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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – October 4, 2019  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



## Attendees

Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.  
John Mick II, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.  
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/ The Morton Arboretum  
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/ The Morton Arboretum  
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Lynnette Widder, Columbia University NY  
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute  
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River  
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec  
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program  
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Prairie Research Institute  
Casey Sebetto, IDNR Prairie Research Institute  
Ron Henderson, IIT Landscape Architecture + Urbansim  
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois Coastal Program  
lyana Simba, Illinois Environmental Council  
Megan Lewis, Independent  
Jennifer Coryell, JLC Environmental Corp.  
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Adam Slade, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Jessica Hanlon, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Justin Hart, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Mollie Dowling, OAI  
Bob Newport, OAI  
Ted Haffner, Openlands  
Bill Wood, SmithGroup  
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum  
Maira Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago

## Member Updates

Lynnette Widder from Columbia University NY—in partnership with Ron Henderson from IIT and Maira Zellner from UIC—joined the CSC as part of a weekend workshop focused on urban resilience and sustainability. This is the third time her class visited the Calumet, stopping by Blue Island and Robbins in past years. This year, the students will meet with Midlothian Trustee Karen Kreis followed by a visit to Ford Heights.

Maira Zellner from UIC invited everyone to celebrate [GIS Day 2019](#) at the Richard J. Daley Library on November 22 from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. This year, GIS Day will showcase a range of techniques

exploring different aspects of Community and Global Disparities and will include a presentation by Tonika Lewis Johnson, the artist and activist behind the Folded Map Project.

Moira also said the L-GrID (Landscape Green Infrastructure Design) program is ready to be licensed and launched. It will be available for public use soon. (For more information, refer to the CSC meeting materials from May 3, 2019.)

Kate Evasic from CMAP said the joint 2019/2020 CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program and RTA Community Planning Program [Call for Projects](#) is now open. Applications are due on October 17. Reach out to Kate ([kevasic@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:kevasic@cmap.illinois.gov)) with any questions.

Katherine Moore Powell from The Field Museum announced the [State of Water](#) exhibit, running now through January 12. Focused on the photography of Brad Temkin, the exhibit explores a not-well-understood but vital part of modern life. Katherine encouraged us to reach out with ideas for the exhibit and said there will be an evening event, to which all CSC members will be invited.

Jeff Edstrom from the Illinois Coastal Program said they will be conducting a water quality trends analysis with ISWS based on the approach used in the Fox River Study. They will be looking for data, advice, and potential advisory committee members. Contact Jeff ([Jeff.Edstrom@illinois.gov](mailto:Jeff.Edstrom@illinois.gov)) if you are interested in taking part.

Emily Okallau said the Chicago Region Trees Initiative will host a partner gala on December 11 at 3:00-7:00 PM in North Chicago. There will be speakers and a photography exhibit. Save the date, and stay tuned for more details.

## **Extended Member Update**

### ***Green Infrastructure Shared Services Project***

Mollie Dowling, OAI, Inc.  
Bob Newport, OAI, Inc.

OAI High Bridge offers skills training that leads to meaningful employment in the green infrastructure (GI) industry. Many grants and public funds go towards GI in low-income communities, and they help ensure that local residents are in a competitive position to take advantage of those construction and maintenance jobs.

They are now going beyond training and will be developing procurement and contract language for operationalizing shared services for GI installations. This initiative is funded through Great Lakes One Water (GLOW), which split 27 community organizations into six regional teams, each of which identified a priority project. The Lower Lake Michigan Regional Team highlighted the fact that GI maintenance is often overlooked and underinvested in. This is coupled with limited training opportunities and no cost-effective way for individual municipalities to hire a GI specialist. With this funding, OAI will conduct research and case studies and apply the lessons learned. They plan to pilot the shared services model in 2020 and 2021 and scale it up over time.

As the project progresses, they are seeking your ideas regarding the following:

- Green infrastructure sites in the Calumet area where maintenance would be beneficial
- Possible implementation partners
- Relevant training programs

Contact Mollie ([mdowling@oaiinc.org](mailto:mdowling@oaiinc.org)) and Bob ([bnewport@oaiinc.org](mailto:bnewport@oaiinc.org)) with your ideas and suggestions.

## Presentation

Theme: *Advancing the CSC's Goal 3: Increase municipal capacity and reduce fragmentation across Calumet government actors*

### **Calumet Stormwater Collaborative Network Impact Mapping**

Dan Cooper, Metropolitan Planning Council

The impact of the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative (CSC) is difficult to capture. What is the magic of this network of stormwater professionals that allows us to make tangible change in the world? Research on networks has shown that relationships matter. Longitudinal studies showed that hanging out with other happy people predisposes you to happiness. Hanging out with smokers makes you more likely to smoke. The mechanism is unclear, but it is obvious that social networks matter.

In order to discover how outcomes develop, it is necessary to understand the whole network. To get to the bottom of the CSC's impact, Dan and others at MPC are developing a survey to answer some fundamental questions. Do we have an impact because the CSC allows people to build larger professional networks? Does participation in the CSC get members closer to power brokers? He also hopes to analyze the network's structure. For example, are there multiple networks in the CSC geography, such as a south suburban network and a southeast suburban network? The results of the survey will help inform policy initiatives and can lead to the development of a shared approach towards achieving the Fundamental Goals and Collective Impact of the [CSC's 3-year Workplan](#).

Dan concluded by conducting an informal survey, asking those in attendance why they attend the CSC. Answers included: access to a diverse group of organizations and professionals; learning to "speak the language" of stormwater management professionals; understanding how urban planners and civil engineers can better communicate; deepening relationships with organizations which have aligned missions; improving funding applications by highlighting projects that come out of a collaborative effort; getting feedback on ongoing projects and new approaches; and staying on the cutting edge of research and innovation.

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

## Work Group Discussions

Following the presentations, the remaining CSC meeting time was devoted to break-out meetings of the Work Groups, which are continuing to work on implementation of their Foundational Activities laid out in the [CSC's 3-year Workplan](#).

## Next Meeting

Friday, November 1, 2019

10:00am to 12:00pm

**UIC College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs**

**CUPPA Hall (MC 350)-Lower Level**

**412 S. Peoria St, Chicago**

**For more information contact:**  
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