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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – February 1, 2019  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



## Attendees

Ashley Hodges, Calumet Collaborative  
Kim Siemens, CDMSmith  
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District  
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Nora Beck, CMAP  
Katie Levin, Crown Family Philanthropies  
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec  
Celine Cua, Geosyntec  
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec  
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates  
Annie Turek, IDNR Coastal Management Program  
Jeff Edstrom, IDNR Coastal Management Program  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Lissa Domoracki, Metro Strategies  
Matthew Buerger, Mott MacDonald  
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald  
Sarah Cardona, MPC  
Danielle Gallet, MPC  
Christina Harris, MPC  
Bob Newport, MPC  
Adam Slade, MPC  
Imani Clayton, MWRD  
Christian Sorensen, MWRD  
Ted Haffner, Openlands  
Sean Kelly, Robinson Engineering  
Bill Wood, SmithGroup  
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum  
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum  
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum  
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy

## Member Updates

Emily Okallau from The Morton Arboretum announced they are seeking a Stewardship Coordinator for the Chicago Region Trees Initiative. This position involves planning and coordinating stewardship activities and providing outreach and education to private landowners and community organizations. For the full position details and to apply, click [here](#).

Ashley Hodges from the Calumet Collaborative shared about an effort underway to create a unified identity and brand for the Calumet Heritage Area, a region with national significance for its rare natural areas, industrial corridors, and strong cultural heritage.

As part of this effort, focus groups are being conducted to compile stories encapsulating the identity of the Calumet region. Stay tuned for more ways to engage in this effort, including an online survey to provide input.

Nora Beck from CMAP reminded everyone that the agency is holding a call for projects until March 15 for the regional transportation programs Surface Transportation Program (STP) Shared Fund, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program as well as locally programmed Transportation Alternative Program. She noted within the STP, a criteria has been added whereby road projects incorporating stormwater will receive extra points. To learn more, visit this [webpage](#).

Bob Newport from MPC noted that MWRD, the Water Environment Federation, and OAI have arranged for a National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGIPC) training session the week of April 22, 2019 at the MWRD Stickney Wastewater Treatment Plant. The cost of the training is \$500, plus \$200 for the exam. Attendees who successfully complete the training and pass the exam are then credentialed green infrastructure professionals. Save the date invitations to the training will be sent out soon to CSC member organizations. This opportunity to bring a training to the Chicago region was a key initiative of the CSC Training & Maintenance Work Group. More information and a link to a registration page can be found [here](#).

Sarah Cardona from MPC also announced a 2-day climate change training in Chicago for professionals seeking to better integrate climate change into their daily responsibilities. The workshop offers participants the opportunity to learn from experts about the implications of climate change with a regional focus added for Chicago and the Midwest. Professionals from the public and private sectors, higher education, the nonprofit community and others working in sustainability will benefit from this interactive training. MPC is offering a 20% discount by using the code "MPC-2018". For more details and to register, click [here](#).

## **Presentation**

### **On-the-ground perspectives: innovative approaches in stormwater management data & technology**

**Matt Bardol, Geosyntec**

*Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 4: Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning.*

Matt Bardol shared details about working with communities on stormwater management solutions, highlighting key elements of success as well as challenges along the way. His first example was implementing comprehensive urban stormwater management in St. Peters, Missouri, an MS4 community just 28 miles west of St. Louis. Clear design objectives for improvements and retrofits based on a prioritized master plan included water quality, flood mitigation as well as aesthetics. Key elements of success in this work included building trust among the public and being flexible while managing expectations around the design itself. For example, local residents were quite proactive about stream channel design than other green infrastructure systems, so listening and identifying concerns (perceived or real) became critical to the project.

Another example Matt briefly detailed was the Phase II pilot study of distributed BMPs on behalf of MWRD that helped to inform the District's current master planning efforts underway throughout Cook County. Through studying an area of 17 square miles with 44,053 structures and chronic urban flooding, including basement backups and surface flooding, the team looked for solutions balancing target level of performance of the system with desired outcomes of protecting homes.

That entailed examining conveyance, volume and structure flood protection solutions. Some key steps included modeling of green infrastructure in combined sewer models which provided helpful comparisons of green to grey and a demonstrated integral dependence of green and grey performance.

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

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

Activity 1: Establish baseline of existing green infrastructure – Needs Assessment

The combined Data & Modeling + Planning & Policy Work Group shared an update on the effort to document the need for and feasibility of building a potential inventory of existing green infrastructure. A kick-off meeting of advisors convened on January 28<sup>th</sup> to inform this needs assessment. Participants (including some CSC member agencies and other external stakeholders) discussed what the overall purpose of an inventory could be, potential users as well as initial thoughts on data sources. Municipalities rose to the top as a major potential user group of such an inventory of green infrastructure. The Advisory Committee discussed how it would be important to reflect the voices and input of municipalities during this process of outlining how and to what end an inventory would be developed.

If you would like to participate in the Advisory Committee informing this needs assessment, please let Sarah Cardona ([scardona@metroplanning.org](mailto:scardona@metroplanning.org)) know. Additional voices to this process are welcome.

To begin advancing the work of establishing relationships with municipalities in the context of this work, and the full suite of activities in the CSC 3-Year Work Plan, the rest of the Large Group meeting was spent mapping CSC member agency contacts in Calumet communities to begin to document a collective database of point people to engage in the work ahead.

Beyond the February meeting, there will be future opportunities for CSC member agencies to weigh in as we continue building out the CSC collective database of Calumet contacts.

## **Work Group Discussions**

Following the presentation and large group exercise, the remaining CSC meeting time was devoted to break-out meetings of the Work Groups, which are formulating and implementing next steps to move forward with their Foundational Activities laid out in Phase 1 of the CSC's 3-Year Work Plan.

## **Next Meeting**

Friday, March 1, 2019  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

**For more information contact:**

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