

# NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED WORKGROUP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES



NORTH BRANCH  
CHICAGO RIVER  
WATERSHED  
WORKGROUP

Lake Forest Municipal Services Building Training Room,  
800 N Field Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045  
Wednesday, August 14, 2024 \* 1:00pm – 3:00pm

## NBWW GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Introductions

Brandon Janes, President of the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup (NBWW), called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and welcomed attendees to the August 14, 2024, NBWW Annual General Membership Meeting. The meeting was held in a hybrid format. Ashley Strelcheck, NBWW Coordinator for this meeting, performed roll call. A total of 25 voting members (tallying 89 votes) were in attendance, so an NBWW meeting quorum was present (see the voting quorum in the roll call sheet and meeting participants list below).

### 2. Public Comment – None

### 3. NBWW Business

#### a. Approve NBWW February 14, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Larry Bridges, Skokie Consolidated Drainage District (SCDD), motioned to approve the February 14, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes, seconded by Michael Warner, Gewalt Hamilton representative for the Village of Riverwoods. The motion passed with a unanimous consensus vote.

#### b. Financials

##### i. Ratify NBWW Revenues & Expenditures

Strelcheck presented the expenditures and revenues for ratification. There were no questions. Larry Bridges, SCDD, motioned to ratify the presented revenues and expenditures, seconded by Matt Ueltzen, Lake County Forest Preserve District. The motion passed via a 20-0-5 roll call vote (see roll call vote spreadsheet).

##### ii. NBWW Budget Review

Strelcheck presented the NBWW budget. There were no comments or questions.

### 4. Old Business

#### a. Monitoring Committee Update – Rob Flood, NBWW Monitoring & Water Quality Impairment Abatement Committee Chair

Rob Flood gave a NBWW Monitoring Committee update that NSWRD is collecting the August 2024 water samples from twenty-five sites in the watershed to satisfy the workgroup member's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit requirements. NBWW Monitoring Committee has been working with Geosyntec on the on-going NBWW NARP and receiving updates, as well as the Water Quality Summary Report.

### 5. New Business

#### a. 2024 NBWW Executive Board Elections

Strelcheck presented the list of current NBWW Executive Board members for election vote. No nominations were submitted for additional candidates this election. There were no questions. Larry Bridges, SCDD, motioned to ratify the presented revenues and expenditures, seconded by Alana Bartolai, Lake County Health Department. The motion passed via a 24-0-1 roll call vote (see roll call vote spreadsheet).

### 6. Guest Speakers

#### a. NBWW Nutrient Assessment & Reduction Plan (NARP) Update Yifan He, Senior Staff Engineer, Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

Yifan He presented an update on the NBWW NARP hydraulic model development and baseline analysis. Yifan gave an overview of the instream model development utilizing 27 stream segments within the watershed to run through the Water

Quality Analysis Simulation Program (WASP). A key factor in running this model was the consideration of the impacts of the sediment flux (with sediment oxygen demand and sediment phosphorus flux) within the Skokie Lagoons. The preliminary calibration results were at acceptable levels for hydraulics and water quality parameters (see summary specifics in pdf presentation). The calibrated 2022 model was selected to be the baseline scenarios to run additional management scenarios for. The three initial scenarios included: 1. Impact to receiving streams if Clavey STP discharges downstream of the lagoon instead of upstream in 2022; 2. Impact to receiving streams when POTWs cap effluent TP concentrations to 0.5 mg/L; and 3. Impact to receiving streams when POTWs cap effluent TP concentrations to 0.1 mg/L. Some of the draft key takeaways were:

- 1 *Moving the Clavey STP discharge outfall from upstream of the lagoon to downstream of the lagoon will lead to reduced chl-a concentration downstream of the lagoon due to dilution but increased chl-a concentration upstream of the lagoon. Improved DO condition downstream of the lagoon (reduced %time DO below minimum standards).*
- 2 *For 2022 baseline condition, most of the Clavey STP effluent TP measurements were already below 0.5mg/L, so capping TP to 0.5 mg/L does not show much difference.*
- 3 *Capping effluent TP to 0.1 mg/L improves downstream chl-a and TP conditions very slightly. However, due to uncertainties associated with the sediment flux and model limitations, it's hard to justify the additional costs for the limited benefits.*

Potential future management scenarios include urban reduction (impacts) percent load by community and the Skokie Lagoons impacts (online/offline).

#### **b. NBWW Draft Water Quality Summary Report**

**Aaron Vandermus, Staff Engineer, Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.**

Aaron Vandermus gave a brief overview of the draft water quality analysis memorandum created by Geosyntec Consultants. The NBWW Monitoring Committee and Executive Board will be asked to review this memorandum and attachments (of summarized data) and provide feedback for revisions to Geosyntec.

Q/A:

What was the purpose of creating a water quality summary report?

The NBWW wanted to create a water quality summary report to summarize the data for various audiences and provide it to our NBWW members to give to their elected officials and those who do not regularly attend the NBWW meetings to better understand water quality in the watershed. MBI is no longer creating biennial water quality reports so this was an alternative that NBWW wanted to explore to summarizing the monitoring data for members.

