
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – September 4, 2020
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Elisa Bonkowski, Baxter & Woodman
Serrater Chapman, Calumet Collaborative
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Jared Patton, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute
Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater Management
Peter Nicholson, Foresight Design Initiative
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Meg Kelly, Healthy Schools Campaign
Jeff Edstrom, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Eliana Brown, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant/Illinois Extension
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Tracy Lewis, Lewis & Associates
Cathy Wells, Lewis & Associates
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Manju Sharma, SPAAN Tech
& others

Member Updates

Justin Keller from the Metropolitan Planning Council shared that MPC was funded by IDNR's Coastal Management Program through a federal grant from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to conduct Phase 2 of the Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory. This is one of the Foundational Activities in the CSC's 3-year Work Plan, and the topic will be discussed more in the day's Work Group meetings.

Jack Eskin from the Delta Institute said they are working with U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA and the Calumet Collaborative to host two workshops focused on brownfield redevelopment in the Calumet region. The first one on September 22 at 9:30 AM focuses on leveraging environmental

and development resources for successful brownfield redevelopment. [More information is available here.](#)

Kate Evasic from CMAP announced that they moved out of Willis Tower and into the Old Post Office. Their new address is 433 W Van Buren St., Suite 450, Chicago, IL 60607. Although they will continue working remotely through the end of the year, they are excited to welcome us when it is safe to do so!

John Watson from MWRD said they closed their call for Green Infrastructure Partnership applications last month. They received 32 applications, which is more than they hoped for. John expressed his thanks to anyone on the call who applied, and they plan to announce selected projects in late October or early November.

Peter Nicholson from Foresight Design Initiative announced they are working with the Walder Foundation to explore how to catalyze a wide array of nature-based solutions including green infrastructure and working to develop a philanthropic strategy. More details on the Resilient by Nature Project are coming soon. Read more and sign up for updates at www.rxnproject.org.

Justin Keller shared an announcement on behalf of Christine Esposito, the Project Director & Lead Curator for [Third Coast Disrupted: Artists + Scientists on Climate](#). Christine attended the CSC two years ago to connect with researchers and engineers for her project and is proud to announce that it has come to fruition. The exhibit runs September 8-October 30 at the Glass Curtain Gallery at Columbia College Chicago (1104 S Wabash Ave., Chicago) and will include a series of talks. [Click here for more information.](#)

Extended Member Update

Calumet Urban Flooding Baseline Update!

Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology

The Urban Flooding Baseline Phase 1 report is complete. CNT is seeking input by next month. Specifically, they would like to hear whether they're on the right track: what's right, what's wrong, what should they explore further? [The report can be downloaded here](#), or contact Drew (drewwilliams-clark@cnt.org) for more information.

Presentations

Theme: 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*

Tackling Barriers to Green Infrastructure One Code at a Time

Julia Noordyk, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

A survey of Great Lakes communities was conducted to determine coastal storm patterns and how to prepare for them better. Four of the five "Top Hazards" had to do with stormwater runoff and flooding, and many respondents cited the need for an assessment of local ordinances and

zoning and building codes. Codes and ordinances set for the structure and process of how we make decisions across the country, and many are outdated. (They found an example which explained the proper way to tie up your horse downtown.) Most were written at a time when we had less understanding of how land use impacts stormwater management, and, certainly, older codes don't mention green infrastructure. Codes need to be updated to reflect current best practices. Adding relevant clauses to code is not *more* regulation or cost but, rather, thinking smarter about existing investments. For example, landscaping around a parking lot can be more effective if required to be at a lower elevation or use native vegetation instead of turf grass.

To help communities update their code to include green infrastructure, Wisconsin Sea Grant developed a workbook called [Tackling Barriers to Green Infrastructure: An Audit of Municipal Codes and Ordinances](#). This workbook focuses on how to meet the community's needs through green infrastructure, and a worksheet helps guide a conversation about various considerations, such as storm events, hazards, stormwater runoff, preexisting green initiatives, and more. In total, the code audit includes 15 zoning topics.

After the presentations, attendees broke up into Work Groups. Visit the [CSC website](#) to review the full presentation materials.

Next Meeting

Friday, October 2, 2020
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