
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – June 6, 2014

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn Ave, Suite 1400, Chicago



Attendees

Brent Denzin, Ancel Glink
Megan Lewis, Cardno JF New
Dan Bounds, CDMSmith
Ryan Wilson, Center for Neighborhood Technology / Elevate Energy
Mason Throneburg, CH2M HILL
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Jason Novota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Zhanna Yermakov, Chicago Park District
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Jason Berry, City of Blue Island
Michael Berkshire, City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development
Benet Haller, City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development
Aaron Koch, City of Chicago Department of Water Management
Amy Ellingson, Cook County – Office of Commissioner Gainer
Kevin Schnoes, Cook County Department of Environmental Control
Dominic Tocci, Cook County Department of Planning and Development
Eve Pytel, Delta Institute
Jeff Edstrom, ECT
Peter Nicholson, Foresight Design Initiative
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative
Eric Otto, Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Mary Ellen Guest, Historic Chicago Bungalow Association
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Amy Walkenbach, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Abby Crisostomo, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
James Yurik, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Brent Shraiberg, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland
Cindy Skrukud, Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
Peter Mulvaney, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Dennis Latto, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Bob Newport, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Marry Pat Mattson, University of Illinois
Sarah Coulter, Village of Park Forest



Meeting Highlights

Pilot projects

- Pilot projects don't seem to be overly helpful and we should start to move away from them
- Pilot projects are important to do until we have a cohesive vision for what large-scale projects should be
- Municipalities would like to see more pilot projects taking place

Cost is a big issue

- Active vs passive design

No one in the room complained about the Watershed Management Ordinance

- Should real estate representatives participate in the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative?
- They have influence over mayors and managers
- Seemed to be consensus that it makes sense to reach out to this group somehow

Flooding didn't come up as much as expected

- Important to understand relationships and different ways of thinking of stormwater impacts (example: how stormwater impacts low-income individuals)
- Important to get common terminology regarding impacts/problems (example: some people refer to CSOs as flooding too)

Things missing from the discussion

- Role of education in influencing decision-makers and public perception of stormwater implications aka "lawn culture"
- Social aspects that are affected by stormwater

99.5% of Chicago's system is comprised of combined sewers

System Mapping/Diagramming Debrief

- Helped people think more in-depth and re-think about some issues
- Helped to show how many actors and agencies are involved in managing stormwater
- System started off diverging and then converged at the end because decision-makers/influencers were so similar
- Felt fun and comfortable
- Small groups were effective
- Hopefully this time the system will be clearer because we've done similar exercises so many times; it would be frustrating to have to go back to this again down the road

Member Updates

- **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:** Post-construction Performance Standard Rule recommendations to go to pollution control board sometime this year (would set regulations on how much stormwater has to be managed onsite after construction, likely to be 1 inch for a 2-year flood). This rule would promote sustainable stormwater management over time as new development occurs; SRF rule changes are in queue that would allow for stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management projects. In addition to the rule changes, the priority and application checklists are being revised; 319 grant applications are due on August 1, 2014.
- **Cook County CDBG:** \$13 million was awarded last year and an additional \$54 million has been made available. The deadline to submit new projects to be included in the 5

- year Cook County plan is Labor Day. Eligible projects include those related to flooding such as infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, housing buy-outs, etc.
- **City of Blue Island, Openlands**, REI (Calumet Waterway Stewards) sponsoring a Calumet River clean-up day on Saturday, June 7, 2014.
 - **CMAP**: Open call for municipal plans. Applications due on June 26, 2014.
 - **CNT**: Urban Flooding Awareness Act passed in the state legislature and Water Loss Accounting study working group is now meeting
 - **MWRD**: working with CPS and some suburban municipalities to do green infrastructure projects; ChiCal Rivers Fund grant cycle will be opening this summer so check the website for more details
 - Josh Ellis reviewed the Collaborative's letter to Cook County about CDBG funding.

Next Meeting

Friday, June 27, 10:00am to 12:00pm
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn Ave., Suite 1400, Chicago

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