#### **c. Climate Change Impacts on Aquatic Systems**

**Vince Mosca, Senior Principal Ecologist, Hey & Associates**

Vince Mosca gave a presentation on the expected climate change influences on aquatic systems in the upper Midwest. Before explaining expected future trends climate change, Vince provided historical climate cycles and trends. Vince gave examples of expected (future) temperature, precipitation (totals and intensity), evapotranspiration and drought trends. The trend of climate change increasing is expected to have changes to weather patterns (i.e. locations of tornados, precipitation patterns and plant zones). Vince addressed the local impacts of climate change, such as additional public works costs to address extreme storm events, retrofitting old gray infrastructure to handle increased runoff, water quality impacts to waterways and extreme heat impacts to people. The role wetlands play in climate change is vital although they are part of the current trends in climate changes and green house gas emissions. Vince provided examples of some successful projects he has been involved with the and changes in rainfall impacting the species of plants chosen for projects (taking climate change into consideration can determine the success of a project).

### **7. Watershed Project Updates & Announcements**

#### **a. Open Discussion & Watershed Updates**

- i. 2024 Regional Deicing Events (register here: <https://saltsmart.org/workshops/>): Roadways: Sept. 24th (Libertyville in-person workshop), Oct. 3rd, Oct. 8th
- ii. Parking Lots & Sidewalks: Sept. 26th & Oct. 1st - October 23rd Lake County Calibration Event - <https://www.lakecountyyil.gov/activities>.
- iii. The Skokie Consolidated Drainage District (SCDD) completed a one-mile streambank stabilization project between Old Elm Road and Westleigh Road in Lake Forest (Skokie River). The project was broken into two phrases and multiple funding sources; the project was completed in 2023. Currently the SCDD is planning to stabilize 2,500 linear feet of (Skokie River) streambank in Highland Park along Old Elm Golf Course and the Park District of Highland Park property – Danny Cunniff Park. The construction for this project is estimated to start in Fall of 2025 with the potential

for Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) funding. Another project the SCDD is working on is updating the 32 year old pumps at the Atkinson Road Reservoir.

- iv. The Lake County SMC has a Request for Proposals open now for the Lake Michigan Watershed PCB & Mercury Pollutant Sampling Program. The deadline for proposals is Friday, August 23, 2024.
- v. The Lake County SMC is accepting request for proposals for Watershed Management Board (WMB) funded projects for Fiscal Year 2025. Proposal Submission Deadline: 2 p.m. on Friday, September 13, 2024.

**b. Next NBWW General Membership Meeting: February 12, 2024**

**8. Adjournment – 2:42 pm**

Larry Bridges, East Skokie Drainage District, motioned to adjourn, seconded by Matt Ueltzen, Lake County Forest Preserve District. The motion passed with unanimous consensus vote.

**North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup Meeting Attendees**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Aaron Vandermus	Geosyntec (virtual)
Alana Bartolai	Lake County Health Department
Alexandria Ulloa	City of Waukegan
Anna Braum	Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Anna Niedzinski (virtual)	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Aram Beladi	Village of Northbrook
Ashley Strelcheck	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission; NBWW Coordinator
Ben Metzler	Clark Dietz representing the Village of Green Oaks
Brandon Janes	Village of Deerfield
Brian Joyce	City of Lake Forest
Brian Valleskey	Geosyntec
Cecilia Anderson	Village of Lincolnshire
Chris Johnson	Illinois Sierra Club
Chuck Bodden	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Garrett Kramme	Village of Glenview
Hayley Frank	Village of Winnetka
James Egan	Village of Lincolnshire
James Tigue	Village of Glencoe
Janice Aull	Aull Nature Preserve
Jim Jabcon	Chicago Botanic Garden
Joanna Colletti	GRAEF Engineering
Jon Happ	Libertyville Township
Justin Vick	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Kate McDonnell	Village of Wilmette
Keeley Evans	Village of Northbrook
Larry Bridges	Skokie Consolidated Drainage District
Lucas Bernardi	Village of Glenview
Mark Olszewski	Village of Deerfield
Matt Ueltzen	Lake County Forest Preserve District
Michael Warner	Gewalt Hamilton; representing the Village of Bannockburn, Northfield and Riverwoods (and the Village of Golf)

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Monica Sarna	Village of Glencoe
Patty Werner	Skokie Consolidated Drainage District
Peter Nagle	Chicago Botanic Garden
Rob Flood	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Robyn Flakne	Village of Glenview
Sharene Gould Dulabaum	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Vince Mosca	Hey and Associates
Wally Dittrich	Village of Lincolnshire

**PDHs are self-reporting.** If attendees want to apply NBWW meetings towards their professional license, keep the certificate, agenda, and minutes with sign-in sheets. Acceptance of these materials for credit is at the discretion of the licensing authority.

**MS4 Program BMP fulfillment.** If attendees want to apply NBWW meetings and education towards their MS4 Program BMP Measurable Goals, keep the certificate, agenda and minutes with sign-in sheets. Acceptance of these materials for MS4 program credit is at the discretion of the Illinois EPA.