

# STATE WATER PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

April 18, 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, Yu Feng Forrest Lin

IDOT: BJ Murray

IEPA: Scott Twait, Christine Davis, Michael Summers, Jeff Edstrom

IDOA: Michael Woods

IDPH: Brian Cox

IEMA: Zachary Krug

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

## Non-Members Present:

Kelly Warner: US Geological Survey (USGS)

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 due dates for Task Force members.

**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. Last month we went through the introductory sections and the group provided input. Similarly, we 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 asap.**

Wes reviewed the agenda. Terra sent an email last week that outlines the tasks needed from each topic lead. Deadlines were included along with a status table so you can see what you still need to do.

Requested information includes: water facts, photos, review of status since 1984 report or new issue or any law or policy change since then. **Please send these to Wes/Terra this week.**

Reminder that the SWP is where we're spotlighting issues that as a Task Force (TF) we want to move forward with. We may have to dive deeper on some of these recommendations which might result in preparing white papers by each committee. The Plan is a launch pad.

### **Cross Cutting Issues:**

- A summary table was shared that combines all the recommendations received to date along with some columns that need to be filled out by TF members to help develop the cross-cutting exhibits. Terra will send around the table so each group can see what the others are recommending all in one place.
- When reviewing your recommendations on the table, please fill in the columns for the following:
  - which other topic recommendations are similar or tie in with your recommendation? Specifically if your recommendation affects or impacts or was similar to another topic's recommendation.
  - Is this recommendation something that others can use as a generic across the board recommendation?
  - Does this recommendation address social and/or environmental justice?
  - Does this recommendation require outreach or education that could be provided by the Local Assistance Program?
  - Do you need to collect data for this recommendation or are you generating a tool/map that should be stored in the IWIC portal?
  - Is this recommendation exactly the same as someone else? If so, which one?
  - Does anyone see another overlapping criteria that we should track? **If so, send to Terra and we can add it to the table.**
- **Fill in your part of the table and send back to Terra.**
- **If anyone has an example of a visual exhibit used for any other reports they've written, send them to Terra as an example.**
- Exhibits will be generated using this table as a basis.

### **Table of Contents:**

- We 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.
- Reminder: 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.

### **Conclusion:**

- Each main subheading for the Conclusion Section was discussed individually. Loren asked the group to provide input about what they'd like to see in these sections.
- Summary
  - A brief overview reminder of the purpose including how this report and recommendations are moving the purpose forward into a new era of water planning in IL. We want to mention how we accomplished this goal.
  - We're not sure how we will present the entire list of recommendations. Probably a list by topic. It is likely that the list of all the recommendations will be in the previous

section on cross cutting recommendations so this section might just be a summary of the previous section.

- Another method is to sort the recommendations by responsible agency. Can do and will provide in the appendix.
- We could also sort the recommendations by who they will serve, GA, agencies, local residents, stakeholders/nonprofits.
- Prioritization
  - Some ranking criteria were presented for discussion.
  - However, we don't want to pit recommendations against each other or imply that some are more important.
  - Reminder that we originally voted to generate the critical topics and these are recommendations from those topics so perhaps prioritization is not needed.
  - Since no costs are identified, it will be hard to tell them to take the top ranked recommendations since they won't know how much to fund
  - Maybe list the priorities by agency?
  - Maybe discuss as a set of goals for each topic that we are striving towards.
  - Maybe discuss the order needed, since some recommendations need to come first in order for others to follow
  - Also challenging since priorities change over time.
  - Group felt it best to leave out the priority list but perhaps identify the need for and what should be considered when prioritizing in the future. Maybe state that we are ready to prioritize if and when opportunities present themselves.
  - Maybe provide a statement that each agency needs to consult with the SWP to make sure that they don't botch the order of other things that need to be done.
  - Also challenging since funding appears from different sources at different times
  - Need a policy mechanism to review the SWP with higher level, maybe director level coordination to determine priorities.
  - The TF was originally an executive order that needs to be recognized as an official body with funding. Might need legislation beyond executive order.
  - Committees will continue to coordinate.
  - When funding come available, coordination within TF to see if the selected initiative to see that there are not only direct benefits of funding but also secondary benefits.
  - The group was reminded that the Integrated Management section is formalizing the TF authority and responsibilities of the TF. It will be a body of multi-agency collaboration.
  - Need to focus on future communication – this idea can also go instead into Measuring success if this one is deleted.
- Measuring Success
  - The TF can write white papers to hone in on more specifics for each recommendation
  - Publish annual status report and perhaps quarterly website updates
    - End of calendar year or FY? Best to get out before the budget cycle for the next year.
    - **Each topic lead is to ask agency fiscal officer about which time is best to request General Revenue funds and send to Wes/Terra.** Then the reporting cycle can be determined but it will be done annually.
  - Should the status report be a pdf or online?

- For General Assembly (GA) a 1-2 page handout is probably best.
    - Also include virtually on the website.
  - Website to show available funding and how spent. Maybe a United Way type thermometer graphic – use water colors to show success (brown/bad to blue/good)
  - Would be good to include an estimate completion date for each recommendation
- GA Next Steps
  - First step will be making them aware of the SWP and here it is, 2 – why it matters to GA and what we’re asking of the GA. 3 – how they can continue to use the plan (any legislation acts or policy changes needed).
  - Let them know it is an ongoing process and the TF will convene and carry out our work to implement these recommendations.
  - Discussed making TF more formal like the Rivers of IL Coordinating Council which is an Act by the GA (formality makes it more powerful?)
  - Establish a link between the measure of success for GA, Identify champions
  - What are we asking the GA and how?
  - TF publishes 2022 SWP but also develops a summary report/brochures and presents list of recommendations to GA
- Website and Plan Updates
  - Describe how to use the SWP and website
  - Provide links to newly developed tools as they are developed until the IWIC is established.
  - Make sure to include public feedback features
  - When to publish next report? We keep saying 5 years but is that feasible? It has taken us 3 years so far to update. Maybe 10 years. Or perhaps not define at this time. Agreed not to state exact timeframe of update but assume internally that we are focusing efforts for 5 year increments to complete the recommendations.
  - Need to think about how to continue to engage with public in the future. Additional outreach after publication. Need to let stakeholders know how they can continue to engage.

### **Public Outreach**

- Format? After discussion, Hybrid – 3 in person and virtual, was selected.
- Each topic lead will not need to attend each meeting but should be available virtually for questions.
- We will prepare the final draft and unveil it at the meeting. Detailed responses will be sent separately by a deadline.
- We will describe how to use the report and website, how to engage and continue to engage.
- Chicago (CMAP), Springfield (IDNR) and Carbondale (or Collinsville). IDOT bldgs. for southern? We’ll need to pick a date soon so that the venues can be reserved.

### **General:**

- Next month we’ll talk about the combined report
- The combined report will be submitted to the Task Force for review prior to our next TF meeting.

- TF comments will be due by mid-June.
- Public outreach will occur late June or early July
- Project Schedule:
  - Compiled Reports to Task Force by mid-May for review
  - Publish combined Report in mid-June
  - Public outreach late-June or early July
  - Final report Summer or early Fall

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

**Next Meeting Outline:** It was determined that the next meeting will be set for **June 06, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.** to be held via Web-Ex.

The meeting was concluded at 10:58 A.M.