

## MEETING MINUTES - September 18, 2019

The Salt Creek Chapter dinner meeting was held on September 18, 2019, at Papa Passero's Restaurant in Westmont. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. There were five chapter members and three guests in attendance.

Treasurer's Report – No report

Old/New Business

Next Meeting: October 16, 2019 at DeMarco's in Itasca

Presenter: John Katrakis, PE, LEED AP, QCxP

Topic: WATER EFFICIENCY AND USING RAIN WATER IN CHICAGO AREA BUILDINGS

Mathcounts: Will again be held at the B/P facility in Naperville. This is the last year to be held at B/P and we will need a new location in 2021.

### **Program:**

Our guest presenter for the evening was Mr. Stephen McCracken from the DuPage Rivers- Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW). The DRSCW is a 501c4 organization. Its members include engineers, engineering firms, municipalities, and the DuPage Department of Transportation.

Within DuPage County there are three major watersheds: Salt Creek, the East Branch of the DuPage River and the West Branch of the DuPage River. The combined watershed area is 360 square miles. There are a total of 25 waste water treatment plants discharging into the three streams.

The State of Illinois uses aquatic life to determine if state goals for stream quality are being met. In 2006-2007, the three streams were not in compliance in many areas. The state goal to improve stream quality has been to reduce phosphorus. The DRSCW developed a program to determine if factors other than phosphorus removal would improve stream quality. DRSCW evaluated multiple sites for water chemistry, water quality, fish count and other measurable items.

Through the evaluation, DRSCW determined that small dams along each of the rivers were restricting fish migration. Through the recommendation of the DRSCW, a dam in the East Branch of the DuPage River at Churchill Woods was removed. Boulders were placed in the stream to provide a ripple effect. Following dam removal, water quality improved and new species of fish were found four miles upstream of the dam location.

For Salt Creek, the channel through the Oak Meadows golf course was realigned and regraded to form a meander and invasive species of trees were removed. There is less erosion in a meandering stream. As a result of the work, the stream IBI score improved from 29 to 37.

A future project is to remove the dam on Salt Creek in Fullersburg Woods. Mr. McCracken noted that the dam was built by the WPA in the 1930's and is not part of the historic Graue Mill. DRSCW is working on a master plan for the Fullersburg site. Hinsdale and Oak Brook tend to be opposed to removing the dam because it is thought that the (size of) the pond behind the dam would be reduced.

To sum up, Mr. McCracken provided an excellent presentation and we are pleased to learn of potential improvements for the DuPage County watershed.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM - Gilbert Goodman, PE