
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – October 1, 2021
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Matt Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Brandon Wong, Hyfi
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Casey Sebetto, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Hart, MWRD Office of Comm. Shore
Kara Riggio, OAI
Saki Handa, Optimatics
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
Karen Kreis, unaffiliated
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
& others

General Updates

Jeff Edstrom from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency said the [FY 22 Section 319\(h\) NOFO and application documents have been posted](#). Applications are due by noon on November 16, 2021. [Section 604\(b\) Water Quality Management Planning Grants](#) were also posted, due on October 20.

Mary Pat McGuire from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign said the research behind much of the work in today's presentation has been published in the journal, [Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability](#). The article focuses on retrofitting for green stormwater infrastructure and discusses the Calumet region, particularly Calumet City and Midlothian.

Jen Jenkins from The Nature Conservancy announced that MPC, TNC, and ASCE are hosting an [event on October 14 focused on StormStore](#) and aimed at engineers to discuss project eligibility.

Kate Evasic said the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is hosting a [virtual State of the Region event on Thursday, October 7](#).

Eliana Brown from the Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant said the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Biennial Report has been released. Download at: go.illinois.edu/NLRS

CSC Work Plan Updates

The Training & Maintenance Work Group finalized a draft one-year work plan for 2022. Additionally, OAI and others piloted training in Gary but, instead of doing large group training, are working directly in and with the municipality so they can focus on specific on-the-ground conditions. This approach allows them to skip some background information and maintenance issues that don't pertain to their site. OAI is also working with Cardno to produce more [videos on green infrastructure maintenance](#).

The Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory is [done and ready to use](#)! MPC is working with partners to promote it via their e-newsletters and will transition from promotion to education as part of the CSC's work plan for 2022.

Regarding the CSC's Work Plan 2022, the projected timeline is for a revised draft to be completed by the end of October, shared first with the CSC Steering Committee followed by the broader CSC in November, and then adopted at the December meeting.

The first StormStore project was permitted in Franklin Park in the Lower Des Plaines watershed. Congratulations! Franklin Park will use the credits as an economic development incentive – i.e., selling them to a developer to offset their detention needs – and then using that money to build more green infrastructure. Additionally, stormstore.org will launch later this month.

Re: Virtual CSC Meetings

First, in conversations with the CSC Steering Committee, followed by a discussion at this CSC meeting, it was determined that [virtual CSC meetings will continue for the foreseeable future](#). Many people said they miss in-person interaction but prefer the simplicity and convenience of a virtual meeting. Summer field trips and the annual holiday party will resume meeting in person when it is safe to do so, and Work Groups will be encouraged to host in-person meetings once or twice per year.

Panel Discussion

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 1: Significant reduction in non-overbank flooding; and Goal 4: Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning

Green Infrastructure Illinois Design Resource Toolkit

Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

Eliana Brown, University of Illinois

Lin Jiang, University of Illinois

Layne Knoche, University of Illinois

Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois

Previously, the CSC identified that a lack of understanding of soil characteristics is a barrier to effective GSI design, sometimes resulting in poorly sited installations with less than ideal performance. The Calumet soils research, funded by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, was presented at the September 2019 CSC meeting. Now, a new collaboration with the University of Illinois Extension is allowing them to build a project website, expand the research to the entire state of Illinois, and collaborate with external partners.

A prototype of the website was shown at today's meeting in order to receive feedback. A group of advisors will also be convened. The website will give access to the soils data and is aimed not just at stormwater professionals but for a wide range of stakeholders interested in both technical and non-technical information. Website elements include background information of green stormwater infrastructure, a step-by-step design process, and other resources including technical details. The project website is slated to be published at the end of 2022.

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

Next Meeting

Friday, November 5, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: virtual

For more information contact:

Justin Keller
[Metropolitan Planning Council](#)
jkeller@metroplanning.org
312.863.6033