

MINUTES
Technical Committee Meeting
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF WASTEWATER AGENCIES
Starved Rock Lodge, Utica Illinois
Friday, January 8, 2010

I. Bob Trueblood, Vice-President – Technical called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. The minutes of the November 13, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A) Administration – Kim Lytle

Wage & Benefit Survey was distributed to those Agency Members who participated. If you did not receive your copy, please contact Kim at the Urbana Champaign S.D. office or the IAWA office.

If you have kept older dependents on your insurance, be aware of the new tax liabilities with the new law.

Illinois Attorney General is offering a Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act Training. An updated training schedule is coming in the near future, but for questions, you can contact Delores Herren at 217-558-0486 or by e-mail at PublicAccess@atg.state.il.us

B) AD-Hoc Stimulus Committee –Monte Cherry

Spoke with Geoff Anders in December and was informed that the stimulus funding is coming to a close. There are 60 more projects through AARA still to be funded that will have a lower interest rate and will offer some loan forgiveness based on the economic region. New projects are 2 to 3 years out unless it is a compliance issue and those projects will jump up to the top of the list. Committee feels IAWA needs to lobby for streamlining the process.

C) Blending – Jennifer Hindel

There has been a flurry of activity the last month. USEPA doesn't seem to want to back off and is focused on the utility analysis document, while NACWA is not backing down from their support of the 2005 policy. Committee feels there is confusion at the higher level of Administration at USEPA on the history of blending and their past position with the policy, so committee has drafted a letter to Administrator Lisa Jackson at USEPA Headquarters to explain how we got to the 2005 policy in hopes of triggering dialogue. Committee spent a lot of time commenting on the issue to help draft letter. Hope to get out early next week, so if you have any suggestions or comments, please let Jennifer know. Association might have an ally with the Office of Management and Budget. They review all

policies proposed by Federal agencies and they expressed concerns with the 2005 policy. A copy will be forwarded to them as well.

D) Collection Systems – Tom Meyer

Committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss overflow bypasses.

E) Energy – Nick Menninga

Members were encouraged to attend the POTW Nutrient Reduction and Efficiency Seminar in Evansville, IN, January 12-14. A memo was sent out to members the first week in January concerning seminar.

F) FPA – Dennis Duffield

No report.

G.) Legislative – Stan Browning & Steve Davis

If any member is interested in having legislation presented, you will need to submit proposals ASAP for possible legislation to Stan or Steve to forward to Kip. Association has no specific proposal for this upcoming session. Decatur is proposing an amendment to the 1917 Act to include their District increasing their Board to 5 members.

H.) NACWA – Network – Lou Kollias

No report.

I.) Pretreatment – Joe Robinson

Region 5 USEPA is seeking comments from Association on pharmaceuticals and wastewater treatment best management practices.

J.) Stream Use Classification Systems – Nick Menninga

Chris Yoder and Nick Menninga met with IDNR's Director and Assistant Director to get them up to speed on tiered aquatic life and get them on board with what IAWA is doing before filing for petition with the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Roy Harsch and Chris Yoder are working on the language for the petition. Planning an early April Stakeholder's meeting and then filing petition soon after.

K.) TMDL/Nutrients – Tim Bachman

Tim contacted both Bob Mosher and Paul Terrio on the status of nutrient water quality standard development in Illinois. IEPA remains in a holding pattern waiting for USEPA to decide if they want to analyze the IEPA data to a further

degree. Nothing has happened for the last three or four months. The holidays may have slowed things down somewhat. IEPA believes that there needs to be further discussion with Region 5 about the specifics of the additional data analysis before Region 5 is comfortable sending it to headquarters with a request for funding.

Paul did report one interesting development. Ohio is in discussion with USEPA about implementation issues and the complexities thereof. They (Ohio) want to take a “protection” and “management” approach through which they are hoping to identify nutrient removal impaired waters using dissolved oxygen characteristics and then “protect” those waters which are not impaired through a relatively low TP criterion and “manage” the impaired waters through a somewhat higher criterion. The “management” criteria might be reduced over time, should the water bodies improve. The identification of and assignment of criteria using dissolved oxygen as a response variable, or indicator, is similar to what Illinois EPA has proposed in the past.

At the present time, they do not have any date in mind for another Nutrient Standards Workgroup Meeting.

Some of our subcommittee members will be attending the POTW Nutrient Reduction and Efficiency Conference being held in Evansville, Indiana, January 12-14, 2010, and have agreed to prepare a summary of the conference for distribution.

Finally, Mark David will be a speaker at the Mini-Conference in March and will present a review of the Scientific Advisory Board’s report on the use of the statistical approach to the development of nutrient standards as advocated by USEPA. As you will recall, IAWA submitted Mark as a nominee for this review committee and he was ultimately selected to serve on it.

L.) Water Quality – Rick Manner

Regarding mercury limits, there will be a request going out asking for members to provide any low-level mercury test results that they wish to share. This is because there is some uncertainty about how easy the proposed 12 ng/L limit will be to meet. IEPA has said that they believe treatment plants should not have a problem with the 12 ng/L limit, so if you are not comfortably under that limit, please speak up.

After committee looks at the data, we will be drafting a letter to IEPA saying that we do have some reservations about their proposed change for mercury. Regardless of how good the numbers look, we will likely ask for some definition of a compliance program that involves Best Management Practices (BMP’s), since traditional procedures for eliminating sources do not work so well for limits that are this low. This BMP procedure is what other Great Lakes states have already done to deal with their 1.3 ng/L limit. When treatment plants cannot meet the

limit, nor find any obvious source to control, they initiate a BMP program and follow through with that.

V. Old Business

The 2010 Mini Conference will be held March 11-12, 2010 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held September 28 – October 1, 2010 at the Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, Illinois.

VI. New Business

No report

VII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.