

MINUTES
Technical Committee Meeting
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF WASTEWATER AGENCIES
Starved Rock Lodge, Utica Illinois
Wednesday, November 13, 2009

- I. Bob Trueblood, Vice-President – Technical called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- II. The minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting were approved as written.
- III. Subcommittee Reports

A) Administration – Kim Lytle

Benefit Survey was distributed to Agency Members on November 12th and is due back by December 11th. Members are encouraged to participate in order to receive a copy of the results.

Committee will be sending out information to members on insurance coverage for dependents and tax and IMRF implications on this issue in the near future.

B) Legislative – Stan Browning & Steve Davis

No significant changes happened in Springfield during the Veto session.

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.

C) Pretreatment – Joe Robinson

No report

D) Water Quality – Rick Manner

There is a group of treatment plant operators that is meeting in the week of the 16th to discuss their zinc limit problems. They are independent of IAWA but many folks are members – Hanover Park, Roselle, Bloomingdale and Wheaton Sanitary District. It is confirmed that additional IAWA members are welcome to attend too. Dave Zenz is one of the founding members of that group and he can provide details for anybody that has questions.

There was a meeting on October 19th that was hosted by IEPA to introduce stakeholders to their proposed changes to fluoride, manganese, and boron. All of the limits are proposed to increase. Generally, we are all supportive of IEPA's interest in modernizing the limits and should be considering what parameters we want to ask IEPA to address next.* I have confirmed with an environmental

lobbyist that she has no objection to the idea of limits increasing based upon sound science too.

A noteworthy topic here is that IEPA has added to this regulation a change that mixing zones will not be allowed for mercury anymore. This is due to the bio-accumulative nature of mercury. Springfield Metro has an issue with regards to their CSO discharges and is investigating this further with IEPA.

Finally, USEPA has advised IEPA that guidance on bacteriological limits will be expected in 2010. This will revive this topic as one that needs to be tracked.

* I did not explain this in the meeting, but we can expect most newly modernized limits to increase, like these are. The logic for this is that if there was a toxic issue that is known, somebody (IDNR, USEPA, legislators, Sierra Club, etc.) would have demanded that IEPA lower the limit before now. So limits that are unchanged for 30 years are more likely to be too conservative/too low, but nobody has found it cost-effective to study it, to lobby for the change.

E) Collection Systems – Tom Meyer

Nick Menninga reported the Executive Committee discussed requirements on reporting SSO's and CSO's during the recent meeting scheduled with IEPA in Springfield on October 27th. Met with Mike Erikson to create a list of consistent reporting requirements. Committee is planning to meet to discuss war stories.

F) TMDL/Nutrients – Tim Bachman

Nutrients were one of the topics discussed in the October 27 meeting in Springfield between the IAWA Executive Committee and Marcia Willhite and her staff.

1. Marcia indicated that IEPA is not where they'd like to be nor where USEPA would like them to be. She did not see things getting any better in the near future. A comprehensive strategy addressing all sources is needed. She referenced an August 2009 Report of the State-EPA Nutrient Innovations Task Group "An Urgent Call to Action" as being a potential basis for dialogue on a national basis. Marcia was a member of this group which will be briefing USEPA administrators on it this month some time. The report reflects the perspective of regulators only.
2. In Illinois, IEPA, IDNR, and the Department of Agriculture are working on a white paper on a comprehensive strategy for nutrient control in the state which they hope to release early next year and use as a basis for dialog among stakeholders.
3. With respect to water quality standards development, IEPA submitted a straw proposal to Region 5 suggesting a cause related signal in the aquatic system as a trigger point for implementation of a nutrient management approach within that watershed. As you might expect, it was not well received.

4. IEPA completed their review of the Tetra Tech report and could not find any relationships they agreed with in that report. They requested that Tetra Tech do some additional analysis on the Illinois data and USEPA has agreed to hire Tetra Tech to do that work.
5. The Nutrient Workgroup in Illinois is currently on hold with no plans for additional meetings until there is something more definite to share with that group.
6. With respect to nutrient monitoring in NPDES permits, TN and TP are being required in all permits for major dischargers as they come up for renewal or modification and also for minor dischargers if a TMDL is coming up in their watershed. The frequency of monitoring is anywhere from weekly to monthly.
7. Marcia also noted that USDA has put out quite a bit of money for nutrient reduction programs resulting in a lot of conservation programs being implemented or that will be implemented on the agricultural front.

