
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – January 6, 2017
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

John Heroff, 10th Ward office, Chicago
Matt Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
Byron Tsang, Chicago Park District
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Chris Mulvaney, Chicago Wilderness
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering
Tylon McGee, Cook County
K.C. Doyle, Cook County
Darlene Dugo, Cook County Land Bank Authority
Katie Snyder, EDI
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Andrew Donakowski, Friends of the Chicago River
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Chad Kruse, Illinois Pollution Control Board
Alexia Paul, Independent consultant
Jeff Edstrom, Independent consultant
Mark Wagstaff, Independent consultant
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Kendra Freeman, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Alden Loury, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
Nancy Firfer, Metropolitan Planning Council
Shehara Waas, Metropolitan Planning Council
Jack Chan, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Carl Camacho, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Richard Roberts, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
William Whitaker, Milhouse Engineering
Ted Haffner, Openlands



Victoria Wittig, Prairie State College/Village of Park Forest Library
Rennie Heath, Southeast Environmental Task Force
Genny Boesen, SMHEC
Stephanie Nurre, Startegic Alliance for Risk Reduction
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum
Emily Okallan, The Morton Arboretum
Susan Donovan, The Nature Conservancy
Janet Smith, University of Illinois at Chicago

Member Updates

Andrew Donakowski, Friends of the Chicago River, let the group know that Friends received an impressive award from the Lake County Stormwater Commission for their great work. The agency was recognized with LCSC's 2016 Education, Outreach, and Media Award, honoring public outreach activities in the Chicago River watershed. Andy also announced the 2017 Chicago River Summit, *Swimming the Distance*, will be convened Thursday, March 9, 2017. Please use the following link for more detail: <http://www.chicagoriver.org/get-involved/attend/2017-chicago-river-summit>

Chad Kruse announced the Alliance for the Great Lakes will be holding an entertaining and enjoyable fundraiser on February 25. The event will be at the Patagonia store near Rush and Walton in Chicago. Chad also provided an update on something mentioned at the previous CSC meeting: the Alliance for the Great Lakes will be implementing mini-grants opportunities. The two focus areas will be access to the lake, and water quality. Chad will alert the CSC when the opportunity to apply is open (hopefully within the next 60 days).

Ted Haffner from Openlands provided the update that the Space to Grow program announced the next five schools that were selected this year for the program:

- John W. Cook Elementary – *Auburn Gresham*: 8150 South Bishop Street, Chicago, IL 60620
- Nathan S. Davis Elementary – *Brighton Park*: 3014 W 39th Pl, Chicago, IL 60632
- Fernwood Elementary – *Washington Heights*: 10041 S UNION Ave Chicago, IL 60628
- Eugene Field Elementary – *Rogers Park*: 7019 North Ashland Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60626
- Morton School of Excellence – *Humboldt Park*: 431 N Troy St, Chicago, IL 60618

Space to Grow retrofits schoolyards, converting hard, impervious surfaces to vegetation and soft surfaces that absorb stormwater. The retrofits make the schoolyards a more fun and inviting space for kids, and help make the neighborhoods less prone to flooding. Please use the following link for more information:

<http://www.spacetogrowchicago.org/>

Lisa Cotner from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced that the Illinois Coastal Clean Water Program has received conditional approval. This program covers nonpoint source pollution and control measures in the Lake Michigan

Basin. IDNR will be working with IEPA to add more information into the plan over the next 2½ years. One particular objective IDNR has is to identify and characterize septic systems still located in the Basin. For more information on this program, please use the following link: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/Pages/NonpointPollutionProgram.aspx> Additionally, IDNR has now gone through 5-6 cycles of its competitive grants program for projects in the Lake Michigan Basin. This year IDNR will take a hiatus from running the program and will be doing a strategic assessment of the program. The next competitive funding cycle will commence after this assessment is complete, with a tentative application deadline for the next round of competitive grants expected in January 2018. You can join IDNR's [Coastal Funding Opportunities](#) mailing list to receive email updates about the grant program assessment and future funding opportunities.

Melissa Custic from the Regional Trees Initiative and Morton Arboretum announced the Morton Arboretum will be hosting a trees workshop on January 18 from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. This workshop will be of special interest to nurseries. For more information on this workshop, please use the following link: <http://chicagorti.org/resources/community-tree-network/community-tree-network-fireside-forestry-and-nursery-tour>. Also, the Arboretum is working with the US Forest Service to look at case studies in management of trees and green infrastructure. The end product from this work will be a toolkit that will be available to communities and practitioners.

