
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – October 9, 2015

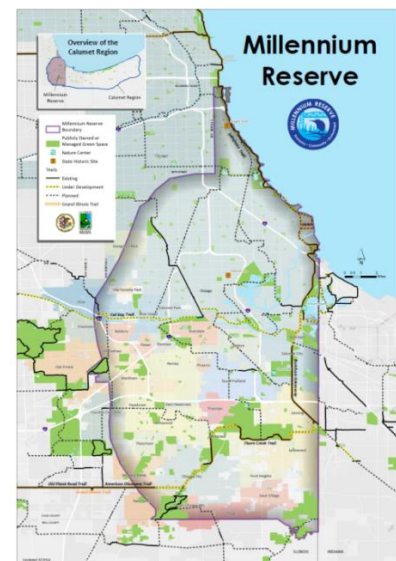
Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400



Attendees

Anna Wolf, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Marcella Bondie Keenan, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering
Karen Weigert, City of Chicago
Jane Hornstein, Cook County Department of Planning & Development
Alex Simmons, Cook County Land Bank Authority
Mary Mitros, DuPage County
Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative
Anthony Cefali, Friends of the Chicago River
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Kelsey Pudlock, Metropolitan Planning Council
Valerie Poulos, Metropolitan Planning Council
Boba Nestorovic, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Lindsay Darling, Morton Arboretum
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy
Andrew Szwak, Openlands
Katrina Phillips, Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
Dennis Latto, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
David Bucaro, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Daniel Linkowski, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Eoin O'Neill, University College Dublin
Moira Zellner, University of Illinois Chicago
Laura Kammin, University of Illinois, Prairie Research Institute
Joe Sparrey, Village of Midlothian



Member Updates

Lisa Cotner, IDNR, believes that IDNR will have a 'Request for Proposals' out soon. This application as well as those from December 2015 are slowly beginning to move through the State's budgeting hurdles.

Jason Navota, CMAP, announced that the Calumet Heritage Partnership will be hosting the [Calumet Heritage Conference](#) on October 21 and 22, 2015. This conference may be of interest to Calumet Stormwater Collaborative since the Calumet Heritage Area—a bi-state region of southeastern Illinois and Indiana—encompasses the Millennium Reserve. According to the Calumet Heritage Partnership, their mission is "to identify, preserve, protect and reclaim the natural, historical, cultural and recreational heritage of the Calumet region of Illinois and Indiana for the purposes of educating and inspiring the public, restoring regional pride, and revitalizing our communities and their interconnectedness." [You can register for this conference here.](#)

National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC): Phase II Application Presentations

Josh Ellis, MPC, reminded members that the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative has been providing feedback to Illinois' applicants that made it to Phase II of the [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) (NDRC). The State of Illinois, Cook County, DuPage County and the City of Chicago will have their draft Phase II applications posted for public comment on October 9, 2015. While the areas these applicants are focusing on may reach beyond the Calumet region, Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative, and Louise Young, CMAP have been facilitating dialogue among the four applicants that has been focusing specifically on shared actions that can be implemented by all applicants to advance resilience across the region. Lyndon mentioned that they will likely continue these facilitation efforts throughout the year and will hopefully work with new partners as well.

A number of CSC members asked if there were other areas across the country that took a similar approach as the four applications in Illinois, and what are the chances that all four or only one application will be funded. Josh Ellis commented that HUD and Rockefeller Foundation gave high compliments for the language and regional approach that all four applications articulated in Phase I. However, he also elicited that the scenarios could be across the board—anywhere from none of the applicants to all four could receive funding.

State of Illinois – Laura Kammin, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

Laura Kammin, Pollution Prevention Program Specialist with the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program at the University of Illinois, presented the Phase II application for the NDRC, which proposes a series of projects and program for the State of Illinois. The Prairie Research Institute (PRI) and University of Illinois were key agencies that functioned as statewide resilience coordinators through the application's development. Kammin who is a part of the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program at the University of Illinois was tasked two months ago to help with the IDNR proposal.

Initially, IDNR wanted to work with 11 communities across the State of Illinois. After Kammin attended one of the resilience workshops in Chicago, she was strongly encouraged that tackling 11 communities in Phase II of the application were too many. Based on this feedback, IDNR decided incorporate five communities—Carbondale, Olivebranch, Washington, Roanoke, and Ottawa—into their application.

- Carbondale has a road that continually washes out during heavy storms resulting in businesses getting cut off and temporary work closures. IDNR is proposing an entirely new route for this road in an effort to eliminate closures and sustain local economic activity.

- Olivebranch is one of the southernmost unincorporated areas in Illinois. Flooding from previous storms have completely wiped out large sections of this town, so IDNR has proposed to moving entire parts of this town to less flood-prone areas.
- Washington and Roanoke are two municipalities south of the Peoria area. Washington has suffered from a tornado, flooding and stormwater management has been an ongoing issue. Roanoke's low income population located on the southern portion of the municipality also suffers from ongoing flooding issues. IDNR plans to bring stormwater management services to both of these communities, as well as provide Roanoke's Southside with new routes to ensure equitable access through the municipality.
- Ottawa has been independently working on resilience planning for a while. Here, IDNR plans to help them with redeveloping their waterfront, increase stormwater storage capacity, as well as inclusive places for recreation and habitat to thrive.

