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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – August 3, 2018  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603

## Attendees

Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.  
Elizabeth Evans, Bluestem Communications  
Lizzy Kreindler, Bluestem Communications  
Kim Siemens, CDMSmith  
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M/Jacobs  
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Steve Frenkel, Current Water  
Michael Ryzhov, Current Water  
Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater Management  
Mary Mitros, DuPage County Stormwater Management  
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative  
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec  
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Adam Slade, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Gabriel Tyler, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Shehara Waas, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Seema Wadia, Metro Strategies  
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland  
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum  
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum  
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum  
UIC, Moira Zellner



## Member Updates

Sarah Cardona from MPC thanked everyone, especially the speakers, who attended the fun “field trip” in July in lieu of a regular CSC meeting. About 20 CSC members toured green infrastructure sites in Pullman: the Schmid Elementary School Space to Grow site and the Greenstone United Methodist Church, learning about the partnerships and funding behind these installations and ongoing maintenance challenges and opportunities. Check out this [Flickr album](#) for photos.

Nora Beck from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning announced that the draft ON TO 2050 comprehensive regional plan is [posted for public comment](#) through August 14. This plan, a follow-up to GO TO 2040, features an updated, more robust Stormwater and Water Resources section. CSC members are encouraged to provide feedback on the policy recommendations set forth.

Register today to celebrate metropolitan Chicago's future and the launch of ON TO 2050 on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 from 10am to noon. Learn more and RSVP [here](#).

Nora also reminded everyone that CMAP established the [Local Technical Assistance \(LTA\) program](#) to direct resources to communities pursuing planning work that helps to implement GO TO 2040. Beginning with the next call for projects, CMAP will now focus efforts on implementing ON TO 2050. The next Call for Projects opens on September 6, with applications due on October 26, 2018. Please contact [Tony Manno](#) at CMAP with questions.

Moira Zellner from UIC reported that her team has just finished its involvement on resident engagement with the Village of Robbins as part of a larger effort to plan stormwater, economic development and transit-oriented development with the community. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is building a stormwater park in the Village of Robbins to address its flooding problems, and partnered with UIC to help with the planning process and coordination with the Village, its residents, and other partners who are leading various economic development, transportation, and green infrastructure efforts around the industrial corridor.

Melissa Cusic from The Morton Arboretum announced that the Chicago Region Trees Initiative has developed a full day, hands on training event for non-forestry professionals who work with trees. Expert-led sessions will include important forestry topics, as well as practice pruning and planting trees. Dates of trainings are August 28 and 29. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Melissa also reminded everyone that October in Illinois is [Oak Awareness Month](#), or OAKtober! Visit [this website](#) to learn how your organization can be a part of this celebration and register your event to help track statewide effort.

Patrick Lach from Hey & Associates shared that the [City of Berwyn](#), with help from CMAP's LTA program, created a stormwater management plan for the community that will identify citywide and local opportunities to reduce the impacts of urban flooding and improve water quality. The [Stormwater Master Plan](#) was adopted in July and provides a good framework for other communities to consider.

Elizabeth Evans from Bluestem Communications shared that they are involved in early stages of incubating a Great Lakes Stormwater Collaborative, seeking to focus on technology transfer and expanding expertise by bringing data and knowledge to places facing stormwater challenges in the Great Lakes. As this effort unfolds, it could be an opportunity to share resources between this group and the CSC.

Katherine Moore Powell from The Field Museum shared about the Chicago Wilderness Climate Change Adaptation Plan project underway. The Field Museum, in collaboration with local and regional partners, will conduct a climate change adaptation planning process for prairie grassland habitats throughout the Chicago Wilderness Region. The goal is to build on existing climate change vulnerability assessments and outline specific strategies for climate resiliency and adaptation. Three workshops are planned for fall 2018 with a final plan anticipated by summer 2019.

Sarah also announced that the Center for Neighborhood Technology is soliciting applications for the position of Managing Director of the Water Program, which supports an integrated water management approach, with focus areas including stormwater management, water infrastructure, and water policy to promote environmental sustainability and foster equitable communities. Applications are due by August 29. Learn more [here](#).

