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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – October 2, 2020  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
Zoom meeting



## Attendees

Brad Kasberg, Audubon Great Lakes  
Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman  
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions  
Cheryl Watson, Chicago Conservation Corps  
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative  
Luke Sherry, Christopher B. Burke Engineering  
Christine Klepp, Dupage County Stormwater Management  
Clare Tallon Ruen, Evanston Watershed Collective  
Mike Amodeo, First Street Foundation  
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River  
Megan Lewis, Grantify  
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates  
Vidya Balasubramanyam, Illinois Coastal Management Program  
Eliana Brown, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant/Illinois Extension  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Cathy Cannon-Wells, Lewis & Associates  
Tracy Lewis, Lewis & Associates  
Lissa Sweeney, Metro Strategies  
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Mark Castillo, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald  
Ted Haffner, Openlands  
Ron Smith, Robinson Engineering  
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy  
Layne Knoche, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

## Member Updates

Emily Okallau announced that the Chicago Region Trees Initiative was awarded a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for removing pavement and installing green infrastructure. Included in that grant is some money to do green infrastructure maintenance training, meaning they will be able to continue offering the one-day training course (initiative of the CSC's Training & Maintenance Work Group) and make it more robust.

Vidya Balasubramanyam said the Illinois Coastal Management Program will be evaluated by NOAA at the end of this month. The evaluation will include a review of the program's activities to determine if it is meeting goals at the Federal level. NOAA will meet with stakeholders to learn

about the good or bad, what it's like to receive grants from the Illinois Coastal Management Program, etc. Some CSC members will be contacted directly, and there will be a public meeting which anyone can attend. [Click here to register for the public meeting.](#)

## **Presentation**

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 4: *Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning*

### **Defining America's Flood Risk: The First National Flood Risk Assessment**

*Mike Amodeo, First Street Foundation*

First Street Foundation is climate-focused non-profit organization based in New York. They are interested in communicating risk around climate change and chose to start with flooding because it is the costliest disaster in the nation, resulting in over \$1 trillion in damages since 1980. FEMA floodplain maps are good, but they are regulatory in nature, and 70% of the maps are out of date. Flood-related risks are mapped well for some areas, but, until now, there wasn't a comprehensive picture of flood risk for the continental United States. Additionally, FEMA is not allowed to account for influences of changing climate. Their maps are based on observed historical conditions and, accordingly, cannot project risk into the future.

To create their Flood Factor model, First Street Foundation brought together 80+ experts (scientists, economists, technologists) to build a national flood model based on decades of research. For climate forecasts, they used CMIP5 climate model outputs under the RCP 4.5 scenario; this is the "middle of the road" scenario, from which they modeled low, medium and high values to account for climate uncertainty. Compared to FEMA, their model shows roughly 70% more properties are at risk from 1% event. Mike stressed that Flood Factor is not a replacement for municipal modeling or local knowledge, but it is a good jumping off point for conversations about risks associated with climate change as it relates to flooding.

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

## **Next Meeting**

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

Friday, November 6, 2020

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

Location: virtual

**For more information contact:**  
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