IDNR is also proposing full-time positions and programs to help move these on-the-ground projects forward. PRI, University of Illinois, state agencies, and members of the Northeastern Resilience Partnership decided to propose the creation of two new 'Regional Resilience Specialist' positions—one for central Illinois and the other for southern Illinois. The Regional Resilience Specialist located in central Illinois would find out what is working upstate and determine how it can be replicated in the south; and the southern Illinois Resilience Specialist would be a local representative that would primarily focus on local project implementation. The State is also proposing to create a Resilience Technical Assistant Team which would include players such as USGS and ISWS. This Team would be in search of places to improve resilience, and expand on models set forth by projects to be carried out in the five priority communities. Another proposed program is the gathering of a group of scientists that would go in and work with communities to ensure that the State is educating and properly engaging with residents through the resilience planning process and implementation. The group would be tasked with conducting meetings, publicizing work through social media and writing reports.

Kammin affirmed that the State wants to make sure what they are proposing will not get in the way of the other three applications. The ballpark cost estimate of the State's proposal is approximately \$30-\$50 million. David Bucaro, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, asked if they thought about doing a statewide update of Bulletin 70. Kammin said that ISWS is working on this as well as statewide floodplain mapping updates. She also highlighted that the application specifically ranks the reassessment of existing floodplain maps and the update of Bulletin 70 as the State's two top priority projects. If these are the only projects that receive funding, there will at least be a scientific basis for better assessing risk and developing strategies (e.g. buyouts) to address resilience across the state's most vulnerable communities. The State's draft application will be posted on the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website through the 15 day public comment period—October 9 through October 23, 2015. [You can access it here.](#)

Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative, asked how the five communities were finally selected. Kammin said that after the resilience workshop, it was determined that IDNR does not have the capacity to fund all of them; in the end, those that could provide some investment via time and staff made the cut.

Cook County – Jane Hornstein

Jane Hornstein, Deputy Director at Cook County Department of Planning and Development, presented Cook County's Phase II application for the NDRC. Hornstein demonstrated that the County is proposing two programs and six projects that focus on developing "complete communities." This includes the implementation of complete streets and a combination of green

and grey infrastructure interventions. Cook County's six demonstration areas are the cities of Blue Island and Calumet City and the villages of Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale and Robbins. Within each of these cities and villages, Cook County honed in on areas that have older industrial sites, high tax bases, and/or major rail lines, and could benefit from redevelopment. For instance, one project that they are looking at is an old industrial site in Dolton covered with concrete slab. Cook County proposes to take out the slab and put in 500 new resilient homes. Another proposed Cook County project is to create additional retention in Riverdale Marsh—land holding an existing retention basin that is owned and maintained by MWRD. In addition to increased stormwater storage, the expansion and accompanying plans would create a new park space adjacent to the Cal-Sag trail as well new commercial and recreational amenities to support the development of a new park. Other programs Cook County is proposing includes a single family rehab program that would pull water away from homes as well as integrating a workforce program into schools. The ballpark cost of Cook County's proposal is \$115 million, and they plan on requesting approximately \$50 million. Their draft application will be posted on Cook County's Department of Economic Development website through the 15 day public comment period—October 9 through October 23, 2015. [You can access it here.](#)

Josh Ellis, MPC, encourages CSC members to contact Jane Hornstein if s/he knows of projects that Cook County can claim as leverage. Projects can be government or non-government based projects, but the commitment to a project has to be given after September 14, 2014 for it to qualify as leverage. Hornstein restated that they will take whatever that can get, including letters of agreement. Recognizing that the state of Illinois is broke, they are leaving it up to the OIG (Office of Inspector General) to decide on whether to not to accept letters of agreement. One CSC member asked if projects in nearby jurisdictions (such as Midlothian) could count toward leverage. Hornstein believes that as long as they are in the same watershed, Cook County will include them.

DuPage County – Mary Mitros

Mary Mitros, Stormwater Outreach Coordinator at DuPage County presented on DuPage County's Phase II application for the NDRC. Similar to other applicants, they started off looking at the whole county, assessed the vulnerability of communities, and then looked at damage assessments from major storms between 2011 and 2013. DuPage County has three watersheds—West Branch DuPage River, East Branch DuPage River and Salt Creek. Given that the East Branch of the DuPage River does not have major flood control facilities and the magnitude of damage was significantly high in nearby Lisle, they decided to focus the application on the East Branch DuPage River Watershed.

In Phase I of the NDRC, DuPage County created the East Branch DuPage Resilience Plan—a 350 page document developed by a variety of local stakeholders including the Morton Arboretum and local park districts. As a part of the planning process, DuPage did a number of surveys to understand what people wanted to see in these areas. The plan identified three areas that have sustained damages: 1) Downers Grove; 2) Lisle; and 3) an unincorporated area of DuPage County. In Phase II, DuPage County proposed a redevelopment plan for the City of Lisle where they found massive infrastructure issues around St. Joe's Creek in the northern portion of the city. In the first iteration, DuPage County proposed to build a certified levee, and developed 100 acres of wetlands by removing 200 structures out of the floodplain (primarily homes and few commercial and municipal buildings). This plan was discouraged by many because DuPage would not be able to control what happens to the communities once improvements were made—particularly with regards to ensuring the elder communities stay intact and maintaining affordable housing.

