

STATE WATER PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

January 9, 2023

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Web-Ex Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present:

IDNR–OWR: Loren Wobig, Wes Cattoor, Terra McParland, Megan McKinney, Rick Pohlman,

Steve Altman, Ania Bayers, Wei Han

IDNR–ORC: Seth Love, Brian Metzke, Brennan Caputo

ISWS: Laura Keefer, Walt Kelly, Trent Ford, Glenn Heistand

IEPA: Scott Twait, Jeff Edstrom, Christine Davis, Gary Bingenheimer, Michael Summers

IDOA: Michael Woods

IDPH: Brian Cox

IEMA: Zachary Krug,

IDOT: BJ Murray, Brian McCoy

IWRC: Yu-Feng Forrest Lin

Agencies not in attendance: IDNR–OMM, DCEO, IPCB

Non-Members Present:

Sharon Waller- Chicago Metro Sanitary Dist.

Tara Jagadeesh- Coastal Management

Gerrin Creek-Butler-USGS

Kelly Warner-USGS

Chris Johnston

Mila Marshall- Sierra Club

The Meeting was called to order at 1:10 P.M. The meeting agenda, meeting recording and minutes are posted on the State Water Plan Task Force (SWPTF) website. The website also contains general information about the State Water Plan's history and current activity.

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StateWaterPlanTaskForce.aspx>

Welcome: Loren welcomed everyone to the meeting and said we have finalized and published the IL State Water Plan as of the end of December. The report's release was delayed until 1/6/23 since it took a while to obtain Agency signatures. A copy was delivered with confetti to the Governor's office last week and also distributed to all SWPTF members. The report is also posted on the website. Loren noted that today was inauguration day of the reelected Governor. Loren said a press release is currently being drafted and can be used by other agencies to announce the report publication.

Loren congratulated everyone and thanked them for their hard work getting to this point. Loren noted that we are now transitioning from report writing to the implementation phase for the project.

Wes said that he would like to have the minutes from the last meeting officially submitted into record. Michael Woods, first motion. Laura Keefer, seconded. Motion carried.

Loren and Wes discussed sending a copy of the press release to the other Agencies for them to release as well. It's a generic statement, but once we get the Governor's blessing with it, we can have it sent to the others.

Review Comment Responses:

- Wes brought up a pdf showing responses to the questions and concerns that the State Water Survey had received on the past few months. By the end of the next week, we will be publishing this on a secondary website that includes all outreach efforts.
- Wes noted that of 82 comments, 48 were answered and 34 unanswered. To date, IEPA/Water Quality needs responses, ISWS/Climate Change needs responses and a few single responses were noted.
- Terra pointed out this was a working file, and she has a more finalized version that eliminates some of those inter office comments.
- Loren said this shows that the plan is the plan and if they have further follow-up questions, they can see how to contact someone if they have a more specific question/concern.

Outcome Measurement Table:

This is a working table showing what the recommendation was, what the outcome was and how are we going to measure these. Wes used his own topic as an example. It holds us accountable that we're going to do what we said we were going to do and provides transparency to the public. Wes sees sharing the summary and how it will be measured. We could add things like 35% complete or funding out of FY 25 as examples to show we are making progress on these recommendations. These updates will be asked for from task force members ahead of each quarterly meeting. We'll be sending out a request in late March to ask for updates. Its fine if nothing is done, but we'd encourage there to be something.

Loren said we have 147 recommendations. Not all of these are possible in year 1. It makes sense for each topic lead to share what the priority is for each topic. The first steps we are going to do is to codify the Task Force and its duties and appropriate money for the Task Force to work on implementation

Terra pointed out that some of these did have budget requests. She said this could be touched on later, but she just wanted to mention that your status could state that you are waiting on funding.

Loren says we won't be asking for 10 million dollars but we should come as a taskforce and ask for the money for each recommendation in each Agency's budget. Wes asked should we put together a funding request at this point or are we looking to just give them an update on the operating currently? We're starting to discuss FY24/FY25 monies.

Laura said we should put priority to some of these recommendations since not all will be tackled within the first year. We will need to justify the rationale for the funding probably on an annual basis. Wes suggested asking topic leads to come up with priority lists and then submitting together as a task force. Loren says we should share with GOMB our funding requests as soon as its developed.

Wes asked for further comments on funding or the recommendation table. We should start to establish those priorities in the next meeting.

Wes brought up the internal recommendations' measurement table. We have several topics still missing their measurement criteria (4 of the 13 topics are blank – Water Quality, Climate Change, Long Term Funding and Erosion/Sedimentation). If your topic is blank, please fill in the table. If not, we will leave it blank and note that the public can follow-up with the topic leader or agency in charge.

