Northwest Water Planning Alliance

The Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPA) was officially constituted by Intergovernmental Agreement on September 10, 2010. It represents five councils of government, including approximately 80 communities (including Aurora and Elgin) and five counties (DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake and McHenry), encompassing over 1.3 million people. The NWPA uses a cooperative planning approach to water supply planning for the NWPA sub-region. It will advance many of the recommendations and concepts identified in the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Water 2050 plan.

The NWPA is specifically targeted to groundwater and inland surface water-dependent communities and suppliers. Its overarching goal is to provide a sustainable water supply for this area that is both economically and environmentally sound.

The NWPA executive committee is the governing/directing group and consists of nine elected municipal representatives and the five county board chairmen. A Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of municipal and county water and planning professionals and consulting agency partners, provides technical expertise and input.

The NWPA is currently working on two initiatives:

- A cooperation between Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) and water utility operators to measure water levels in deep aquifers.
- A collaboration with CMAP to create educational materials that can be included in newsletters or inserted with water bills.

The NWPA consists of:

- Barrington Area Council of Governments
- Lake County Municipal League
- McHenry County Council of Governments
- Metro West Council of Government
- Northwest Municipal Conference
- DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake and McHenry Counties

For More Information

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Barrington reduces stress on the village’s shallow aquifers by running a non-potable water supply program that makes treated effluent available for reuse in landscaping, machinery cooling, and other safe uses.

Batavia is offering a $50 rebate for residents who replace old toilets with an EPA WaterSense-rated High Efficiency Toilet.

Aurora now gets the majority of its water from the Fox River, rather than limited and costly aquifers. City leaders aggressively target illegal riverfront dump sites to protect water quality.

Elgin set a goal of reducing per capita water use by 17% to save a projected $16 million in capital investment over the next 30 years.

McHenry County is entirely supplied by groundwater, and its Water Resources Action Plan details model policies and proposed action for groundwater protection.

Kane County noted its growing population and limited Lake Michigan water supply, then worked with the IL State Water Survey to provide baseline water resources data and tools for future analyses of water resources available to the county.