
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – July 12, 2019
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

John Mick II, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
Kim Siemens, CDMSmith
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/The Morton Arboretum
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kira Baltutis, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Kimberly Nowicki, Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Martin Brown, Delta Institute
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute
Sarah Bury, Delta Emerging Leaders (Delta Institute)
Helen Lekavich, Floodlothian Midlothian
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Celine Cua, Geosyntec
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR/Prairie Research Institute
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois Coastal Program
Iyana Simba, Illinois Environmental Council
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Danielle Gallet, MPC
Christina Harris, MPC
Justin Keller, MPC
Adam Slade, MPC
Dean Alonistiotis, MWRD
Moriah Gelder, MWRD
John Watson, MWRD
Tony Fuller, MWRD
Mollie Dowling, OAI
Bob Newport, OAI
Kelsey Andersen, Strand Associates, Inc.
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy
Matt Mulligan, The Nature Conservancy
Eric Boria, UIC
Dean Massey, UIC
Moira Zellner, UIC
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

Member Updates

Mollie Dowling announced that OAI received 3-years of funding from Great Lakes One Water Partnership (GLOW) to actualize work that has come out of the CSC, specifically, resource sharing for GI maintenance. They will conduct research, work out shared services agreements, and offer

free maintenance services. OAI plans to work with MPC and others in region, so stay tuned for more details.

John Legge from The Nature Conservancy said the Natural Infrastructure Project Manager position is still open. Applications are due by July 19. For more information, visit www.nature.org/careers and search for TNC Job ID 47755. Please share this with any potential candidates.

Danielle Gallet said that MPC also has an open position, seeking to fill the gap left by Sarah Cardona's departure. The position description is [available on our website](#). Please share it with network.

Sarah Bury introduced herself as a candidate for MWRD Board of Commissioners and is happy to meet us.

Kate Evasic from CMAP announced their [Small Plans, Big Ideas event series](#), which will culminate in the fall with the next LTA Call for Projects. She highlighted the event on October 3 in Calumet Park, "Planning for an equitable water future". Representatives from communities will brainstorm with their peers from neighboring municipalities on potential LTA projects. More information on this event is available [here](#).

Kate also said CMAP has refreshed its [Community Data Snapshot](#) library with updated and original data to help municipalities, researchers, and the public track progress and make informed decisions. These snapshots, which use U.S. Census, CMAP research and other data sources, summarize demographics, housing, employment, transportation habits, and other key details for each of the region's 284 municipalities, 77 Chicago Community Areas, and seven counties.

Justin Keller from MPC recognized the members of the Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory Advisory Committee, who have been working on CSC Foundational Activity #1 from the 3-year Work Plan, "Establish baseline of existing green infrastructure". He thanked the committee members for their time and thoughtful attention to this important subject and said an update at the 8/2 CSC meeting will have more information about this initiative.

Adam Slade from MPC said the Village of Robbins signed an agreement with MWRD for a GI maintenance program in the village.

John Watson from MWRD announced that [the updated MWRD website](#) launched today! It works on phones, works on a tablet, and looks great! Also, their 2019 call for green infrastructure projects is now open, with applications due on August 9. More information about the Partnerships for Green Infrastructure program is available [here](#), and there will be a webinar on July 22.

Danielle Gallet—on behalf of Audubon Great Lakes, Chicago Park District and The Wetlands Initiative—announced the Indian Ridge Marsh Community Stewardship Days event on August 4. This volunteer event will include a hunt for *Thismia americana* and a chance to learn more about this part of the Calumet area. Click [here](#) for more details.

Kimberly Nowicki from Cook County DHSEM reminded us that her team is updating the hazard mitigation plan for Cook County. They are almost done with the newest update and will be submitting it next week. She is interested in making a section on their website with resources for municipalities: what they can do to mitigate flooding, how to get grant funding, etc. Contact Kim (kimberly.nowicki@cookcountyil.gov) with ideas for what resources and information should be included on that website.

John Mick from Baxter & Woodman said the APWA is hosting a cruise on the Chicago River on 7/30 to support veterans and a luncheon on 7/31. Also, he is reminding all of his municipal clients that the capital bill will have billions of dollars available for parks, resilience, stormwater technology, etc. Be ready to apply, and don't miss the deadlines!

Moira Zellner from UIC said she has been working on a collaboration between Columbia University in New York, IIT and UIC to have students work on GI design in partnership with communities. They worked with Blue Island two years ago and Robbins last year, and they are now trying to create a broader 3-year project with sustained interaction and collaboration between students and communities, focusing on how these interactions happen, whether they work, and how their participation helps decision making in these areas. They are seeking municipalities for these engagements; reach out to Moira (mzellner@uic.edu) with ideas.

Jeff Edstrom from the Illinois Coastal Program said they have GLRI funding for projects dealing with runoff and nutrients in the coastal region. They are looking for shovel ready projects ASAP.

Presentations

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

Midlothian Stormwater Management Capital Plan

Karen Kreis, Trustee, Village of Midlothian
Kelsey Andersen, Municipal Engineer, Strand Associates, Inc.
Kate Evasic, Senior Planner, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

The Village of Midlothian recently adopted a stormwater capital plan which will allow them to develop stormwater utility and rain fund and fund prioritized projects to address flooding. Several years ago, in response to chronic flooding in Midlothian, resident Helen Lekavich formed Team Floodlothian to begin raising awareness of the extent of the problem. In partnership with Trustee Karen Kreis, the team held meetings with state, federal, county and local officials, residents, members of the news media, researchers, and stormwater professionals. These efforts resulted in the adoption of a RainReady plan, developed with CNT, and a MWRD project to increase the capacity of Natalie Creek from 2-year to 25-year protection. That project broke ground in November 2018 and is currently underway.

The next step was to develop a plan for how to prioritize and pay for additional flood mitigation projects. With the help of CNT, the village successfully applied for a CMAP LTA project, resulting in the now complete stormwater capital plan. Strand Associates worked with a steering committee and a host of partner agencies to develop an "opportunity matrix" to prioritize projects. The next steps will involve conducting a feasibility study and securing funding. They also need to educate residents about and build support for implementing a stormwater utility. The presenters asked to be contacted if people have ideas about additional partnership opportunities.

Gary Green Infrastructure Plan & Mapping Tool

Jack Eskin, Senior Specialist, Delta Institute
Martin Brown, Specialist, Delta Institute

In 2016, the City of Gary began developing a plan to integrate green infrastructure into development. The planners felt that seemingly disconnected policy problems in Gary could be

linked by green infrastructure, specifically, blight on corridors, blight in neighborhoods, “swiss cheese” of vacant land (i.e., an abundance of small, disconnected parcels), vacant schools and parks, and more. The plan’s goals were to look at where open space and problem areas exist, what sort of permitting language could support green infrastructure implementation on a regulatory level, and develop a group of priority projects.

The project team developed a GIS framework for prioritizing alternatives for green infrastructure on three different land types: managed conservation areas, stormwater problem areas, and community areas (i.e., beautification). The result is an interactive map available [here](#). Using the results of this mapping exercise, and with input from community engagement, priority projects were selected. Finally, they developed model zoning guidelines—both city-wide and a separate standard for stormwater impact areas—to drive green infrastructure implementation through regulation.

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

Next Meeting

****Work Group-focused meeting****

Friday, August 2, 2019

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S Dearborn St., Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:
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