

---

# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – September 7, 2018  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603

## Attendees

Kim Siemens, CDMSmith  
Hal Sprague, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M/Jacobs  
Katie Levin, Crown Family Philanthropies  
Dylan O'Reilly, Current Water  
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute  
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place  
Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative  
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec  
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec  
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates  
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois State Water Survey  
Jerry McGovern, Independent  
Seema Wadia, Metro Strategies  
William Whitaker, Milhouse Engineering  
Matthew Buerger, Mott MacDonald  
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald  
Adam Slade, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council  
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland  
Ted Haffner, Openlands  
Betsy Quail, Pipes & Precipitation  
Clare Tallon Ruen, Pipes & Precipitation  
Bill Wood, SmithGroup JJR  
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum  
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum  
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum



## Member Updates

Sarah Cardona from MPC announced the opening of a new [Space to Grow](#) green schoolyard at Cook Academy in Auburn-Gresham, which is now the 12<sup>th</sup> schoolyard transformed through the program. For more information, check out [their announcement](#). Congratulations to the many CSC partner organizations involved in Space to Grow!

Sarah also announced two additions to MPC, Adam Slade and Justin Keller. Adam most recently worked as a consultant for the Government Finance Officers Association and brings his extensive experience to MPC's effective government and water initiatives. Justin has attended CSC meetings previously, both as a graduate student at UIC and in relation to his work on MWRD's project in Robbins, and brings prior experience in stormwater and urban planning to a range of MPC initiatives. Both Justin and Adam will be working on stormwater-related efforts at MPC, including supporting the CSC.

Ray Bell from Faith in Place invited members to join the Green Team Summit from 10am-5pm on Saturday, September 22 at the Field Museum. This family-friendly event will teach participants about being environmentally friendly and includes free admission to the museum. Volunteers are needed and will be richly rewarded with a \$10 Target gift card, a Faith in Place t-shirt and other prizes. More information about the event is available [here](#), and those interested in volunteering can sign up [here](#).

Jerry McGovern shared that the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers will be hosting a one-day green infrastructure seminar on November 7 at UIC. The seminar will focus on *completed* projects, lessons learned during actual construction and continued performance. Registration costs and other details are available [here](#).

Melissa Custic from The Morton Arboretum reminded us that next month is OAKtober (aka Oak Awareness Month). The Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative are looking to partner on any type of oak-related event, including tree inventories, tree planting, and even events involving "beverages" aged in oak casks. Check out the program [here](#).

Melissa also asks everyone to save the date on January 17, 2019 for a "Technology and Urban Forest Management" Symposium at The Morton Arboretum. The morning will highlight a project in Dolton with Ball State University and DePaul University using Google Maps to inventory street trees. The afternoon will cover The Nature Conservancy's Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities program and how technology is being used at the site of the forthcoming Imani Village development in Chicago.

Jack Eskin from Delta Institute announced an upcoming webinar about Delta's green infrastructure [Designs Guide](#) at 1pm on October 3. Register for the webinar [here](#). The development and release of design templates for green infrastructure is one of the CSC's major accomplishments.

Katherine Moore Powell from The Field Museum announced three Chicago Wilderness workshops to discuss climate impacts in CW prairies. The goal is to build on existing climate change vulnerability assessments and outline specific strategies for climate resiliency and adaptation. The first workshop will take place on September 17 from 10am-2pm at the Sagawau Environmental Learning Center in Lemont and will include talks from experts and a tour of Sagawau prairie habitats. For more information and to register, visit the Eventbrite page [here](#).

Danielle Gallet from MPC was interested to hear about any Calumet communities which may have applied for EPA Section 319 funding during the recent application cycle which closed in August. Email [Danielle here](#) if you are aware of any applicants.

## **Presentation**

### **Highlights from draft ON TO 2050 comprehensive plan and overview of Regional Flood Susceptibility Index**

***Nora Beck, Senior Planner, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning***

*Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 1: significant reduction in non-overbank flooding.  
Discussion tied to CSC Activity: establishing a baseline of non-overbank flooding.*

Nora began with an overview of the forthcoming [ON TO 2050 Comprehensive Regional Plan](#), which is divided into three themes: 1) inclusive growth which provides opportunities for everyone, 2) resilience to the impacts of climate change, and 3) prioritized investments that target resources to maximize benefits. Among many other topics, the plan includes a chapter on the environment, which is where most water-related elements of the plan can be found. This chapter prioritizes preparation for climate change, development which protects natural resources, and an integrated approach to flooding, water supply and natural ecosystems.

