
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

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



Attendees

Ashley Hodges, Calumet Collaborative
Kim Siemens, CDMSmith
Kate Evasic, CMAP
Peter Haas, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Luis Tello, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Dawn Walker, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Celine Cua, Geosyntec
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Jeff Edstrom, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Jerry McGovern, Independent
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Liz Granger, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Adam Slade, Metropolitan Planning Council
Dean Alonistiotis, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Imani Clayton, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Cheryl Watson, RainReady Chatham Committee
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum
Melissa Cusic, The Morton Arboretum
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy
Eric Boria, University of Illinois at Chicago
Moiria Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

Member Updates

Melissa Cusic from The Morton Arboretum said they are still 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. The suitable candidate will have experience with grassroots organizing and working with community groups; knowledge of trees is helpful but not required. For full position details and to apply, click [here](#). The position will remain open until filled.

John Legge announced The Nature Conservancy is hiring an Urban Biodiversity Program Manager to manage research, restoration goals and monitoring at Indian Boundary Prairie sites in Markham and other partner sites. For details about the position, click [here](#). Also, stay tuned for an upcoming Stormwater Program Manager job posting.

Molly Dowling from OAI reminded everyone that the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program will take place the week of April 22 at the MWRD Stickney Water Reclamation Plant. In order for it to happen, 10 paying attendees need to register (\$500 for training plus \$200 for certification), after which there will also be a few complimentary participants able to attend. Contact Mollie Dowling (mdowling@oaiinc.org) for more information. Additionally, Sarah Cardona from MPC praised the hard work of the Training & Maintenance Work Group to bring this training to Chicago after many planning conversations with MWRD, the Water Environment Federation, and OAI.

Annie Turek from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced this was her last CSC meeting as she will be moving out of the region. She expressed her gratitude for the last three years as she thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Collaborative. Danielle Gallet from MPC on behalf of the entire CSC family wished Annie well and thanked her for the hard work with the Planning + Policy Work Group finalizing the [stormwater repository](#). As a heads-up, IDNR will be seeking an individual to fill Annie's current position; the job description will be finalized soon. Good luck, Annie! You will be missed!

Sarah Cardona from MPC announced that [Space to Grow](#) will be honored with MPC's 2018 *Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning* on March 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Concrete Cowboy (646 North Franklin St., Chicago). Visit MPC's event page [here](#) for more information. The event is free, but registration is required. Come celebrate the efforts of many active CSC Member Agencies who are a part of this innovative partnership to transform schoolyards while mitigating urban flooding.

Sarah also shared information about the Earthwatch Institute, a nonprofit organization in Boston, which is looking to start a citizen science project researching bioswales and their impact on urban stormwater in Chicago. Contact Sarah (SCardona@metroplanning.org) with ideas about potential research locations, such as clusters of bioswales and other stormwater structures.

Moira Zellner from UIC announced that she was involved in establishing green infrastructure on the campus of UIC using the model she developed with a team of researchers and collaborators. The tool was used to evaluate where flooding happens and how to address it, and it worked well. She is happy to announce that the project will be moving forward, and, because UIC is a research institution, monitoring will be a part of the green infrastructure installations.

Dean Alonistiotis from MWRD said the District will be celebrating its 130th anniversary. On Saturday, May 18, they will be hosting open houses and tours of their Calumet, O'Brien or Stickney Water Reclamation Plant from 9:00am-1:00pm. Activities will include tours, free oak sapling giveaways and more. View more [details here](#), watch for upcoming announcements and please spread the word; this is a great chance to raise awareness about the role of the District and what happens after stormwater runoff hits the sewers.

Presentation

Chicago Greenprint – geospatial analysis of flooding, heat, air quality risk to inform urban conservation priorities in Chicago and Cook County

John Legge, Chicago Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy

Sarah Hagen, Spatial Analyst, The Nature Conservancy

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 1: Significant reduction in non-overbank flooding; Goal 2: Grey and green infrastructure maintains its designed performance over time

John and Sarah discussed their work creating the Chicago Greenprint tool which was developed to identify intersections of vulnerability for nature and human populations in Cook County. Using indicators focusing on tree canopy, stormwater/flood risk, biodiversity, isolation from nature/greenspace, exposure to climate change risks, heat impacts, and air quality, the tool allows users to explore areas where high flood risk, high heat, and low air quality intersect low income or at-risk communities in Chicago and Cook County. The Nature Conservancy's Urban Program was interested in better understanding how their plans could benefit humans and nature and where might they generate multiple benefits to resilience and biodiversity.

The Cook County Urban Greenprint tool is available on ArcGIS Online:

<http://bit.ly/ChicagoGreenprint>. The default view starts with the combined indicators, and each layer can be individually turned on/off. The goal is for other organizations to use the tool to better target their efforts in areas of most need, for example, tree planting efforts. The tool incorporates a variety of data sources, including CMAP's Flood Susceptibility Index, Morton Arboretum's tree canopy inventory, data from Illinois DOT, US Census, USGS LANDSAT, Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision, and more. These data will be made available so others can download the layers. Contact Sarah Hagen (shagen@tnc.org) for more information or to share feedback on using the Greenprint tool in your own work.

Presentation

Calculator App for Stormwater Planning in the Calumet

Dawn Walker, Director, RainReady Community, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Peter Haas, Chief Research Scientist, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 1: Significant reduction in non-overbank flooding; Goal 2: Grey and green infrastructure maintains its designed performance over time

Dawn started the presentation by setting the background for the tool development, which started from [CNT's planning process for the Calumet corridor](#), which aimed to reduce flooding by focusing on green infrastructure investments at the regional and local scale, such as on residents' property. The six communities (Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale and Robbins) adopted the plans, and CNT is still engaged with community stakeholders to implement them.

From those conversations, CNT sought to develop a tool that aids in identifying high risk areas. It quantifies the benefits of local green improvements and estimates costs, allowing the RainReady team to plan implementation. The tool assigns a Flood Risk Score based on community defined risk areas collected via surveys, impervious areas and depression areas. Users can then set a volume control goal—e.g., capture 2" of rain—and then it functions as a decision support tool to identify what green infrastructure would be necessary to achieve that goal and the estimated cost of implementation.

The tool was developed exclusively for internal use by CNT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers using LiDAR data to identify catchment areas and analyze flow paths between the catchments.

The theme of both presentations was advancing the CSC's *Goal 1: Significant reduction in non-overbank flooding; and Goal 2: Grey and green infrastructure maintains its designed performance over time.* Discussion was tied to how best to use these tools to advance the work of the CSC and its members, how these tools can support communities, the need for relationship building with community stakeholders, and the need for a subject matter expert to help residents engage with these tools. CSC members also noted the opportunity for further exploring how to integrate various tools being developed to deepen coordination and help with ongoing updating of tools.

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

Next Meeting

Work group-focused meeting

Friday, April 5, 2019

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:

Sarah Cardona
Metropolitan Planning Council
312.863.6009
scardona@metroplanning.org