
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – December 4, 2020
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Brad Kasberg, Audubon Great Lakes
Cheryl Watson, Chicago Conservation Corps
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Holly Hudson, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kelsey Pudlock, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Joemy Buschur, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ryan Wilson, Metropolitan Planning Council
Dean Alonistiotis, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Joanne So Young Dill, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Justin Hart, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Kara Riggio, OAI
Sarah Bury, Sierra Club Chicago Water Team and LWVIL Water Specialist
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Eliana Brown, University of Illinois Extension/IISG
Layne Knoche, University of Illinois Extension
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian
& others

Member Updates

Brad Kasberg shared that the Audubon Great Lakes was awarded a Chi-Cal Rivers grant for wetland restoration at Dead Stick Lake on MWRD property abutting the Calumet River. Restoration work includes regrading of the drainage channel, improvements to recreational facilities, and more.

Vidya Balasubramanyam provided information about the [Illinois State Water Plan](#) and surveys available for public comment, which are open through January 15. Comments can also be emailed to dnr.owrplanning@illinois.gov. The public survey is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Emily Okallau shared that the Chicago Region Trees Initiative's annual meeting will be virtual and free to all with speakers from around the country talking about trees and urban nature on December 15. [Information is available here.](#)

Jack Eskin highlighted Delta Institute's upcoming series of guidebooks on resilient infrastructure, focusing on implementation, low-cost monitoring, and green infrastructure maintenance. The guidebooks will be released in 2021.

Josh Ellis announced that the Metropolitan Planning Council will soon be hiring for several roles: Events Manager (contract hire), Director of Environmental Policy, and Director of Effective Government.

Eliana Brown, Mary Pat McGuire, and Margaret Schneemann applied for a collaboration grant to develop a green stormwater infrastructure toolkit.

Kara Riggio announced that OAI is launching a pilot project and looking for partners in municipalities for joint procurement of green infrastructure. She is looking for any introductions to potential partners.

Participants enjoyed a festive Holiday Mocktail discussion, and Patrick Lach shared a recipe for Maple Bourbon Sour. Ingredients: 3 shots bourbon, 1 1/2 shots fresh lemon juice, 3/4 shot maple syrup (get the good stuff), 1 large sprig of rosemary. Directions: Crush rosemary in your hand and add to shaker, add the rest with ice. Shake like crazy for 15-20 seconds. Strain into glass over ice.

Extended Member Update

MWRD 5-Year Strategic Plan

Joanne So Young Dill, Office of Comm. Garcia, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

MWRD has undertaken a community engagement process as the district develops its next strategic plan, including a workshop with industry stakeholders and public surveys. This public engagement effort output will inform the district's mission, vision and plan for the next five years. A draft of the plan will be made available to the public for feedback as it is developed. Meeting attendees spent a few minutes filling out the survey and playing air keytar along to musical accompaniment from Herbie Hancock. (*Note for posterity: This CSC meeting was the Annual Holiday Party.*)

Presentation

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

Addressing Stormwater and Water Quality Issues Through Watershed Planning

Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants

Kelsey Pudlock, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Watershed planning is used to protect and enhance water quality from a watershed scale, and the most successful plans are holistic and collaborative and provide a framework for a more integrated approach to water resource management. Watershed modeling provides valuable data to inform the planning process, specifically to estimate existing pollutants, estimate future reduction in pollutants, evaluate BMPs, and prioritize actions.

Hydrological Simulation Program – FORTRAN (HSPF) is a comprehensive watershed modeling process that simulates decades-long hydrology and water quality. With climate data, a defined spatial area and point sources, HSPF modeling can be used for detailed long-term simulations of load and flow. A well-calibrated model can save a lot of time and effort to gather data and allow data to be analyzed spatially. The model can be used to inform a BMP prioritization framework, identifying and prioritizing cost-effective projects improving water quality and minimizing peak flows of stormwater runoff.

Year-end Updates

Workgroups shared end of year updates on the four Foundational Activities in the CSC's 3-year Work Plan:

1. Establish baseline of existing green infrastructure
2. Establish baseline of non-overbank flooding
3. Develop and begin to execute systems to provide relevant training and strengthen management systems to bolster green infrastructure implementation and maintenance
4. Establish baseline of municipal capacity in stormwater management

Perfect Attendance for 2020 Award: Graig Neville, CERA Solutions. Congratulations!

Stormwater Trivia Winners

- 1st place: Justin Hart
2nd place: Kelsey Pudlock
3rd place: Mary Pat McGuire

Visit the [CSC website](#) to review the full presentation materials, and thanks for a tremendous 2020!

Next Meeting

Work Group-focused meeting

Friday, January 8, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: virtual

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