

DuPage River Salt Creek Development of a Basin-wide Nutrient Trading Program

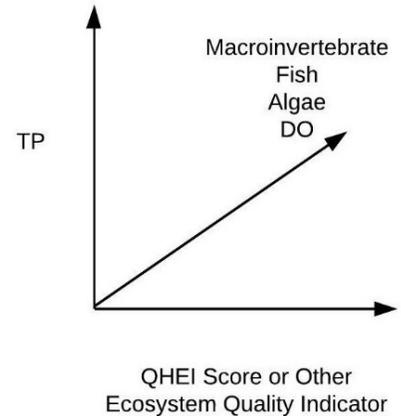
The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) is a group of local, publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) and communities working toward the attainment of designated uses of aesthetic quality, aquatic life, and primary contact in the DuPage River and Salt Creek in northeast Illinois. The DRSCW retained the Tetra Tech/Kieser & Associates consulting team in 2017 through a national competition to initiate development of a basin-wide Nutrient Trading Program Framework that focused on point source-to-point source trading with the possibility of point source-to-nonpoint source trading as well as offsets from stream restoration as alternative to point source controls.



Trading is a key component of the Nutrient Implementation Plan (NIP) required by IEPA through all NPDES permits issued to publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) in the DRSCW watersheds. The NIP is intended to identify phosphorus reductions by point and nonpoint source discharges, and other measures, to mitigate for low dissolved oxygen (DO) and remove offensive conditions and impairments, as defined in IL administrative code. The project will culminate in a nutrient trading framework that identifies if the conditions exist and the degree to which they are present to support nutrient trading, as well as an analysis of the actions needed to address conditions that are partially or not met.

The POTWs within the DRSCW are currently required by their NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit to achieve an effluent phosphorus limit of 1.0 mg/L on a monthly average basis. However, this effluent phosphorus limit may potentially be decreased from 1.0 mg/L to 0.5 mg/L driving the need for trading.

As part of the DRSCW's efforts to meet negotiated permit requirements and provide an opportunity to achieve future permitting relief, the DRSCW is also examining how potential offsetting of nutrient reductions by incentivizing stream restoration projects implemented by the POTWs could be programmatically adopted. These include projects identified by the DRSCW's Identification and Prioritization System (IPS) model that go above and beyond those currently listed in the Special Conditions section of NPDES permits. To identify potential equivalency between POTW nutrient load reduction requirements and instream restoration benefits, K&A has assessed similar stream restoration crediting efforts, programs, and methodologies used in other watersheds. These are being adapted and refined to potentially formalize offset provisions.



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Project Costs: \$200,000 (\$81,000 K&A)	Project Duration: 2017-present
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