DuPage decided to go with the second option that proposes to fill in areas around the Creek instead of building a levee. The plan has a strong resilience component and interventions proposed

have replicability across the region. This option was also more accepted by the community because it would increase economic and social benefits. DuPage County plans on requesting approximately \$49 million; sewer lining and other infrastructure enhancements will be leveraged, and redevelopment will be paid through private costs. Additionally, they intend on requesting an extension because they envision that project implementation will take four years. DuPage County's draft application will be posted on their website through the 15 day public comment period—October 9 through October 23, 2015. [You can access it here.](#)

DuPage County will be hosting a resilience open house on October 21, 2015 from 6-8pm at College of DuPage. Josh Ellis noted that they might be able to do additional outreach at the Morton Arboretum over the next few weeks as foliage in the area changes color.

One CSC member asked Mitros to explain the yellow on the second map (Option 2). Mitros clarified that the yellow areas would be buyouts currently zoned as commercial. Rezoning and stipulations would provide environmental enhancements and attract new housing that would be filled to approximately 102 ft. (i.e. the equivalent to the base flood elevation (BFE) and Lisle's local BFE standards). Another CSC member asked if the project is assuming future conditions. Mitros said they are looking at historical storms as well as floodplain maps that were revised a few months ago. Josh Ellis pointed out this is why it is critical that the State of Illinois not only update precipitation tables, but also look into changing the methodology for developing precipitation tables—a methodology that incorporates projected future rainfall conditions. Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative, commented that the project has come a long way since the last time she had seen it during her facilitation work with the four applicants.

City of Chicago – Karen Weigert

Karen Weigert, Chief Sustainability Officer at the City of Chicago, presented the City of Chicago's Phase II draft application for the NDRC. Weigert announced that in addition to the posting of the application on the City's website during the 15 day public comment period—October 9 through October 23, 2015—they will also be hosting a public hearing for the application on October 20th in the Community Room at Garfield Park Conservatory. Registration will begin at 4:30 pm, and the public hearing will begin at 5:00 pm. If you would like to review a copy of the City's draft application, [you can access it here.](#)

Weigert stated that the City of Chicago is proposing a comprehensive green infrastructure program that would be carried out through Chicago's West Side. Similar to other applicants, the City selected their demonstration areas based on social vulnerabilities and flood damages, particularly from the April 2013 storms. The demonstration area, also known as the West Side Demonstration Area (WSDA), is comprised of six community areas—Austin, Humboldt Park, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale and South Lawndale. The WSDA has a high flood risk and faces a number of other issues such as social isolation and economic challenges. However, an important aspect of the WSDA is that it represents three common land types that are found across the City of Chicago—neighborhoods, industrial commercial corridors, and regional parks and boulevards. The City, with its proposed program for highly concentrated green infrastructure, sees the WSDA as a template for addressing urban flooding that can be scaled up across the region over time. They also see this proposal as an opportunity for job creation and recalling the need to make communities resilient in the wake of other extreme weather events such as heat waves. At large, it's an opportunity to transform community above and below ground. As a part of the Phase I application process, the City engaged with local residents to show them what green infrastructure is and what it looks like within the context of their own community. The City has also been working with large multi-family corporations through the WSDA for additional local input. Within

the scope of social and economic corridors, the project was refined with modeling, capital allocation, and community engagement efforts. In total, these planning efforts went toward a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis that informed the final draft proposal. The City of Chicago plans to request approximately \$200 million for project implementation.

Jason Navota, CMAP, asked to what extent is the City identifying discrete capital projects. Weigert said that the modeling included specific capital projects but the City's request is for the larger program and project implementation. Another CSC member asked if the WSDA project area parallels Chicago Neighborhoods Now. Weigert recalled that five of six areas intersect the WSDA so there will likely be some alignment. Mollie Dowling, OAI Southland Chicago, asked if Green Corps will be installing all green infrastructure projects. Weigert said that there is the possibility for them to do a portion of the installations. Another CSC member asked, "What is the role of MWRD?" Weigert replied that MWRD has a role given that they share a focus on reducing combined sewer overflows and installing green infrastructure.

Josh Ellis commented that as a part of the CSC as well as Lyndon and Louise's facilitation efforts, there have been discussions about metrics and he hopes that they make it into the applications. Lyndon commented that the metric work is still in its early stages. Right now, they are working on how the region will measure success and progress, and more importantly how relevant metrics can be used as a catalyst for regional resilience at a larger scale. Josh mentioned that there are lots of models and measures for resilience but the key will be identifying and determining those that will help the applicants measure performance.

Next Meeting

Friday, November 6, 9:00am – 11:00am

Metropolitan Planning Council

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