



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

Wastewater
Water
Drainage
Permitting

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

630-407-6800
Fax: 630-407-6701
publicworks@ec.dupageco.org
www.dupageco.org/publicworks

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 7, 2026

TO: Chair Michael Childress
Members of the Public Works Committee

FROM: Nick Kottmeyer, P.E. Director of Public Works
Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: 2026-2030 Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group Membership Dues

Staff is requesting approval to renew our membership in the Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group, in an amount not to exceed \$130,364.29 for a 4 year period of 2026 - 2030 membership dues.

The Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group is a collective representative group of municipalities, sanitary districts, environmental groups, regulatory agencies, and wastewater treatment plants that have worked on various water quality impact studies such as chloride reduction, stream dissolved oxygen feasibility studies, bio-assessment plans, and nutrient implementation plans.

Public Works desires to participate as an agency member of the Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group (LDWG), in an amount not to exceed \$130,364.29 over a 4-year period. The dues will be paid annually at approximately \$32,500 per year. This will allow our participation in initiatives and activities that would benefit the DuPage County Knollwood Wastewater Treatment Plant.

DuPage County's IEPA/NPDES permit for the Knollwood Wastewater Treatment plant special condition 22 requires membership in an approved watershed group to produce a Nutrient Implementation plan among other requirements. The LDWG provides (at the watershed-scale): watershed specific nutrient implementation planning; comprehensive monitoring program; and permit language. Other benefits for our participation in the LDWG would include the following:

- Negotiations regarding permit conditions with Illinois EPA & Environmental Advocacy Groups
- Implement watershed-wide data collection and analysis to meet permit requirements (MS4 & NPDES). This is the foundation for which stress or analysis, phosphorus limit determination (watershed based water quality standards), and potentially tiered aquatic life use and project implementation (Integrated Prioritization System/JPS Tool) will be based in the future
- Develop a Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan which will include both point (wastewater) and nonpoint (MS4) contributions with recommendations at the watershed and sub watershed scale
- Share resources to develop outreach materials & trainings to meet MS4 requirements
- Utilize a watershed group as encouraged by regulators
- Save staff time by pooling resources in order to achieve better expertise at lower costs
- Collaborate with other watershed groups to further pool resources

Staff is requesting approval to renew membership with the Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group for Public Works, in the amount not to exceed \$130,364.29 for the 2026-2030 membership dues.