
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – Sept 9, 2016

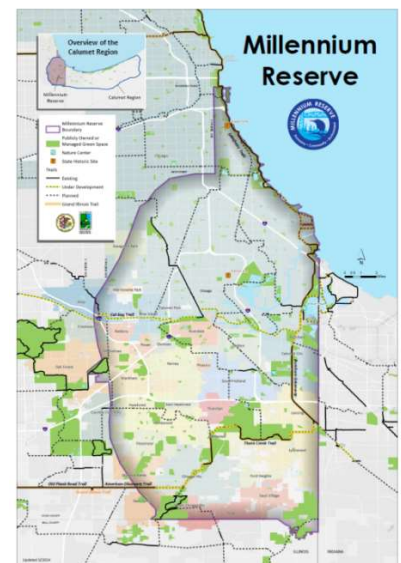
Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

Amy Coffman Phillips, Biomimicry Chicago
Marcella Bondie Keenan, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Molly Oshun, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Anna Wolf, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Byron Tsang, Chicago Park District
Chris Mulvaney, Chicago Wilderness
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering
Gene Ryan, Cook County Dept. of Homeland Security & Em. Response
Tylon McGee, Cook County Dept. of Homeland Security & Em. Response
Graig Neville, EDI
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Nancy Williamson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Chad Kruse, Illinois Pollution Control Board
Jim Angel, Illinois State Water Survey
Momcilo Markus, Illinois State Water Survey
Jeff Edstrom, Independent consultant
Mark Wagstaff, M3 Engineering Group
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum



Ted Haffner, Openlands
David Bucaro, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Moirra Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago
Samuel Rivera, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

Member Update

Amy Coffman Phillips from Biomimicry Chicago announced that they are organizing a daylong workshop at the Lurie Garden on Saturday, October 1 where the focus will be on local water systems and finding opportunities for improving built system performance by comparing them to native ecosystems. Please click the following link for more information: <http://biomimicrychicago.blogspot.com/>.

Melissa Cusic from the Morton Arboretum reminded collaborative members about the Chicago Region Trees Initiative, and announced that October 2016 has been officially proclaimed OAKtober – Oak Awareness Month in Illinois by Governor Rauner. Learn how you can be part of OAKtober by visiting this website: <http://chicagorti.org/resources/oaktober-oak-awareness-month>.

Molly Oshun from CNT RainReady reminded collaborative members that the final workshop in the series this summer on ways to make communities resilient to flooding is Thursday, September 15 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at SSMMA. This includes a tour of stormwater best management practices through the southern region, ending with a group happy hour. To register, please visit the following link: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2tfss/event/769969/>.

Ted Haffner from Openlands announced that there is an open Coordinator Position for the Space To Grow program, a program managed by Openlands and Healthy Schools Campaign which is transforming Chicago schoolyards into green spaces that address the city's stormwater management and basement flooding needs. Please click the following link to view the position description and requirements: <https://healthyschoolscampaign41146.recruiterbox.com/jobs/fk06o5t/>.

Chris Mulvaney from Chicago Wilderness reported that the outcomes from *Confluence*, the regional water summit on June 7 identified three issue areas that emerged from the event discussions: stormwater management, nutrient & contaminant management, and groundwater protection & recharge. Three working groups have been established around these themes which will meet in September and October; results will feed into the Chicago Wilderness Congress on November 2. Chris also mentioned that Chicago Wilderness has identified 12 priority animal species along with a crowdfunding campaign over the next 12 weeks. For more information, visit this link: <https://www.crowdrise.com/chicagowilderness20years>.

Nora Beck from CMAP mentioned that the Prairie State Conservation Coalition has published its I-View an online mapping tool to view Illinois protected natural lands, accessible here: <http://www.prairiestateconservation.org/pscc/view-now-available-view-illinois-protected-natural-lands/>.

Josh Ellis from the Metropolitan Planning Council recapped that the first-ever dragon boat race along the Calumet River was a success, as was the Cal-Sag Plunge fundraiser for the Cal-Sag Trail when Josh joined David St. Pierre, Jason Berry, Diane Banta in jumping into the Calumet River. For a full event recap, please visit this link: <http://www.metroplanning.org/news/7356/So-on-Saturday-I-went-swimming-in-the-Calumet-River>.

Presentation: New Report on the Impacts of Potential Future Climate Change on Extreme Rainfall Events in Cook County

Momcilo Markus from the Illinois State Water Survey and the Prairie Research Institute gave an overview of the recently published report: [Communicating the Impacts of Potential Future Climate Change on the Expected Frequency of Extreme Rainfall Events in Cook County, Illinois](#). This report provides rainfall projections, which includes models from O'Hare and Midway rain gages for both 2-year, and 100-year return periods. The data show that heavy rainfall events are expected to increase, as well as the confidence intervals for those projections. However, it is not exactly known if it will actually happen, and if it does, to what degree. Which reminds us of the important distinction between observed rainfall (low uncertainty and high accuracy) versus projected rainfall (high uncertainty and low accuracy). Moving forward, in order to increase our confidence in projected rainfall statistics, Momcilo concluded that monitoring, research and model development validation/testing must continue in order to better understand and quantify the random nature of the projected rainfall.

To view the PowerPoint presentation, please click on the link provided in the September meeting materials.

Presentation: Probabilistic Flood Mapping using Volunteered Geographical Information

Samuel Rivera from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign presented an overview of a recent study using volunteer geographical information and non-traditional data sources (i.e. Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, and 911 and 311 calls) to generate/update the flood extent maps (usually obtained from sensory data and/or hydrologic models) in areas where no models and/or gauge data are operational. The approach integrates these data sources by extracting and translating the data into useful information for decision-making by combining Web-crawling and computer vision techniques to gather information about the location, extent, and water height of the flood from unstructured textual data, images and videos. These estimates are then used to provide an updated flood extent map for areas surrounding the geo-coordinate. The study then combined hydrologic and image segmentation concepts to estimate a probabilistic flooding extent along the corresponding streams. Results from a case study in Austin, Texas were comparable to those obtained by a calibrated hydrologic model and had good spatial correlation with flooding extents estimated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

To view the PowerPoint presentation, please click on the link provided in the September meeting materials.

Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks

For the remainder of the meeting, the collaborative members broke up into small groups to discuss how they might utilize the climate and social media data presented. Members also discussed how they see the information being useful to current CSC initiatives. Notes from the small group discussions will be compiled, synthesized and shared with each presenter and future initiatives and pilots within the CSC will be explored

Next Meeting

Friday, October 7, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Work group-focused meeting

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

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