

To: All Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Member Agencies

From: Mark Doerfler, Executive Director and Karl Ottosen, Attorney

Date: October 24, 2024

Re: Revised Intergovernmental Agreement for Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network

At its August 8, 2024, meeting, the Board of Directors of the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network, Inc. voted to approve a revised intergovernmental agreement which will require all members desiring to continue in IPWMAN to approve. On October 23, 2024, the members approved the amendment of the agreement and by-laws.

There is no intent to change the day-to day and emergency response mutual aid program. There are a few issues which the IPWMAN Board believes should be revised through the approval of the new agreement. Significant changes from the current agreement are:

1. Clarification that mutual aid is not just for emergencies. Currently members assist each other with provision of equipment and personnel on a day-to-day basis and the new agreement expressly provides authority for this common practice.
2. The current by-laws provide for governance of IPWMAN by a not-for-profit corporate entity rather than by a board of members without a separate corporation. The Illinois Intergovernmental Corporation Act does not require the formation of a not-for-profit corporation to be the governing body. Revising the IPWMAN's agreement and by-laws to eliminate the corporate entity streamlines the organization and eliminates issues related to asset ownership, liability and tort immunity. All assets of the IPWMAN will be held in the intergovernmental agency's name going forward.
3. The new agreement provides a revised process for any future amendment. Any member may propose an amendment to the board of directors. If the board approves it, the proposed amendment will be sent to the entire membership 45 days before a general meeting. If at least 60% of the members present approve the amendment, a new intergovernmental agreement will be submitted to all members for the governing boards to approve by resolution.

Enclosed are the proposed new intergovernmental agreement, by-laws and draft resolution and ordinance authorizing the agreement. Either a resolution or ordinance may be used to authorize the agreement, with each member to modify for its own use. However, no changes may be made to the intergovernmental agreement and by-laws. If there are any questions regarding the revised agreement, please contact Mr. Doerfler.