Sarah also shared that the Illinois International Port District is hosting its first annual State of the Port, which will include an overview of the Port of Chicago and goals for the future. The meeting is August 23 from 5:30 – 7pm at Harborside. Contact [iipd@iipd.com](mailto:iipd@iipd.com) with questions.

## **Extended Member Update**

***Steve Frenkel, Executive Director, Current***

Steve gave an introduction to *Current* which is a non-profit based in Chicago that launched in 2016 as a partnership of the City of Chicago, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and World Business Chicago. *Current's* mission is to deliver advanced research and market-driven innovations to enhance water resources, build resilience and drive sustainable economic growth by bridging gaps in water technology commercialization. They work in research, demonstrations and connecting with stakeholders to drive growth and scale. Steve spoke to how *Current* can further support CSC efforts by acting as a resource for innovative solutions in stormwater management, convene utility, industry and research partners, and continue to support and share their research with the CSC. To learn more, contact Steve at [sfrenkel@currentwater.org](mailto:sfrenkel@currentwater.org)

## **Presentation**

**Establishing a Stormwater Basin & BMP Inventory for DuPage County**

***Mary Beth Falsey, Water Quality Supervisor, DuPage County Stormwater Management***

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

*Discussion tied to CSC Activity: establishing a green infrastructure baseline inventory.*

Mary Beth started her presentation with a brief introduction and background to DuPage County Stormwater Management and the watershed planning throughout the county. Three years ago, with an in-house GIS department in Stormwater Management, the team launched efforts to establish a countywide best management practices (BMP) inventory in order to track progress and help inform water quality monitoring throughout the county. They started with an assessment of detention basins with more than 2,400 basins within the completed watersheds and standardizing their assessment approach from a water quality standpoint to rate with consistency the basin attributes being evaluated. They built their stormwater tracking online system using ArcGIS, and have completed stormwater basin assessments for about half of the county, using available GIS map layers, aerial photography and collecting information in the field during onsite visits using ArcCollector on mobile devices.

DuPage County is also mapping green infrastructure projects that they award through the DuPage County Water Quality Improvement Program, using different layers to look at load reductions and determine areas draining to the projects. To create a comprehensive BMP inventory, they are working to add in BMP projects from permit files dating back 10 years while starting to track BMPs in 2018 using a new software that syncs to ArcGIS. Throughout the inventory tracking process, staff have engaged municipalities to share additional data for the mapping exercise. They found that some municipalities already have shape files of their basins. With the inventory compiled, they would like to analyze for larger trends, like whether the stormwater basins are public or privately owned and operated.

