
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – November 6, 2020
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Brad Kasberg, Audubon Great Lakes
Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman
John Mick, Baxter & Woodman
Matt Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Darren Olson, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDRN Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Leslie Dorworth, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Tracy Lewis, Lewis & Associates
Joemy Buschur, Metropolitan Planning Council
Dylan Haber, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Kristen Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Rich Fisher, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Becky Nicodemus, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Ron Smith, Robinson Engineering
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian
& others

Member Updates

Emily Okallau announced that the Chicago Region Trees Initiative has launched a corporate sustainability matchmaking database designed to connect organizations who want to receive trees with corporations who want to support environmental projects. [Click here for more information.](#)

Rich Fisher said that applications for MWRD's [Stormwater Partnership Program](#) and [Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program](#) will soon be announced on their website. The application period will be open for two months, likely from mid-November through mid-January.

John Mick from Baxter & Woodman said the Unsewered Communities *Planning* Grant Program provides an opportunity to receive grant money to develop a Project Plan that will address problems with the collection and treatment of wastewater. Applications are due November 30. The Unsewered Community *Construction* Grant Program provides funds to qualified applicants to finance the corrective actions needed to address issues with wastewater collection and treatment. Applications are due December 31. [Click here for more information](#).

John Mick also mentioned MWRD's upcoming [virtual tour on November 18](#), which will include a trip to the Deep Tunnel.

Justin Keller from MPC announced the formation of a CSC Steering Committee to help with strategy and high-level direction of CSC. The group will be comprised of roughly five interested individuals who will meet two or three times per year, plus phone calls and emails in between. Interested parties can reach out to Justin at jkeller@metroplanning.org.

Extended Member Update

Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory – Phase 2

Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council

The Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory (GIBI) is one of the Foundational Activities of the [CSC's 3-year Work Plan](#). Conducted last year, Phase 1 established the feasibility of and need for such an inventory via literature review of similar efforts, Advisory Committee meetings, a survey, interviews with municipal actors and check-ins with the CSC and Work Group meetings. Phase 2 recently began in earnest, first by convening data providers at a meeting on October 29. Next steps in Phase 2 are to collect existing data, contact Calumet region engineering firms as data sources and direct outreach to fill in the gaps. Draft documents of outreach materials will be shared with the Advisory Committee for feedback, and a second meeting will be scheduled for December or January.

Presentation

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

Urban Flood Mitigation: Wilmette Neighborhood Storage Case Study

Darren Olson, Christopher B. Burke Engineering

Matt Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers

The Village of Wilmette is located 14 miles north of Chicago and has two sewer systems divided by Ridge Road, separate sewer system to the west and combined sewer system to the east. The case study area focuses on West Wilmette which, historically, is a wet area with flat topography. Its 1930-50s era stormwater infrastructure is undersized for current land use with no safe overland flow paths. After the major storm event in April 2013, Christopher B. Burke

Engineering was engaged to develop a Stormwater Management Plan with public outreach, survey and analysis of the existing system and proposed improvements. The survey found a system of trunk sewers carrying all stormwater up to three miles to a large pump station, which is then pumped to the North Branch of the Chicago River. Due to the low lying flat topography, the entire area is dependent on the sewer system and pumps to remove water.

The Stormwater Management Plan yielded three areas of focus: short term projects, green infrastructure and long term capital projects. Of the long-term capital projects, three alternatives were developed, each with different benefits and costs. After value engineering and community outreach, the Village Board approved the Neighborhood Stormwater Storage alternative. Extensive coordination and communication with the public, Park District and School District was required to select the precise location of the underground storage vault at a community playfield on park land adjacent to a school. Public outreach included an open house, door hangers and mailers, updated project website, video public service announcements and streaming progress videos. The installed StormTrap vault is the second largest by volume in Illinois and is 20.2 acft, equal to 10 Olympic swimming pools! The next step of the project will be the Hubbard Park vault construction.

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

Next Meeting

Annual Holiday Party
Friday, December 4, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: virtual

For more information contact:
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