Josh Ellis from the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) provided three updates as well: 1) The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund partners announced seven projects selected to receive \$1.3 million in grant funding that will improve and enhance waterways in the Chicago-Calumet region. One of the award recipients will be the Village of Midlothian, which will be receiving funds for green infrastructure projects. Also the City of Blue Island will be receiving funds for improving the Cal-Sag Trail. Please use the following link for more information: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/358355477/chi-cal-rivers-fund-announces-1-3-million-in-grants>, 2) On February 16 MPC will be convening a workshop for neighborhood organizations that would like to activate a stretch of one of Chicago's Rivers. The workshop will provide information to attendees on how to develop and plan projects and potential ways to pay for projects. MPC hopes to match up neighborhood groups with subject matter experts such as Landscape Architects or funding specialists to help the groups prepare to move forward with their project ideas. 3) It's On! The 2017 Dragon Boat race will be June 3, 2017.

Presentation: Initiative to Promote Green Economic Development in Cook County – focus on Calumet Corridor

Janet Smith, a Professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Program at UIC, and co-director of the Voorhees Center, gave a presentation about a new initiative being undertaken by the Center. The Center received a 5-year grant from the Economic Development Administration for research and technical assistance work to help foster green economic development and associated workforce development in the Calumet Region. Through this work, the Center intends to *Complement* initiatives in the works,

Co-Create new plans/initiatives to move things forward, and *Catalyze* action. There may be excellent opportunities for synergies with the CSC, for example in the area of workforce development, or the creation of green, stormwater-friendly campuses for green industries.

The group posed relevant questions and offered some suggestions for Janet about coordination opportunities. For example, Danielle Gallet from MPC mentioned OAI's efforts in the area of workforce development as well at the CSC's Training and Maintenance work group who is doing a needs assessment on green infrastructure workforce development, training and maintenance. Jason Navota from CMAP mentioned some relevant CMAP work, and provided a reference for some work on jobs and clean water done by the Sierra Club, and Jack Chan mentioned some projects MWRD has in the works that might be relevant. Josh Ellis from MPC also made the suggestion that the Center consider doing a supply chain study of green infrastructure materials for the region—possibly using Space to Grow as an example of where products come from and if there is a market potential. To view PowerPoint slides from this presentation, please click on the link provided in the January 6 meeting materials online.

Presentation: Four 319 Sub-watershed Plan Supplements

Danielle Gallet from MPC gave a presentation on watershed planning work that will be moving forward for 4 watersheds in Cook County. She reminded the group that this project was conceived of by the CSC and a grant application was submitted in 2015. In December of 2016 MPC received a fully executed contract from IEPA via its 319 grant program to move forward with the work, which will create supplemental materials to existing (MWRD) watershed plans within Cook County. By creating (water quality-focused) supplemental materials for these plans, we are enabling them to be recognized by IEPA as approved Section 319 (of the Clean Water Act) plans. Once approved as Section 319 plans, all of the communities (many municipalities in Cook County) would then be eligible to apply for Section 319 grant funds to implement on-the-ground stormwater improvement projects in their area. So by doing this work, we are essentially opening up another infrastructure funding pathway to attend to stormwater issues in our region.

This grant is providing funding over the next two years (2017-2018) to create these supplemental materials for four of the six watersheds in Cook County. These four areas include the Little Calumet River South and Cal Sag Channel (to be done in 2017), and Poplar Creek and Lower Des Plaines River watersheds (to be done in 2018). MPC has signed a contract with an engineering firm, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., to help carry out much of the technical work. The CSC will be engaged regularly to provide input and ensure these supplemental materials incorporate all the expertise and good work many different agencies and communities have done to-date within

these watersheds. To view PowerPoint slides from this presentation, please click on the link provided in the January 6 meeting materials online.

Presentation: Storm Store Feasibility Study

Josh Ellis from MPC presented on a project being undertaken by MPC and The Nature Conservancy in partnership with MWRD. The current MWRD Watershed Management Ordinance provides for some limited off-site management of stormwater controls. Given this, a feasibility study is being undertaken by the partners to explore:

- The demand for a credit market for stormwater controls in Cook County – would a significant number of developers/ projects participate in the market?
- The potential supply – are there feasible sites that could implement viable stormwater controls and sell credits, and where would they be located?
- Policy and programmatic considerations related to a credit market.

If a market seems like it would provide significant benefits, the next step would be to explore ways the credits exchange could be set up. MPC and The Nature Conservancy have coined the name *Storm Store* for such a stormwater credits market.

The CSC meeting attendees discussed and offered useful suggestions on data that could be useful (such as Infill Maps) and results such a market could produce. For example, vacant land parcels could be used for stormwater practices such as vegetated bioretention areas, which could be an economically valuable use of the properties and an amenity for neighborhoods. Josh described such sites as stormwater parks, which could be a new protected class of land. To view PowerPoint slides from this presentation, please click on the link provided in the January 6 meeting materials online.

Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks

Danielle thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for the continued work to advance and improve stormwater management in the Calumet region. She also reminded everyone of the next CSC meeting, which will be a condensed work plan development meeting that will engage all of the CSC Work Groups.

Next Meeting

Friday, February 3, 2017
10:00am to 12:00pm
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:

Danielle Gallet
Metropolitan Planning Council
312.863.6016
dgallet@metroplanning.org