

**MINUTES**  
**Technical Committee Meeting**  
**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF WASTEWATER AGENCIES**  
**Starved Rock State Park, Utica, Illinois**  
**Friday, January 10, 2008**

I. Nick Menninga, Vice-President – Technical called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. The minutes of the November 9, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

III. Subcommittee Reports

**A) Administration – Kim Lytle**

No report.

**B) Legislative – Stan Browning & Steve Davis**

Kip is working on the Legislative Panel for the Mini Conference in February.

**C) Pretreatment – Debra Ness**

Working on scheduling a March date with USEPA in Chicago.

**D) Water Quality – Rick Manner**

There have been minor changes with sulfate and TDS. If you are interested in details, contact Rick @ [rmanner@frwr.com](mailto:rmanner@frwr.com).

**E) Collection Systems – Tom Meyer**

A few members met January 9<sup>th</sup> with IEPA and focused specifically on SSO reporting criteria. Discussed the draft SSO bypass reporting criteria that Mike Eriksen created. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy of the draft, please contact Tom Meyer @ [tmeyer@gpsd.org](mailto:tmeyer@gpsd.org). Discussed satellite systems and basement backups and questioned when you have to report. This is just the beginning stages and the group emphasized that they were not speaking on behalf of all the association members, but committee will be needing input from membership before they meet with IEPA again.

**F) TMDL/Nutrients – Tim Bachman**

Nutrients are on front burner and have 2 major issues that need monitoring by IAWA:

1. Development of nutrient quality standards in Illinois. Illinois does not have the spatial extent or diverse range of environmental characteristics which other states have been able to base nutrient criteria upon, but

continue to compile data from 2003-2006 which should help analyze cause-effect and correlation relationships. Plan to be distributing potential scenarios for nutrients standards in the next couple of months. Hoping to hold another work group meeting in late February or early March to discuss the scenarios that might aid the Agency in developing a rulemaking proposal.

2. On November 27, 2007, the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a formal Petition for Rulemaking with USEPA addressing the issue of secondary treatment standards for nutrient removal for POTWs. The petition contends that limits of 1.0 mg/l total phosphorus (TP) and 8.0 mg/l total nitrogen (TN) averaged yearly can be met by applying existing technology to improve existing biological treatment processes and that limits of 0.3 mg/l TP and 3 mg/l TN are achievable using currently available technology. NACWA is preparing comments to EPA in response to the petition and is requesting member comments by COB on Friday, January 18, 2008. Comments are requested in three specific areas:
  - a. **Technical Aspects:** The petition, particularly in Section III, alleges that current secondary treatment technology can achieve significant nutrient reductions and that additional biological nutrient reduction processes can be easily added to secondary treatment to achieve even greater nutrient removal. NACWA would appreciate any member comments on the accuracy of the technical statements made in the petition, including the statement that limits of 0.3 mg/l TP and 3 mg/l TN are “consistently attainable using current technology,” and that limits of 1.0 mg/l TP and 8.0 mg/l TN averaged yearly “can be met with existing technology that uses only improved conventional biological treatment processes.” Any critique of the various biological treatment processes outlined in Section III would also be appreciated.
  - b. **Cost:** NACWA is very concerned about the potential cost implications if POTWs were required to include nutrient removal as part of secondary treatment. Any cost estimates NACWA members can provide relating to potential expenses for their utilities to meet the nutrient levels outlined in the petition would be helpful in making this argument. Additionally any member comments on the cost estimates provided in the petition are welcome.
  - c. **Effect on Existing Water Quality Based Efforts:** A move toward more stringent technology-based limits for nutrients as outlined in the petition could have a negative effect on existing water quality-based efforts, such as nutrient trading. NACWA would like to know if there are any existing water quality efforts in your area

that would be undermined by national removal requirements for nutrients.

The entire petition is available on NACWA's website at:

[http://www.nacwa.org/index.php?option=com\\_vfm&Itemid=404&do=download&file=2007-11-27nrdocprt.pdf](http://www.nacwa.org/index.php?option=com_vfm&Itemid=404&do=download&file=2007-11-27nrdocprt.pdf)

Tim will be preparing comments to be submitted on behalf of IAWA using to a great extent the report prepared by Dave Zenz for IAWA in 2002-2003 on the Technical Feasibility and Cost to Meet Nutrient Standards in the State of Illinois. However, Tim can also incorporate any member comments with respect to the above three areas that you can forward to him @ [tbachman@u-csd.com](mailto:tbachman@u-csd.com) before the end of this week. If you have specific cost information on nutrient removal for your facility that would be very helpful. Tim would also encourage you as individual agencies to submit your own comment letter to NACWA to Nathan Gardner-Andrews, NACWA's counsel, at [ngardner-andrews@nacwa.org](mailto:ngardner-andrews@nacwa.org). The more comments and information that they receive the better they can convey our concerns about this petition. Tim apologizes for the short time frame involved but the potential impact of this petition on us makes it imperative that we respond. Please give this as high a priority as possible.

**G.) FPA – Dennis Duffield**

No report

**H.) Stream Use Classification Systems – Nick Menninga**

Hired Chris Yoder of Midwest Biodiversity Institute to work with development of a tiered-use system for Illinois. Nick spoke to Chris concerning including nutrients into proposed work on aquatic life and the tiered system. Chris is not sure it is doable, but will pursue.

**I.) Dissolved Oxygen Standard – Dennis Streicher**

Waiting to hear results of 2<sup>nd</sup> notice, but will have to get through JACAR. How and when committee might challenge is still in questions. Will have to wait for JACAR decision before proceeding.

**J.) Energy – Nick Menninga**

No report.

**K.) NACWA Network – Lou Kollias**

Reiterated what Tim Bachman reported for Nutrient Committee that NACWA is working on comments and encourages members to submit theirs by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. New Business**

Cliff White resigned as President to take a new position in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Executive Committee met and unanimously approved Steve Graceffa to serve the

remainder of Cliff's term. Members voted and Steve Graceffa was unanimously approved by membership as well.

**V. Old Business**

George Schillinger informed members that after 20+ years, they were successful in removing the restrictive clause on H.B. 927 concerning water-shut off for their district. American Bottoms attorney filed an unconstitutional lawsuit and on November 19<sup>th</sup> a judgement clause determined in their favor. Their attorney was real careful that this did not affect any other part of H.B. 927. George will provide a copy to anyone interested.

The 2008 Mini Conference will be held February 28-29, 2008 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held September 16 – 19, 2008 at Hotel Orrington in Evanston, Illinois.

The next Technical Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 9, 2008 at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois.

**VI. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.