Finally, according to both John Hall and Mark David, the Scientific Advisory Board did not have a favorable reaction to USEPA's use of the statistical approach to the development of nutrient standards at their meeting held in early September. Their report to USEPA is due in December and should reflect that they do not agree with that approach. However, we need to remember that they are an advisory board. We will continue to monitor the status of that review process.

G.) FPA – Dennis Duffield

No report

H.) Stream Use Classification Systems – Nick Menninga

Committee met with IEPA and IDNR concerning rule change on tiered aquatic life, and plan to move forward to petition the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Executive Committee approved hiring of Roy Harsch with Drinker, Biddle & Reath to prepare petition. A letter was sent to the Director of IDNR to schedule a meeting. Feel that Marcia supports our view on issue, but need to get Sanjay more up-to-date on issue. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of this committee, please let Nick Menninga or Robin Ellison know.

I.) Energy – Nick Menninga

The Energy Design Assistance Center and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity sponsored seminars to discuss energy efficiency. A flier was sent out to members in case they were interested in attending one of them.

J.) NACWA Network – Lou Kollias

NACWA is having their Regional States Clean Water Summit on December 7th & 8th. NACWA is seeking feedback on biggest concerns with states and best way to improve relations with states. Comments are needed no later than December 5th.

K.) Ad-Hoc Stimulus Committee – Monte Cherry

Funding was another topic discussed during the October 27th meeting with IEPA. IEPA stated the first round of funds has already been committed, but they expect next year's appropriations to be higher while looking into lower interest rates than typical State Revolving Fund Loan Program interest and possible loan forgiveness. They will consider all projects already submitted as they go into the next round of funding. Committee will meet and propose creative ways to get projects ready to go, and will work on getting a speaker scheduled for the January Technical Committee Meeting to discuss construction labor laws.

L.) Blending – Jennifer Hindel

Committee met with Al Keller from IEPA and he indicated continued support of blending and excess flow treatment, but also indicated being pro-active on this is not a priority. IAWA agrees with USEPA that bypassing raw, untreated wastewater to receiving waters except under emergency conditions is unacceptable, the Association also concurs that infiltration/inflow reduction is an important component of responsible wastewater treatment. IAWA does not agree with USEPA that excess flow treatment including "blending" are bypassing. All excess flow treatment facilities in IL treat and disinfect wastewater, and are properly permitted through the NPDES permit. IAWA continues to support blending in its current form, though the 2005 policy appears to be here to stay, there is room to work within the draft utility analysis.

Participated in a teleconference with NACWA and representatives from other states and state wastewater associations to discuss blending. Is disheartened that there is not much support from IEPA or NACWA, but will continue to work to influence USEPA and (1) press consideration of impacts of blending flow on the receiving stream and include cost/benefit analysis to support this, (2) point out the loss of unlimited volumetric capacity that comes with the loss of blending, (3) suggest that blending be grandfathered, if a permit has been renewed repeatedly and there have been no negative impacts, (4) try to keep USEPA Office of Compliance from running rampant against blending, (5) attempt to get (unblended flow) tagged in with blending. Several of our members have these facilities and it will only get worse for them later if we don't get them lumped in, (6) encourage discontinuation of the use of the b-word. We are talking about "peak flow treatment". Committee will have another conference call and focus on NACWA to apply pressure on USEPA.

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

Dennis Streicher thanked everyone for being nominated and receiving the Illinois Award at the 2009 Annual Conference. He was totally surprised, especially considering he serves on the Awards Committee.

Roy Harsch reported on a recent settlement of a case brought by the AG against the City of Pekin. There was a count that dealt with a treatment plant bypass or use of wet weather flow treatment system before the plant was treating the design maximum flow rate. This is the first Illinois case that Roy is aware of a finding regarding this issue. USEPA has been examining this possibility when doing inspections for both CSO dischargers and for wet weather treatment systems on sanitary sewer systems.

VII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.