The strategies for flood management focus on the need for better data about flood risks which will improve the ability to identify and communicate those risks. With this data, work can continue on updating stormwater ordinances and other planning-related techniques. Investments in grey and green infrastructure are needed, especially transportation investments which also improve stormwater management, i.e., incorporating stormwater management into transportation infrastructure. CMAP has also set forth selected actions for local governments and county stormwater agencies and municipalities to consider. CMAP and their partners will continue to provide staff and technical assistance to low capacity communities to ensure the most vulnerable populations do not continue to receive the worst flooding impacts as part of next step implementation of ON TO 2050.

Nora then transitioned to a discussion of CMAP's [Urban Flood Susceptibility Index](#) (FSI) and the related "[Guide to Flood Susceptibility and Stormwater Planning](#)" released in 2018. The methodology behind the FSI used data to map the risk of flood susceptibility. Specifically, CMAP looked at the features of an area with known flooding issues and matched other areas with similar features. The map is based on the Topographic Wetness Index (a product of the Illinois State Water Survey which identifies depressions in the landscape), combined sewer areas, Base Flood Elevations, imperviousness, age of first development (i.e., before or after stormwater regulations), and precipitation variation. Nora noted that the FSI does not use flood claims because of equity issues related to being able to afford insurance, knowing how to file, etc. Also, the index does not include capital improvements, such as MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, because of the uncertainty of the area impacted by that infrastructure.

From here, the presentation transitioned to a group discussion about the FSI and also one of the CSC's Foundational Activities to establish a baseline of non-overbank flooding. This Activity at the outset aims to document the extent of current urban flooding in the Calumet region in order for the CSC to be able to focus future efforts and solutions. One observation made by the group was that the FSI does not seem to directly help establish an urban flooding baseline because it displays

area of flood *risk* and might not show much change over a short timeframe. Members discussed how perhaps future iterations of the FSI could consider including factors which lead to a decreased risk of flooding including, for example, investments in grey and green infrastructure. The conversation about how the CSC might approach the urban flooding baseline was saved for the Work Group meeting. Nora concluded her presentation with announcing that applications for CMAP's LTA program are due October 26. For more information, visit CMAP's [webpage](#). For questions about the FSI, email [Nora Beck here](#).

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 advancing the draft CSC 3-Year Work Plan, which Sarah highlighted at the August meeting. To help finalize the document, CSC members were invited to edit, add, or refine their Member-Led Activities to be listed in the Work Plan. These are short descriptions of the current or future work of CSC member agencies in the Calumet region that, taken together, add up to the collective work of the CSC members to solve urban flooding challenges aligned with the fundamental goals of the CSC. **Member-Led Activities are due by 9/21 to be included in the first iteration of the 3-Year Work Plan release in October.** As a living document, Sarah reminded everyone that the CSC will continue modifying and updating the 3-Year Work Plan periodically, so as Members take on new opportunities, they can include them as new Member-Led Activities.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to Work Groups meeting to discuss the draft 3-Year Work Plan and specific Foundational Activities. The Training and Maintenance (T+M) Work Group met and immediately got to work on refining the T+M Foundational Activity and articulating next steps with their initiatives. The other members present discussed the best approach on the three remaining Foundational Activities: 1) establishing a baseline of green infrastructure, 2) establishing a baseline of non-overbank flooding, and 3) establishing a baseline of municipal capacity in stormwater management. One group met to discuss how CSC members can work towards improving the municipal capacity of communities in the Calumet, which a newly named Municipal Outreach and Engagement Work Group will oversee. A large group of Data and Modeling (D+M) as well as Planning and Policy (P+P) Work Group members met to discuss factors to consider in establishing baseline inventories of green infrastructure and urban flooding. For now, members agreed these activities could be pursued as one large work group until clear tasks emerge which could be advanced specifically by either D+M or P+P Work Groups.

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

Sarah thanked everyone for their participation and flexibility as Work Groups navigate their next steps and get established. She reminded everyone of the next CSC meeting, Friday, October 5.

## Next Meeting

Friday, October 5, 2018  
10:00am to 12:00pm  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

**For more information contact:**

Sarah Cardona  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
312.863.6009  
[scardona@metroplanning.org](mailto:scardona@metroplanning.org)