
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – May 7, 2021
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions
Zach Wirtz, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Mary Mitros, DuPage County
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Kate Gardiner, Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Sarah Howe, Metropolitan Planning Council
Tara Jagadeesh, Metropolitan Planning Council/IDNR Coastal Management Program
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Ostenburg, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ryan Wilson, Metropolitan Planning Council
Jack Chan, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Richard Fisher, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Fred Wu, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Kara Riggio, OAI
James O'Brien, Office of MWRD Commissioner Davis
Justin Hart, Office of MWRD Commissioner Shore
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
Ted Haffner, unaffiliated
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian
& others

Member Updates

Although not related to stormwater, Justin Keller from the Metropolitan Planning Council announced the upcoming [Drinking Water 1-2-3 Academy](#), which will focus on water affordability, lead service lines, and more.

Ted Haffner said The Nature Conservancy worked with national climate experts and will soon release an updated climate assessment for the Midwest which includes more information on

stormwater. [The Executive Summary is currently available here](#), and the full report will be released soon.

Kara Riggio from OAI said the Training & Maintenance Work Group is planning the second in-person green stormwater infrastructure maintenance training for June 17. Last year, they were able to conduct one in-person training prior to the shutdown and did a half-day virtual training in February. They are now working with partners at the Morton Arboretum to identify a location to host the training. Additional details are coming soon. Email Kara (kriggio@oaiinc.org) if you are interested in attending or participating.

Justin Keller from the Metropolitan Planning Council said the [Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory](#) is proceeding as planned, with two more months of data collection remaining. A further update on data collection efforts and a discussion of how to collect remaining data will be included in today's Work Group meeting.

Justin also discussed the CSC's 2022 workplanning efforts, which continue today with a discussion with Training & Maintenance Work Group members. This feedback is to be combined with that received from the CSC Steering Committee meeting in February and a Work Group discussion in March. Based on these discussions, MPC will begin a preliminary draft work plan with the goal of adopting the final version at or by the December 2021 CSC meeting.

Drew Williams-Clark from the Center for Neighborhood Technology discussed the [Urban Flooding Baseline](#). CNT has, so far, sent out data collectors four times. Based on those efforts, they refined the data collection smartphone app and are better able to identify how many collectors will ultimately be deployed and the specific geography to be covered. The lighter-than-usual spring rainfall has allowed them to test their processes, and they will be ready if heavier rains come. Drew plans to have a more complete update for the CSC in late summer.

Jen Jenkins from The Nature Conservancy said MPC and TNC are conducting [StormStore](#) outreach to municipal stakeholders in the Little Calumet River watershed and are looking for ways to get engaged in the Lower Des Plaines River watershed. If you have contacts with public works staff, economic developers, site developers, or other relevant stakeholders in those watersheds, contact Jen (jennifer.jenkins@tnc.org) or Ryan (rwilson@metroplanning.org). Additionally, [TNC's StormStore Opportunity Fund](#) is still open. If you have ideas, please reach out.

Richard Fisher from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago discussed the [FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) program](#), which replaced the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. FEMA encourages communities to start developing BRIC applications now; the Notice of Funding Opportunity will likely be issued in August. While the PDM program was for projects in designated floodplains, BRIC expands that to include projects that address natural disasters, to purchase generators, to construct safe rooms in schools, buyouts, and other disaster-related projects. Vidya Balasubramanyam from IDNR Coastal Management Program added that it can also be used to fund pre-disaster planning and capacity planning, including scoping, project design, and empowering communities to work

together. Rich said MWRD can assist with match funding for buyouts and some other assistance, as well as to help craft BRIC applications. Reach out to Rich (fisherr@mwrld.org) with any questions.

Presentation

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*

MWRD Masterplan Update

Fred Wu, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Jack Chan, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Rich Fisher, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

MWRD assessed how much it would cost to address flooding in their service area and found the cost to be in the ballpark of \$80 billion which, given their current budget, would take 200 years to complete. Based on this, the District adjusted their approach to address flooding more quickly and leverage existing resources and opportunities. Starting in 2015, MWRD developed five masterplan pilot studies, and, in 2018, the District hired V3 and Geosyntec as program managers, split between separate and combined sewer areas. The masterplans will be more adaptive to meet needs of communities, address flooding concerns when communities are ready, and avoid extensive modeling, preferring instead to develop tools (e.g., GIS database, sewer maps, permit data, flow meters, rain gages) that allow for flexible prioritization.

Each community has their own priorities, and MWRD wants an adaptable program to provide assistance when municipalities are ready. Using MWRD's tools, community leaders can, for example, set a target volume reduction and work with MWRD to calculate the amount of green infrastructure needed to solve localized and block level drainage issues. The District is also working with contractors to develop map products to supplement the GIS, such as localized drainage maps, poor drainage indicator maps, risk maps (to the extent possible without extensive modeling). The database will be available online in three phases: first as a platform for static delivery of data, next allowing users to submit data, and finally allowing users to manipulate data. Beta testing is planned to begin in 2022, but they stressed that there is no "finish line." The tools will be continually improved and adapted.

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

Next Meeting

Friday, June 4, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: virtual

For more information contact:
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