
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – January 8, 2021
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Jennifer Coryell, CDM Smith
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions
Melissa Custic, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Kate Evasic, CMAP
Drew Williams-Clark, CNT
Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater
Kira Baltutis, FEMA
Peter Nicholson, Foresight Design Initiative
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Karl Persons, Hazel Crest Public Works
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management
Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension
Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Joemy Buschur, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ryan Wilson, Metropolitan Planning Council
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Justin Hart, MWRD
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Sarah Bury, Sierra Club Chicago / League of Women Voters of IL
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian
& others

Member Updates

Jen Jenkins reported that the Nature Conservancy has funding to support GI projects in the Little Calumet region. TNC is looking for GI projects that could benefit from some funding and partnership. Reach out to jennifer.jenkins@tnc.org if you are interested in learning more about the NFWF Chi-Cal grant opportunity and potential partnership.

Saki Handa shared that the Chicago Chapter ASCE Environmental & Water Resources Institute is hosting a Technical Workshop Series. The first event in the series will be on January 20, titled

[Smart City, Smart Water, Smart Investment?](#) There will be 3 presentations and panel discussion.

Emily Okallau from the Chicago Region Trees Initiative at the Morton Arboretum bid a fond farewell to the CSC. She will be starting an Urban Forestry position in Evanston in January. Thanks, Emily, for your devotion to the CSC over the years!

Emily Grimm is leaving Baxter & Woodman and starting as the Assistant Village Engineer and Stormwater Manager for the Village of Winnetka. Thanks, Emily, and best of luck!

Justin Keller shared that MPC is hiring a new [Director of Environmental Policy](#). Check out the job description and please share it with anyone who might be interested.

Extended Member Update

Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory – Data collection launch

Joemy Buschur, MPC Research Assistant

Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory beta testing of the data collection materials with engineers has been completed, concluding with a brief Work Group meeting at today's CSC meeting. Phase 2 includes convening data providers, contacting engineering firms and strategizing direct outreach. The [website](#) is now live with project information and data collection materials, including an embedded form and a formatted spreadsheet.

Presentation

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

Illinois Floodplains Work Feasibility Study

Olivia Dorothy, American Rivers

American Rivers has three priority areas of work: protecting wild rivers, restoring damaged rivers, and conserving clean water. The purpose of the Work Feasibility Study is to recommend new state incentives for multi-benefit floodplain development. Multi-benefit floodplain development seeks to improve community resilience and maximize healthy floodplain functions. Historically, we have used flood control that focuses on moving water away from people and infrastructure, but it doesn't work. While flood risk reduction moves people away from water, multi-benefit floodplain development explores how people benefit from flood prevention measures.

The feasibility study first examines multi-benefit development programs across the States. It is currently analyzing specific communities in Illinois as case studies to test how this concept could provide improvement. These communities include: Alexander County, Centreville, Rockford, Ford Heights, Danville, and Freeport. This process studies the community-specific flooding related issues and assets that inform findings and recommendations for the community. From this analysis, a series of draft recommendations have been created, and feedback is welcome as final recommendations are crafted. The third stakeholder meeting will be held at the end of

January, and the fourth meeting, at end of February, will wrap up the stakeholder process. The final report is targeted to be published in April 2021.

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

Next Meeting

Friday, February 5, 2021

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: virtual

For more information contact:
Metropolitan Planning Council

Justin Keller
312.863.6033

jkeller@metroplanning.org