

MEETING SUMMARY – February 4, 2022
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



ATTENDEES

Sara Brodzinsky, Alliance for the Great Lakes
Curtis Witek, Antero Group
Matt Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Zach Wirtz, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Deb Kutska, Cook County Dept. of Environment & Sustainability
Kim Nowicki, Cook County Dept. of Emergency Management and Regional Security
Malcolm Mossman, Delta Institute
Mary Mitros, DuPage County
Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater Management
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Becky Helfrich, Geosyntec
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec
Katie DeMuro, Greenleaf Communities
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Tara Jagadeesh, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, 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
Zhi Ying Ng, Jacobs
Elli Cosky, Metro Strategies Group
Seema Wadia, Metro Strategies Group
Olivia Blasi, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Dean Alonistiotis, MWRD Office of Comm. du Buclet
Richard Greenfield, MWRD Office of Comm. du Buclet
Becky Nicodemus, NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Kara Riggio, OAI
Saki Handa, Optimatics
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
& others

UPDATES

Lisa Krause will be leaving the IDNR Coastal Management Program in March. Tara Jagadeesh will be attending CSC meetings and supporting the stormwater management mission in the Calumet. She can be reached at Tara.Jagadeesh@Illinois.gov.

Kim Nowicki said the Cook County Dept. of Emergency Management and Regional Security will be using their allocation of ARPA funding to provide assistance to municipalities in developing emergency plans and helping them be more resilient.

Chelsey Grassfield said Friends of the Chicago River launched the Chicago-Calumet River Watershed Council to create a collaborative watershed-based approach to manage stormwater using nature-based solutions across traditional jurisdictions. In February, Friends is holding two identical meetings to introduce the Natural Solutions Tool. Please share with your network and community partners.

Kate Evasic said CMAP selected the latest round of LTA projects. Although they do not have a stormwater focus, there are some projects in the Calumet region and may have some overlap. [See the 2022 booklet for more information.](#)

Deb Kutska at the Cook County Dept. of Environment & Sustainability said the Cook County Board of Commissioners is considering funding implementation the [RainReady Calumet Corridor](#) plans using ARPA funding. [See here for more information.](#)

Jen Jenkins from The Nature Conservancy said five projects have been permitted through the MWRD StormStore pilot. Some of these projects are available for credits, while others are not. Also, The Nature Conservancy is working on one project in the Little Calumet River watershed in partnership with the Antero Group.

CSC WORK PLAN 2022

Hot off the press! The new [CSC Work Plan 2022](#) is ready to be implemented. This work plan was developed over the course of 2021 based on conversations with the CSC Steering Committee, CSC Work Groups, and the broader CSC. Several items remain unchanged from the previous work plan, including the Mission Statement, Vision Statement (with small but significant edits), the Collective Impact Model, and the CSC's Goals. Monthly meetings will continue. The CSC Steering Committee will continue. And CSC Work Groups will continue, though their tasks for 2022 reflect the completion of four Foundational Activities and build upon those resources. If you have additional thoughts on the CSC Work Plan 2022, do not hesitate to contact Justin Keller at jkeller@metroplanning.org.

PRESENTATION

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 1: *Significant reduction in non-overbank flooding*

8 Years Greener: MWRD's Green Infrastructure Program

John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

MWRD's green stormwater infrastructure initiatives have been going strong for eight years. Before 2013, the District installed native plantings, rain gardens, and permeable parking lots at their water reclamation plants. Between 2014 and 2016, they began a partnership with Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Dept. of Water Management to develop green schoolyards. From 2017 through the present, MWRD formalized their [Green Infrastructure Partnership Opportunity Program](#) and releases an annual call for projects that are beneficial to both parties.

This program works with public entities within MWRD's corporate boundaries to install three types of green stormwater infrastructure: rainwater reuse, permeable hardscape, and plant/soil-based infrastructure. Project prioritization is based on a cost to effectiveness metric plus a consideration of how many structures will benefit and the project timeframe. To date, they have

received 168 applications and selected 76 projects, among which nearly 70 are already completed. Although the individual projects may be small, with 4,315 structures benefited and an estimated design retention capacity of 8,000,000 gallons, cumulatively, these projects can make a big difference.

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

NEXT

Friday, March 4, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (CT)
Location: virtual

For more information contact:

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