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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – August 2, 2019  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



## Attendees

Louise Dyble, Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
Ashley Parr, Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.  
Ashley Hodges, Calumet Collaborative  
Sarah Coulter, Calumet Collaborative  
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Anjolie Cheema, Jacobs Engineering  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/The Morton Arboretum  
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/The Morton Arboretum  
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River  
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec  
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates  
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR/Prairie Research Institute  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Yana Genchanok, Independent  
Lissa Domoracki, Metro Strategies  
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Adam Slade, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Dean Alonistiotis, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Imani Clayton, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Tony Fuller, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Justin Hart, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald  
Bob Newport, OAI  
Ted Haffner, Openlands  
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum  
Eric Boria, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Dean Massey, University of Illinois at Chicago

## Member Updates

Eric Otto from the Forest Preserves of Cook County announced a job opening for a Project Engineer for planning and development, design, permitting for site improvements, and other activities. For more information, search [here](#) for Requisition ID: 00123526.

Emily Okallau announced that The Morton Arboretum will be administering funds provided by the Illinois State Department of Natural Resources through the Urban and Community Forestry program of the USFS. Eligible recipients include municipalities, park districts, and other public entities and funding categories are: tree plantings, developing tree preservation/protection ordinances,

developing management plans, and completing tree inventories. The RFP will be coming out soon, or contact Emily for more details ([eokallau@mortonarb.org](mailto:eokallau@mortonarb.org)).

Kate Evasic reminded us about CMAP's [Small Plans, Big Ideas event series](#), which will culminate with the next LTA Call for Projects. She highlighted the event on October 3 in Calumet Park, "Planning for an equitable water future". Representatives from communities will brainstorm with their peers from neighboring municipalities on potential LTA projects. More information on the October 3 event is available [here](#).

John Watson from MWRD reminds people that applications for the [Green Infrastructure Partnership Opportunity Program](#) are due on August 9 at 5:00 PM. Get those applications in!

Josh Ellis said MPC is still accepting applications for either an Associate or Manager to [join our Water Resources team](#). This position will work on initiatives related to the CSC, StormStore, and more. The position is still open, but we will be closing soon as we begin to narrow in on a candidate. Please share with your network.

Josh also announced that a contract position will be available soon, working with Bob Newport and OAI to develop a model shared infrastructure maintenance agreement. The position will be [posted soon on our website](#), or contact Josh with good candidates or if you are interested.

Finally, Josh said that the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Chicago Fishes will take place at the Chicago Riverwalk on August 9. MPC hosts this event in partnership with Chicago Park District, Friends of the Chicago River, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Shedd Aquarium, and Illinois Environmental Council. There is no need bring a pole or bait; all supplies will be provided free of charge, but RSVPs are requested. Food and beer will also be available. [Join us!](#)

Chelsey Grassfield from Friends of the Chicago River added that she caught a fish at last year's event using french fries and Kool-Aid. In other news, she announced that August 1 was Friends' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (Congratulations!) In honor of this milestone, they are hosting the Chicago River Revival Festival and the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Big Jump! Along with other festivities, local officials will jump into the Chicago River at Ping Tom Memorial Park on September 7. Check [here](#) for more details.

## Presentation

### **Calumet Collaborative: Bi-state, sustainable development, and a Brownfield Initiative update**

Sarah Coulter, Executive Director, Calumet Collaborative

Ashley Hodges, Program & Communications Manager, Calumet Collaborative

*Theme: Advancing the CSC's Goal 3 to increase municipal capacity and reduce fragmentation across Calumet government actors*

The Calumet Collaborative works with a host of organizations throughout the three counties of NW Indiana and the Calumet River and southern Lake Michigan watersheds in Illinois to advance goals related to Economic Opportunity, Livable Communities, Culture & Heritage, and Environment. They achieve this mission by convening work groups, partnering to build local capacity, facilitating meetings, and supporting the work being done by other organizations. Some example projects include a wayfinding and branding initiative for the Calumet Heritage Area (or, once approved by Congress, the Calumet National Heritage Area), advocacy for Burnham Multimodal Connector (BMC) Bridge, the [Calumet Heritage Area Calendar](#), and the Brownfield Mapping Project.

The Brownfield Mapping Project was of particular interest because of its similarity to and potential overlap with the CSC's ongoing Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory project. The Calumet Collaborative and their partners are working to identify and map the location of brownfields and underutilized lands to advance sustainable redevelopment in the Calumet region. The toolkit will include other datasets, such as land use categories, zoning classifications, water features and infrastructure to think about relationships between the sites and assist in decision-making. Upon completion, they will work with partners to determine how to roll out the tool. Check the presentation slides to see how the inventory is shaping up.

## **Work Group Update: Data & Modeling and Planning & Policy**

Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program  
Dean Massey, University of Illinois at Chicago

*Theme: Advancing the CSC's Foundational Activity 1 to establish baseline of existing green infrastructure.*

As part of Phase 1 of the [CSC's 3-Year Work Plan](#), a group of technical advisors has met since January to consider the feasibility and need for establishing a baseline understanding of where green infrastructure exists throughout the Calumet region. In early meetings, the group discussed why something like this would be needed and who would use it. Through discussions, it was decided that a dataset of points (not polygons) should be the first priority. Later, an online map or custom-built tool could be possible. The advisors developed a list of must-have and would-be-nice-to-have attributes for the dataset and discussed a geographic scope in which to focus future efforts. Specifically, the efforts should start on the Illinois side of the Calumet region for now and not extend west past Orland Park. Again, the initiative may later be extended beyond this initial scope. For green infrastructure types, inclusion of a GI installation should be driven by several drivers, including being built to perform in a certain level of storm event as well as considerations related to scale, focus, intentionality and benefits.

Next steps: MPC will package the recommendations of the technical advisors into a report to IDNR with the proposed scope of work, recommendations for hosting and maintenance, and potential funding agencies for the next phase of work.

Visit the [CSC website](#) to review the full presentation materials.

## **Work Group Discussions**

Following the presentation and Work Group update, the remaining CSC meeting time was devoted to break-out meetings of the Work Groups, which are continuing to work on implementation of their Foundational Activities laid out in Phase 1 of the [CSC's 3-Year Work Plan](#).

## **Next Meeting**

Friday, September 6, 2019  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S Dearborn St., Suite 1400, Chicago

**For more information contact:**  
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