SWCD Roundtable

Next, we've talked about doing Public Outreach using the SWCD Roundtable. Loren mentioned we do have a letter in the report that goes to the governor. But most reports also get filed with the General Assembly. Starting Wednesday, the new General Assembly is sworn in so that would be a good point to reach out and let them know we published it, and we want to share more about it and get it in front of the elected officials. Most likely all these new legislatures will be very eager to pick up and run with this new report. The SWCD Roundtable will be used to draw attention to the SWP. Loren turned it over to Michael Woods since he is coordinating this event.

Michael says this initiative came from a variety of leaders in the state. The plan for this is an informal opportunity where people can discuss and lead off from when we did the road show presentations. We do have a new crop of legislatures and we need to continue to educate them.

Loren asked if we were thinking about a breakfast or more of an hors d'oeuvres hour? It was recommended to provide a breakfast opportunity for people to come in and discuss and have some sort of speaker who can kick off the discussion. Wes asked about having a few key individuals, or all the topic leads to attend these meetings. Michael says the topic leads at minimum or their designee but there should be leads at least.

We shall update the task force with more concrete dates later. It would be helpful if each agency representative let their legislative liaison staff know this is coming. We'll also prepare a one page summary and maybe a trifold of all the recommendations.

Website Updates:

Next, is the website update. Wes pulled it up and wants to make it easier to find. Wes sees each colorful box being a hyperlink which would lead to a link about that topic. What the status would be as a splash pad with an overall status graphic (how many initiated or completed); we can provide links to interactive website as well that could highlight some of the work that has been completed Key accomplishments can be updated quarterly. We can also add a feedback area to solicit input from stakeholders and the public. If anyone has any input to the new website, please reach out to Wes.

Wes showed the list of State Water Plan Contacts and members. DCEO requested they be removed from the Governor's letter and the website. DCEO came to a few meetings at the beginning of the process but had staffing changeover and didn't continue participating so and then when we asked for their signature, they didn't feel that they should sign the support letter. Loren says they are getting new director, so we can always reach back out.

Chris Davis had a question. Are they asking task force members to reaffirm now or later if they haven't been active for a while? Wes is planning to send a formal request to each topic leader and Task Force members to make sure that they want to be involved in this next phase of the SWP.

Other Topics:

Wes said a big thank you to Terra McParland for all her work for the late nights of this report. She put a great deal of it together.

The next few quarterly meetings have been proposed as follows:

- April 10th, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. is the next meeting-virtual
- July 10 @ 1:30 -in person
- Oct 9 @ 1:30 pm- in person. It was noted that this is a state holiday, so Chris Davis proposed pushing it back a week to Oct. 16 to which all agreed.

State Owned water supply: Mila from the Sierra Club said she would like to explore water supply in prisons. Is there an audit of sorts for state infrastructure and does that tie in with vulnerability populations? Is this issue in the report?

Loren wanted to know if this involved the state or was it more for state owned property vs water within the state? Mila said it is more within state owned property she was asking about. Wes said we look at more water source availability, but we're not sure which agency would exactly answer that. It's a broad question. We're looking to do annual updates; we can add that within that realm.

Michael Summers does do water sampling at state prisons with EPA, but not at State Parks. Chris Davis said we would need to figure out where this would fit in for future updates, it could go a few different places.

Water Reuse Bill: Sharon Waller asked that there is a reuse bill in committee now that didn't make it out of lame duck, will the state be making a comment on that bill that may be introduced in the spring? Loren said he'd had to check with legislative liaison to see. Since it is a recommendation in the report, is the Task Force working with the sponsor? Sharon noted that the lead sponsor is retiring and the co-sponsor is continuing the effort so we should coordinate with them. Sharon's group would like an opportunity to talk offline about this issue with respect to potential comments. She will reach out to Steve Altman.

Wes opened it up for any new items that need added to the agenda for next meeting. Chris asked does each quarter end on March 31, June 30, Sept 30, etc. so do our quarterly updates need to match? Wes doesn't think that our updates will need to match. However, it might be best to set dates out so that leads can get those deadlines on their calendars. Wes will send out a reminder 2 weeks prior to our meetings so leads can get with their committees to prepare the status updates in time for our meeting. We'll try that and adapt if we need to.

No other comments and concerns, so Loren thanked everyone for their input.

General:

Assignments for next meeting:

- Topic leads to work with committees to prioritize recommendations and present them next meeting
- Topic leads will need to fill out status reports to be discussed at the next meeting

We will need to discuss how we are will request funding and budget needs at the next meeting.

Schedule: The schedule will be revised and posted on the website.

Next Meeting: It was determined that the next meeting will be set for **April 10, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.** to be held via Web-Ex.

The meeting concluded at 2:19 p.m.