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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – August 7, 2020  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
Zoom meeting



## Attendees

Henry Wishcamper, Blacks in Green  
Serrater Chapman, Calumet Collaborative  
Tess Conway, Calumet Collaborative  
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions  
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.  
Emily Okallau, CRTI at The Morton Arboretum  
Trinity Pierce, CRTI at The Morton Arboretum  
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River  
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants  
Katie DeMuro, Greenleaf Communities  
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management  
Eliana Brown, Illinois Indiana Sea Grant/Illinois Extension  
Kara Salazar, Illinois Indiana Sea Grant/Purdue Extension  
Cathy Cannon, Lewis Associates LLC  
Kira Baltutis, Metro Strategies  
Meg Fredericks, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Tracy Lewis, Metropolitan Planning Council/Lewis & Associates LLC  
Travis Wood, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Justin Hart, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Jingqiu Chen, Purdue University  
Bill Wood, SmithGroup  
Emy Brawley, The Conservation Fund  
Will Allen, The Conservation Fund  
Yunfan Zhou, The Conservation Fund/University of Michigan  
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy  
Kate Gardiner, University of Illinois Extension  
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian  
& others

## Member Updates

Justin Keller from the Metropolitan Planning Council shared that MPC received funding for Phase 2 of the Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory. He explained the need for this project and its benefits for strategic planning. The next step will be organizing a new Advisory Committee and a check-in at next month's CSC Work Group meeting.

John Watson from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago called attention to the [Fourth Annual Green Infrastructure Partnership Opportunity Program](#). For this program, MWRD partners with public agencies throughout Cook County on green infrastructure projects, including biowales, green alleys, and permeable parking lots. Applications are open until the end of August. [Learn more here](#).

Vidya Balasbramanyam from IDNR Coastal Management said Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant is conducting a survey to further understand how communities are incorporating climate knowledge and preparedness into their planning efforts. [The survey is available here](#).

## **Presentations**

**Theme:** advancing the CSC's Goal 4: *Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning*

### **Tipping Point Planner**

*Kara Salazar, Illinois Indiana Sea Grant & Purdue Extension*

[Tipping Point Planner](#) is an online tool with a Great Lakes focus, developed with the help of nearby institutions. The focus of the tool is to apply research to solve community planning issues by identifying ecological tipping points and changes in the environment that are difficult to reverse once they have been reached. This tool takes several key challenges into consideration: land use change, impervious surfaces, nutrient loading, stream health, and food web health. By gaining knowledge about these tipping points before they occur, stakeholders can proactively protect watersheds in the Great Lakes region by creating action plans and engaging communities on complex issues in an easy-to-understand, visual way.

### **A Framework for Land Acquisition Strategy of Best Management Practices for Hydrology and Water Quality with a Rainfall-Runoff Model: Case Study in Michigan City, Indiana**

*Jingqiu Chen, Purdue University*

The goal of this study was to provide recommendations for the land acquisition process in Michigan City, IN, to identify parcels that have the greatest potential to achieve environmental benefits. After an initial screening of parcels, the six most competitive locations were selected for hydrologic modeling. The model used in this study evaluated the performance of best management practices at a watershed scale. A total of 12 green infrastructure practices were represented in the model, which incorporated data on precipitation, land use, soil, digital elevation models (DEMs), streams, and imperviousness. Four scenarios were simulated for the selected parcels, taking factors like cost effectiveness into account. An online dashboard was created to show dynamic results. Stakeholders and decision makers used this information, in addition to parcel visits, to assess their land acquisition strategy.

## **Forest Preserves of Cook County Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Study: Data-Driven Planning & Decision Making**

*Will Allen, The Conservation Fund*

*Emy Brawley, The Conservation Fund*

This land acquisition study was commissioned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County. For this plan, five scenarios were developed to help differentiate potential parcels based on their ability to fulfill a set of objectives for the Forest Preserves: Ecological Value, Flood Mitigation, Inholdings/Adjacency, Connectivity (streams, trails, etc.), and Equity/Social Vulnerability. The parcels were evaluated based on these scenarios as well as other characteristics, such as parcel size, community interest, partner feasibility, and health and wellness indicators. They were assessed using the Logic Scoring of Preference decision making methodology. Depending on each scenario objective, individual characteristics were weighted differently. Ultimately, the model highlighted parcels that met each scenario, with those meeting four or five of the criteria moving ahead in consideration. In addition to this GIS-based analysis, a feasibility assessment was conducted before recommendations were made to the Forest Preserves.

After the presentations, attendees were split into Breakout Rooms to discuss and refine two IEPA [Green Infrastructure Grants Opportunity \(GIGO\)](#) applications. Visit the [CSC website](#) to review the full presentation materials.

### **Next Meeting**

Friday, September 4, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: virtual

**For more information contact:**  
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