list to Wes.**
 - Subsection is concluded with stating that we have all come together to update this report.
- Summary of Plan Development
 - Wes has mostly written and will need to be reviewed by Task Force
 - List of critical issues in challenges or plan development? Wes felt to put it in challenges.
- Underlying Plan Principles
 - What will this section say vs. purpose? Will leave blank for now until other sections are finished to see if anything should be stated here.
 - Need to bring in the Mission and Vision – combined in Purpose. Or perhaps in front of the report
- Report Overview
 - Mostly written but will need review/input from the Task Force.
 - Add a definition of each Action column in the box to further describe what each means
- Acknowledgements
 - Mention all the agencies and stakeholders.
 - Should this be in Appendix? (Committees and public input names could be listed in Appendix)
 - Needs to be noted that this report was unfunded and everyone volunteered time.
 - How address public comments?
 - Would be good to get letters from other State Agencies for support. Alternately (preferred) one letter of support signed by many agencies. Maybe move to front instead of here.
- Acronyms & Abbreviations
 - Started and will be developed more as the report comes together.
 - It was noted that the Integrated Management had coined their name as Integrated Water Information Center (IWIC)
- Key Terms
 - Started and will be developed as the report develops

General:

- Next month we'll talk about Cross-Cutting Issues and Conclusions

- **Send a summary of your cross-cutting issues and recommendations to Terra** so the exhibits can start being developed.
- At our last schedule update, the original draft report was to be developed by 4/15/22 for a May public Coordination meeting. The entire schedule will be shifted by one month.
- We are planning to have public outreach in the beginning of June (before summer breaks from school and vacations) to optimize public support.
- Someone asked when the best time to present to the legislature, fall or summer? Loren to check.
- Project Schedule: (shifted by one month)
 - Final Topic Sections due early-April
 - Compiled Reports to Task Force by end of April for review
 - Publish combined Report in mid-May to allow time for review before Public Outreach.
 - Public outreach early-June
 - Final report Summer or early Fall
- Meeting Schedule:
 - April 18: Review Conclusions
 - May: Review Combined Report and discuss future public outreach
- Other Comments:
 - Sharon is part of the newly formed IL Chapter of Water Reuse Association. They are focusing on water reuse, water quality, trading credits, affordability and emerging issues (like PFAS). We pointed out that many of those issues are being addressed in the SWP under the appropriate topic headings. They are welcome to reach out to the topic leaders to see if their issues/questions are being addressed. If anyone from their group wants to be part of any of the committees, they should reach out to those topic leads (emails posted on website). However, be mindful that this Task Force is pretty far along in the report writing portion of the project so to be considerate of the leaders. That said, remember that the discussions are ongoing and if not included this round, they can be in future updates and status reports.

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 **April 18, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.** to be held via Web-Ex.

The meeting was concluded at 10:51 A.M.