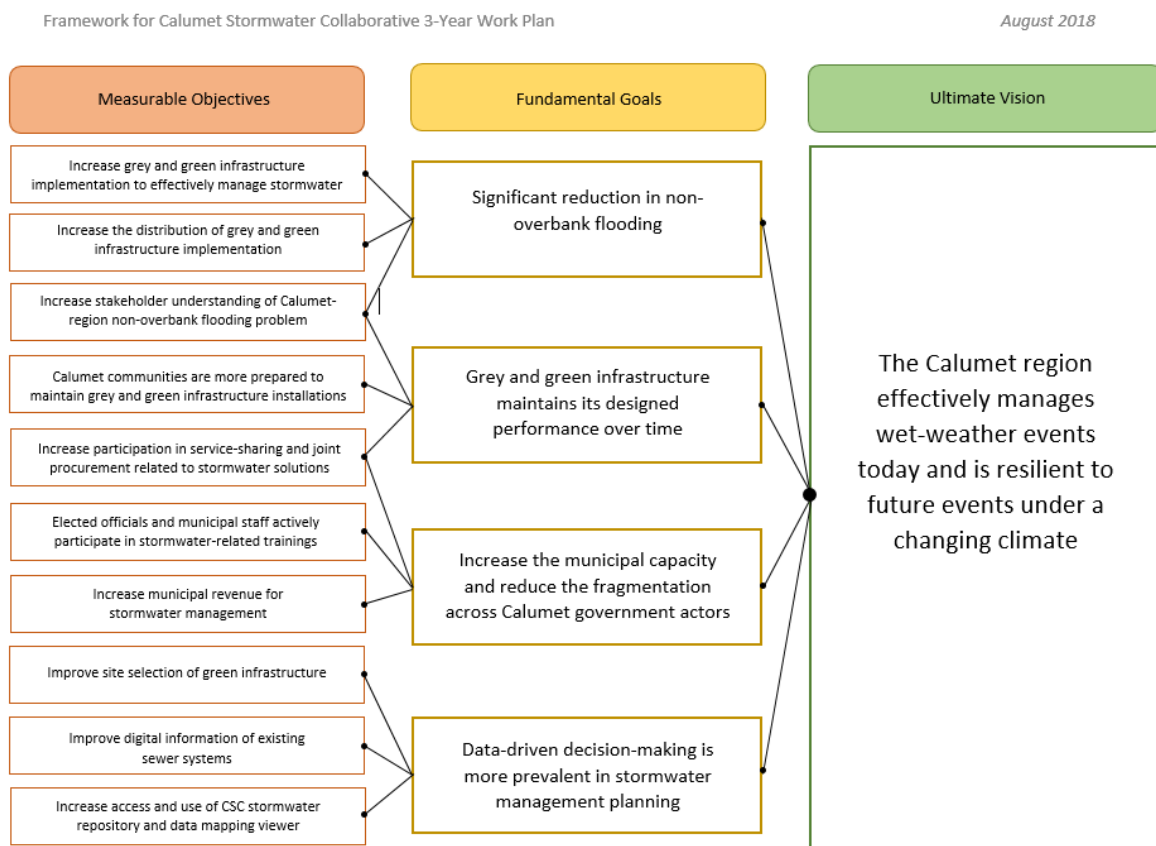
The CSC is interested in exploring how to establish a similar kind of baseline of green infrastructure in order to analyze trends, identify gaps and prioritize efforts to increase the amount and distribution of green infrastructure implemented to effectively manage stormwater in the Calumet.

For more information on these efforts in DuPage County, contact Mary Beth Falsey at [Marybeth.falsey@dupageco.org](mailto:Marybeth.falsey@dupageco.org).

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

### Update on the CSC 3-Year Work Plan

Following the presentation, the meeting transitioned to an update on the work planning that has been underway over the last months and a proposed pathway forward. Sarah revisited the Framework for the CSC 3-Year Work Plan consisting of actionable and measurable objectives, 4 fundamental goals, and the ultimate vision that the CSC holds for the Calumet region—that it can effectively manage wet-weather events today and is resilient to future events under a changing climate.



Sarah then previewed the 3-Year Work Plan—still in draft form—organized by three phases to the work: 1) figuring out baseline conditions and where needs are, 2) prioritizing strategies and capacity building, and 3) targeted implementation.

Four “Foundational Activities” have emerged in Phase 1 for the CSC to focus its efforts. The remainder of the meeting was spent previewing these activities. General reactions from CSC members were positive that the Framework and these Foundational Activities make sense to pursue. There is still work to be done to discuss and align these Activities with Work Groups, document other Activities Work Groups may wish to undertake, and document Member-led Activities to be included in the Work Plan.

The four Foundational Activities emerging for the CSC to drive forward and hold ourselves accountable to measurable progress are:

Activity 1: Establish a baseline of existing green infrastructure

Activity 2: Establish a baseline of non-overbank flooding

Activity 3: Develop and deliver a green infrastructure certification program

Activity 3: Establish a baseline of municipal capacity in stormwater management

Sarah will be reaching out to Work Group leads to further discuss the work planning and thoughts on alignment with these Foundational Activities. All CSC members are encouraged to think about any current (or new) work that a member agency is undertaking (or would like to undertake) that help advance the goals and objectives of the CSC Work Plan.

### **Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks**

Sarah thanked everyone for participating and sharing reactions and suggestions for the work planning steps ahead. She also reminded everyone of the next CSC meeting, Friday, September 7.

### **Next Meeting**

Friday, September 7, 2018  
10:00am to 12:00pm  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

**For more information contact:**

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