

MINUTES
Technical Committee Meeting
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF WASTEWATER AGENCIES
Starved Rock State Park, Utica, Illinois
Friday, July 13, 2007

- I. Brian Dorn, Vice-President – Technical called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- II. The minutes of the May 11, 2007 meeting were approved as written.
- III. Subcommittee Reports

A) Administration – Kim Lytle

Revenue Surveys are out and due back to Committee by August 1st. If you did not receive your survey, contact Robin in the IAWA office and she will supply you with a copy.

Committee is scheduled to meet in Peoria on August 17th to look over the surveys.

B) Legislative – Stan Browning & Steve Davis

An in-depth report of this year's legislative session will be given by Kip at the September Annual Meeting in Galena.

A local Senator from the Fox River WRD introduced legislation that would remove the existing Board of Trustees and replace with all new appointees. Kip worked tirelessly and was even threatened to withdraw the Association's opposition. The end result will not remove the existing Board.

Committee and Kip were unsuccessful in getting legislation passed again that would give American Bottoms disconnection authority. American Bottoms has filed a suit stating it to be unconstitutional to single them out, and the Association will continue to work to get this passed in future sessions.

Prevailing wage legislation passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Committee sent an e-mail to members the beginning of June encouraging them to contact their legislators concerning securing funds through the sale of bonds or other sources to come up with the local match for Federal funds for the SRF Program.

C) Pretreatment – Debra Ness

No report

D) Water Quality – Rick Manner

Looks like sulfate and total dissolved solids water quality standards will be approved. It would raise the sulfate limits, eliminate TDS limits statewide and make changes to mixing zone regulations to allow for the use of the stream flow during wet weather. The mixing zone change could be a significant benefit to

members. The only outstanding issue was for refineries and doesn't apply to our industry.

Roy Harsch has been representing New Lenox on their NPDES permit appeal. The IPCB issued a 50 page opinion impacting issuing permits where you increase your load. IEPA feels they are not able to apply the Board's rationale and answer any questions and this case will probably affect the ability for them to issue permits. The Illinois Pollution Control Board denied a motion to review case and Roy doesn't expect EPA to end the appeal. Will keep everyone posted.

E) Collection Systems – Tom Meyer

Committee met with IEPA on July 12th to discuss the recent enforcement activity on SSO's to certain Sanitary Districts and Municipalities and their inconsistencies with violation notices. Most of the violations are coming from those who self report. Committee prepared an estimate of SSO's in Illinois, based on Downers Grove S.D.'s experience. Committee estimates 45,000 reportable SSO's per year in Illinois if basement backups are considered a reportable SSO.

Committee is asking that IEPA define overflow and how they think it should be reported. Association is requesting they incorporate SSO's into the NPDES permit, and make reporting consistent. Members suggested requesting IEPA put language in permit for protection.

Gary Gourley with Westville/Belguim S.D. reported being sued by the Attorney General because of their SSO violations and ended up having to add a \$2.5 million plant. Gary contacted Region 5 when he first received his violation. They came and reviewed their plant and didn't think there was a problem, but IEPA pursued.

Committee is encouraging others to join committee. They will regroup and figure where committee goes from here on this issue.

F) TMDL/Nutrients – Tim Bachman

Ammonia

There has been quite a bit of Federal level activity. In May, NACWA sent out a regulatory alert to inform everyone that EPA is planning revisions to the 1999 Ammonia Criteria. The issue is freshwater mussels that would lower existing federal maximum criteria by 60-75% and average criteria by 20-75%. Committee submitted comments voicing their concern at the significant amount of money it would take for plants to update existing nitrification processes. It is important the Association monitor and work with IEPA on this.

Nutrients

EPA issued a policy memo on May 25th on the development of numeric nutrient criteria. This was the first major policy statement since 2001 and they have committed to “accelerate the pace.”

NACWA sent out another regulatory alert on July 11th regarding the Science Advisory board Report on Nutrient-Caused Hypoxia. The working draft has not yet been released to the public.

Bob Mosher expects to have the final report due from researchers this October. After that, Committee will have another Stakeholders meeting to inform everyone of the findings. Will still need ideas for alternative ways to derive standards or otherwise come up with a nutrient program.

G.) FPA – Dennis Duffield

No report

H.) Stream Use Classification Systems – Nick Menninga

Stakeholders met in June with Albert making comments about tiers and disinfection requirements. IDNR did not bring their fisheries people, so it appears they will not be involved in the tier issue. Committee’s next step is to characterize categories of streams in the state and hire a consultant to create those standards. Met with Chris Yoder of Midwest Biodiversity Institute from Columbus, Ohio who has the stature to get the work done and is currently sampling DuPage & Salt Creek. Mr. Yoder would like a letter to present before his Board reflecting what the desire of the committee is before he will consider consulting with IAWA.

I.) Dissolved Oxygen Standard – Dennis Streicher

It’s out! DO standards are posted on the Illinois Pollution Control Board website. It is pretty much what IDNR and IEPA wanted. Association was successful in getting seasonal, averaging and the numbers we wanted, but were unsuccessful with the July numbers. 8% of all rivers designed are enhanced river segments with a 6.25 DO minimum during cool weather months. There is a 45 day public comment period before going to JACAR and then will go to USEPA for approval.

The Board recognizes that some segments don’t meet the rule and they note they are not adopting standards on what level of DO exists in streams, but what IDNR thinks is necessary to support sensitive species.

Those agencies currently monitoring their streams are encouraged to still do so. Dennis will be in contact with them for comments.

J.) Energy – Nick Menninga

General Assembly is looking at rate relief for residential owners only.

K.) NACWA Network – Lou Kollias

Have been sending the monthly publications to members through IAWA e-mail. Encourage everyone to read the reports and send comments back.

IV. New Business

Wally Van Buren thanked Association for allowing him to represent them on CMAP. Wally, Kip and the Legislative Committee were instrumental in helping get S.B. 1201 passed through both Houses, and is currently awaiting the Governor's signature, that provided IAWA with a representative to the Wastewater Committee of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), formerly known as NIPC. Wally has represented IAWA since 2000 and has lobbied tirelessly for the new CMAP Wastewater Committee structure, which consists of a representative from The City of Chicago, Cook County, IAWA, The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and one of the collar counties.

USEPA and IEPA are pushing hard for watershed based planning instead of FPA. They are using the Kishwaukee study report as their springboard. Wally hopes to keep process as is and will do his best to expedite it.

Members thanked Wally for all his dedication and commended him for the great job he is doing.

V. Old Business

The 2007 Annual Meeting will be held September 18 – 21, 2007 at The Irish Cottage in Galena, Illinois.

The next Technical Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2007 at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.